

2022 Scholarship Award Winners

First Congregational Church-McDowell Scholarship: Carly Gaeth

The First Congregational Church-McDowell Scholarship was established in 1988 by Florence and Vilas Bohlman and First Congregational UCC, Boscobel, in memory of Mrs. Bohlman's parents, Ross and Vere McDowell. The scholarship is presented annually to a seminarian and member in discernment of one of the four Associations whose devotion to the church and commitment to parish ministry offer exceptional promise for service to the Word in congregational life.

Carly Gaeth is an enthusiastic, redheaded millennial who originally hails from Milwaukee. Carly earned her Bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Lawrence University's Conservatory of Music in 2015, and received her Master's of Divinity with concentrations in Theology and the Arts and UCC Studies from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in 2021. She is currently a licensed minister in the UCC, seeking ordination and serving at New Hope UCC in Jackson and Faith UCC in Slinger.



Carl H. Zeyher Award: Bill Whitford

The Carl H. Zeyher Award scholarship was established by the late Helen Zeyher and her family in memory of husband and father, the Rev. Carl H. Zeyher, who was ordained by the Evangelical Synod of North America at New Braunfels, Texas, in 1925 and served faithfully in congregations of the Synod, the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and the United Church of Christ, in Texas, Minnesota, Virginia, Connecticut, and Wisconsin until his retirement. The Award is presented annually to a member in discernment and a seminarian whose devotion to word and deed reflect the ways in which Carl H. Zeyher served as a pastor among us.



Bill is a member of First Congregational UCC in Milton. He is active in his church and as a Scout leader. He attended Lay Academy and several Damascus Project classes. He recently completed his undergrad (which he began in the 1970s) and has completed his first year at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary seeking an M.Div in their online program with a planned graduation in 2025. For the last few months, he has served the congregation at Immanuel UCC in Darlington as a long-haul pulpit supply pastor.

Myrtle I. Baker Scholarship Award: Nicole Herda

The Myrtle I. Baker scholarship was established in 1982 in honor of the Rev. Myrtle I. Baker, who in 1933 was the first ordained woman to serve congregations in the Wisconsin Conference. She served as minister of First Congregational UCC in Boscobel and the Congregational UCC at Steuben, from 1955 until her retirement in 1977. The scholarship was presented to the Wisconsin Conference by Florence M. Bohlman, a lay leader of the church at Boscobel. The scholarship is presented annually to a member in discernment who exhibits the character, love for the church and the pastoral qualities that marked the life and ministry of Myrtle I. Baker.

Nicole attends Grace Congregational UCC in Two Rivers as her home congregation. She graduated from Eden Theological Seminary on May 20, 2022. Her spouse Robert and son Jacob are two of her greatest blessings. As it is now summer, she is coaching the over 19 Miracle League of the Lakeshore subs team on Wednesday evenings while she searches for a congregation to serve.

