



YOUR CHURCH'S GUIDE TO GIVING

Third Edition

MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Lay Development
Super Saturday



Clergy Development
Communities of Practice



Church Development
Web Fest



Justice & Witness
Climate Revival



Transforming Lives

HIDDEN TREASURE



The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:44 – 46 NRSV

“The church is different from all other humanitarian organizations. The church is distinctive. The church exists to bring love, hope and generosity to whatever suffering and need exist, always and anywhere. The church is alone in reflecting the steadfastness of God...The church offers people something that cannot be found anywhere else. Even the smallest struggling church has the potential to be a source of meaning in people’s lives, because it is a place where everything that happens is intended to reinforce people’s best hopes for themselves and the world. It is a place devoted to that intent, for anyone and everyone, all the time. Where else in the world is that true?”

From Inspiring Generosity, published by UCC Resources

The church in all its settings - local, association, conference and national - manifests, at its best, God’s reign of peace, mercy and justice on earth. When your congregation gives through the wider church, it is investing in God’s reign, in the field with hidden treasure, in the pearl of great value.

We provide you this “Guide to Giving” to assist your congregation in making wise investments of its outreach dollars in the distinctive mission of the church to make God’s love and justice real to everyone.



OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION

BASIC SUPPORT (OCWM) AND FELLOWSHIP DUES

In the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ, 47% of OCWM Basic Support and 100% of Fellowship Dues are retained to support the ministries of the Conference, and 53% of OCWM Basic Support is shared with the National setting. Your giving to Fellowship Dues and Our Church's Wider Mission is making a difference.

IN THE MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE OF THE UCC

SUPPORTING LAY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH:

Confirmation, youth and adult spiritual retreats; Christian educator training, certification and communities of practice; stewardship education, training and resources; Super Saturdays; Resource Center materials; providing consulting to churches on every aspect of church life

SUPPORTING CLERGY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH:

Worship initiatives; Pastoral Excellence Program communities of practice and events; interim training; search and call events; Tending the Fire; and other clergy programs

SUPPORTING CHURCH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH:

Small member church trainings; evangelism programs; vitality coaching and training; WebFests and other communication events; consulting, training and resources for church development and revitalization

SUPPORTING JUSTICE AND WITNESS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH:

Environmental events; justice and witness programs; ministry teams on race & justice, jubilee, environment, homelessness, restorative justice, open and affirming, innocence commission, Israel/Palestine; and through Disaster Response Ministries

SUPPORTING REGIONAL MINISTRIES TO CONGREGATIONS AND PASTORS:

Conflict resolution training; Search Committee gatherings, trainings and consulting; New Beginnings/Crossroads program; assistance and support for Association boards and committees; church assessment and visioning tools and support

IN THE NATIONAL SETTING OF THE UCC

Supporting UCC mission impact in 79 countries on every continent of the globe through *Wider Church Ministries*

Supporting outreach of UCC vision and values, media, web, leadership, governance, fund development, publishing, ecumenical and interfaith relations through the *Office of General Ministries*

Supporting church vitality, leadership training, church planting in unchurched communities in need of a progressive voice, and pastoral search and call services through *Local Church Ministries*

Supporting a more compassionate and just world through *Justice and Witness Ministries*

Transforming lives

DESIGNATED GIVING IN THE MACUCC

SUSTAINING PASTORAL EXCELLENCE ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN



Now well over half our pastors who serve churches – and nearly 100% of our newly ordained clergy – are participating in clergy groups we call Communities of Practice. By sharing their wisdom, experience, struggles and plans, they form a circle of accountability that enhances their effectiveness and deepens their faithfulness. The benefits of these discussions are then lived out in hundreds of our congregations. Indeed, the Pastoral Excellence Program has changed the culture of ministry in the Massachusetts Conference. Having created such a successful program, we want to make certain

that it will continue to anchor ministry in Massachusetts for generations to come. By contributing to the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Endowment Campaign, your congregation can help to ensure that the UCC in Massachusetts will have the best possible pastoral leadership.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE



With your donations, the United Church of Christ can respond quickly to disaster emergencies, working with local churches, conferences, and global partners to assess emergency needs and then stay on, committed to long-term support and planning. Remember that 100% of your donation to the UCC disaster ministry goes directly to assist victims. Indicate on your donation where you want your funds to go.

Following a disaster—whether in Massachusetts where tornadoes destroyed homes in 2011, in the U.S. where extensive flooding in Colorado, tornadoes in Oklahoma, and damage from Hurricane Sandy impacted thousands, or across the globe, where Typhoon Haiyan, civil war in Syria and earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, destroyed homes and lives - the UCC can promptly contribute food packages, emergency shelters and other provisions, as well as providing One Great Hour of Sharing solidarity grants to churches in need and psychosocial support and health care for those affected. Through National Disaster Ministries, each UCC conference has local disaster response coordinators in place. These coordinators develop preparedness measures, support and resource local pastors and churches in the communities impacted by the disaster, participate in long-term recovery efforts, and serve as witnesses of hope. Jim Tilbe and Don Remick are the disaster response coordinators for the Massachusetts Conference. Visit the Conference disaster response page, macucc.org/disaster, for more information.

