

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Michelle Hughes, Acting Conference Minister

OUR COVENANTED SHARE GOAL for 2020 BASIC SUPPORT FOR OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION (OCWM)

The miracle is this: The more we share the more we have.— Leonard Nimoy

Our faith is a journey of miracles; *"believing in spite of the evidence and then watching the evidence change"*. The evidence says that in a time of shrinking memberships and budget woes, congregations can't afford to share their financial resources. ...but the miracle is this: the more we share the more we have.

Church... We NEED A MIRACLE! This is an appeal for you to participate in a miracle making activity. Like the folks in the stone soup story, if we each share what we can, we can produce an abundant resource. When we combine our resources, the gospel of Luke informs us: *"If you give to others, you will be given a full amount in return. It will be packed down, shaken together, and spilling over into your lap."*

This is an opportunity to give to your Illinois Conference so that we may continue to; be a resource to you, to engage emerging leadership, and to champion new initiatives. Help us amplify the efforts of the Illinois Conference in 2020 to help build God's realm.

We, your Illinois Conference, pledge to use your OCWM dollars to support and resource your local church. That's our covenant for co-creating God's new church.

On behalf of all our staff and resources, we remain faithfully yours,

Rev. Justo González II
Interim Conference Minister

Rev. Michelle Hughes
Associate Conference Minister
for Transformation, Vitality, and Sustainability

For the year 2020, we commit to the following:

_____ Our community of faith accepts the 2020 Conference Recommended Share Goal and we will contribute to the ministry and mission of the Illinois Conference and the United Church of Christ the amount of \$ _____.

_____ Although our community of faith is unable to accept the 2020 Conference Recommended Share Goal, we will support the ministry and mission of the Illinois Conference and the United Church of Church in the amount of \$ _____.

Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Leadership Position: _____

Date: _____

Church: _____

City: _____

Please return this form to: Rev. Michelle Hughes, Associate Conference Minister, Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, 1840 Westchester Boulevard, Suite #200, Westchester, Illinois, 60154.