

# **The Stillspeaking God challenges us to reclaim our heritage as a unique expression of God's mission**

***EVERYTHING OUR ILLINOIS CONFERENCE DOES IS MISSION!***

***Your Giving to Our Church's Wider Mission Makes it Possible***

## **Our Illinois Conference is:**

- 247 local churches and approximately 600 authorized ministers together in MISSION.

## **Our Associations are:**

- A grouping of local congregations within a geographical region of the Conference, supporting one another in MISSION.

## **Our Church's Wider Mission is:**

- What we do together in our Conference as a family of faith in the name Jesus the Christ.
- Made possible by your church's giving to Our Church's Wider Mission.
- Sharing together to do God's mission and ministry in the world.
- What each local congregation contributes to support Mission in Illinois and throughout the world.

***"All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need." (Acts 2:44-45)***

## **Here is how Our Church's Wider MISSION dollars are used to do MISSION:**

### **Out of every \$100 we receive**

#### **\$73.50 Stays right here in Illinois Conference and its Associations!**

Combined with contributions of other congregations and individual's helps carry out our Conference mission.

#### **\$26.50 Goes to the national setting of the United Church of Christ.**

Here our gifts support ministry that reaches from local churches in our own Illinois Conference communities to people in need throughout the world.

## **Here is the status of Our Church's Wider MISSION:**

- We are facing increased cost of doing MISSION and decreased giving by local Congregations.
- We are faced with having to cut programs and/or Staff, thereby reducing ministry and mission.
- We may have to go from having five (5) associations to four (4). Or some other form of restructuring.
- We may have to eliminate our financial support to local mission Projects meeting human needs, ecumenical partners and campus ministry.
- We may have to reduce further our giving to our national church, which supports local churches, works for justice and does global mission.

**We know that God is Stillspeaking** because God has spoken in the past. "The church is about a way of life that testifies to "somebody bigger than you or I," as Mahalia Jackson sang. This is a way of life more inclusive than another worthy cause. It is about the whole meaning and experience of what is worthwhile, honorable, and praiseworthy in the first place." (Rev. William C. Green; UCC Stewardship and Church Finance Ministry)

(Over)

## **All of Our Church's Wider MISSION dollars are used to do MISSION**

### **Mission is...**

- Being sent, from the root word "MISSIO".
- Being sent by Jesus to share in God's mission of love justice and peace.
- Not simply what we do but who we already are: we can only share what we have already received.
- Supporting the church and passing on to others and future generations what our forebears made possible for us.
- EVERYTHING the Conference does with dollars given to Our Church's Wider Mission.
- Living the commission given to us by Jesus the Christ.

***"But you will receive power, when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)***

### **Here are the ways that Giving to Our Church's Wider MISSION results in the Conference and Associations helping you serve Christ and do God's MISSION in the world:**

- Helping to broaden your world and that of your local church with the ministry and MISSION of our denomination and International partners.
- Helping congregations find new pastoral leadership.
- Doing new church development and renewal of existing congregations.
- Mediating and aiding in resolving church conflict.
- Serving as pastors to pastors.
- And much more!

### **Our giving to Our Church's Wider Mission also helps provide:**

Camping, support to seminarians, work for justice, ecumenical partnerships, campus ministry, support for missionaries, partnering in international projects around the world such as the Angola Partnership, Aids and HIV education in Africa and much more.

### **Your Faith Commitment makes a difference for God's Mission!**

- Claim and share the fact that Stewardship is our radical response to God for what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.
- Share the good news— That we are God's co-workers in God's plan to save the world.
- Live and encourage others to live a life of witness to the great deeds and wonders of God in your life, in your community and the world.
- Share with others what Our Church's Wider MISSION is and what it does.
- Give through your church to Our Church's Wider Mission and as an individual to the Mission Friends Appeal of our Conference.
- **Make sure that your church promotes Christian stewardship and sends its contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission generously.**

***"Through many dangers, toils, and snares we have already come; 'tis grace has brought us safe thus fair, and grace will lead us home."***