HISPANIC MINISTRIES



Congregational growth, clergy and lay leadership development, justice-based ministries, new and vital partnerships with local churches, the Conference and local communities – these all add up to Hispanic Ministries in the Massachusetts Conference. Hispanic Ministries have been a part of the Massachusetts Conference for more than 25 years, and today a renewed vision for inclusive, participatory and relational models of ministry between our churches is producing a vibrant cross fertilization in worship and witness. And Hispanic UCC churches have opened or are re-emerging: there are current communities of faith in Jamaica Plain, Lowell and Worcester, and ministries are

springing up in Everett, Southbridge and Salem. These represent wonderful opportunities for border-crossing with neighbors from South America, Central America and the Caribbean who are a part of the dynamic demographic changes being witnessed throughout our country and in our state. In Massachusetts, the Hispanic population has grown by more than 51.6% in the last seven years. Hundreds of lives are being touched by the Mass. Conference's Hispanic Ministries. Will your church consider making a commitment to the vitality and future of Hispanic Ministries in the MACUCC?

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

SUSTAINING PASTORAL EXCELLENCE ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

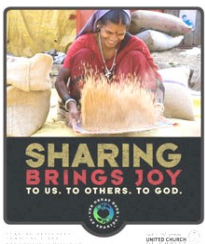


Excellent pastors make excellent churches

Congregations are encouraged to take a special offering each year between now and 2015 to support the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Endowment Campaign. This campaign will ensure the sustainability of the Pastoral Excellence Program, including New Clergy Groups, Clergy Communities of Practice and continuing education events.

Received on the anniversary of the pastor's ordination or call to the church

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



Giving Help, Hope and Life

Supports partners in more than 70 countries with ministries that fund development projects, feed the victims of famine, provide services for displaced people, and respond to natural disasters. These ministries are the responsibility of Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources.

Received annually on the fourth Sunday in Lent

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

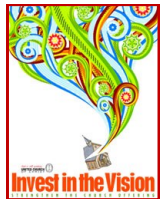


Justice and Compassion Like a Mighty Stream

Supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, including ministry carried out by the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) and by the national offices of Justice and Witness Ministries.

Received annually on World Communion Sunday (first Sunday of October)

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

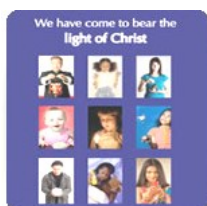


Faithfully Building the Body of Christ

Supports church growth and leadership development in the conferences and through the national offices of Local Church Ministries.

Received annually on Pentecost Sunday

THE CHRISTMAS FUND



Remembering Those Who Serve Our Church

Provides financial aid to retired and active ministers and their surviving spouses and children who face overwhelming financial demands, a ministry carried out by the Pension Boards.

Received annually on the Sunday before Christmas

Transforming lives

SPECIAL FUNDS OF THE MACUCC

Congregations engaged in capital campaigns or individuals interested in planned giving, may wish to consider a gift to one of the following conference funds.

SUSTAINING PASTORAL EXCELLENCE ENDOWMENT FUND

This endowment fund provides income for ongoing support of the Pastoral Excellence Program of the Massachusetts Conference. Income from the fund may be used to support Conference programming designed to promote pastoral excellence by pastors with standing in the Massachusetts Conference. Currently this programming includes continuing education events, New Clergy Groups and Clergy Communities of Practice.

JUSTICE AND WITNESS FUND

This fund supports the Justice and Witness ministries of both the Conference and the congregations of the Massachusetts Conference. Funds may be used for Barnes grants to congregations, support of Justice and Witness ministry teams, programming and resources.

21ST CENTURY CONGREGATIONS FUND

This fund assists churches to successfully meet the challenges of ministry in the context of contemporary society. Funds may be used for programming, coaching, consulting, training and grants to support local church transformation, missional effectiveness, lay leadership development and long-term vitality.

SEEDS OF FAITH FUND

This fund promotes faith development within the Massachusetts Conference. Funds may be used to provide programming, resources and grants to local congregations to support faith, generosity and discipleship formation of children, youth and adults. Funds may also be used to support programming and/or resources by the Conference for faith development of individuals (on-line Bible studies or spiritual retreats, for example).



GIVING GUIDELINES



GIVING GENEROUSLY

Because of its primacy in making God's love and justice real for everyone, individuals should make their local church their priority in charitable giving. Likewise, the local church should make the wider church its priority in its mission giving. Churches are asked to give at least 10% of current expenditures to total mission giving. Churches giving less than 10% are asked to prayerfully consider increasing their giving at an annual rate of 1/4 to 1/2% of current local expenditures.

GIVING TO OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION BASIC SUPPORT

Because of the indispensable and comprehensive nature of Basic Support in supporting the entire ministry of the church across all settings — local congregations, Conference, and National — churches are asked to give 50% of their total mission giving to OCWM Basic Support.

GIVING TO DESIGNATED SUPPORT

Help us to transform lives through making these designated giving opportunities a line item in your mission and outreach budget:

- * Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Endowment
- * Hispanic Ministries

Fifteen percent of total mission spending is considered a good goal for designated giving.

GIVING TO LOCAL NEEDS

Churches are asked to consider using 35% of their mission spending to meet local needs, such as feeding programs, homelessness shelters, and other local ministries of compassion.





Transforming lives
MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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