

# We gather in the **Illinois** **Conference** and the wider **United Church** of Christ,

whether in Spirit-filled worship, for fellowship, at Conference meetings, or at General Synod, God's still speaking voice calls us to **continuing testament** and changing lives by doing Christ's mission in the world. Through gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission, we respond to God's call to do mission in the world, providing worship resources, teaching, seeking justice and healing, restoring hope and bringing Christ's light into the world.

## Contact our Conference Office about

- Conference Annual Celebration
- General Synod
- Search and Call
- Stewardship
- Church Revitalization
- Clergy Communities of Practice
- Mission Support
- Justice and Witness Ministry
- Angola Partnership
- New Church Development
- Youth Ministries

**Any other way we may assist**

## Our Church's Wider Mission And Special Offerings...

Our Church's Wider Mission supports the entire mission of our Conference and denomination. It makes our whole ministry possible at the Conference level including the Ministry Leadership Team and the Ministry of our Associations.

It supports the ministry of the **National, wider church making possible** pastoral training and support, worship resources, leadership development, new church development, covening of General Synod, taking stands for justice, responding to natural disasters, feeding the hungry, caring for retired clergy, raising our children in faith.

**Strengthen the Church**, on Pentecost Sunday, supports the Stillspeaking Ministry of the United Church of Christ, leadership for new and renewing churches, programs for youth and young adults, and leadership development. Our conference retains 50% of all gifts to this offering.

**One Great Hour of Sharing**, the 4th Sunday in lent, supports the provisions of clean water, food, education, health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief and advocacy/resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. We also support domestic and international disaster preparedness and response.

**The Christmas Fund**, the Sunday before Christmas, supports provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to clergy families in need and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of annuitants.

**Neighbors in Need**, on World Communion Sunday, supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the U.S. NIN helps support the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries, as well as justice and advocacy and direct service projects supported by Justice and Witness Ministries.

**Is your church 5 for 5?** If your congregation received all four of the offerings shown above and contributes to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support, your church is 5 for 5!

Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ  
Phone: (708) 344-4470 • [www.ilucc.org](http://www.ilucc.org)

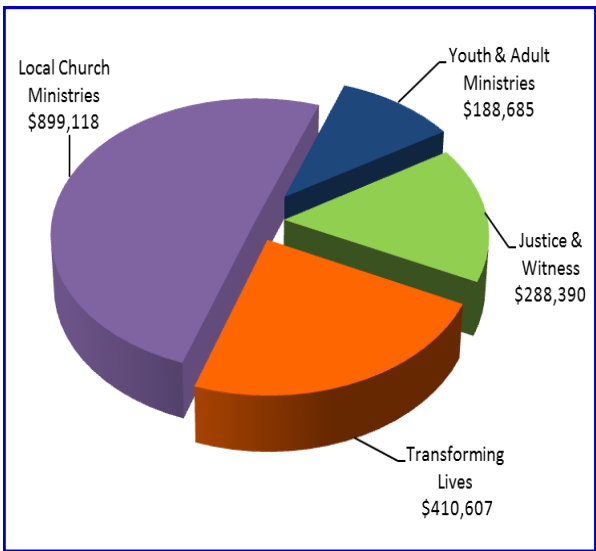


## Our Church's Wider Mission



**Our Illinois Conference is a  
United Church of Christ  
covenant community  
promoting  
Congregational Health and  
Vitality and Pursuing God's  
Peace and Justice**

**Our Church's Wider Mission  
2018 Missional Budget**



Our Conference Missional Budget is a demonstration of good Stewardship. Here is what your churches contribution makes possible.

**We Change lives through  
Our Church's Wider Mission by**



Being a covenant community, building trust and strengthening diversity;

Growing our spiritual and relational vitality in response to our Stillspeaking God;

Helping congregations to find new pastoral leadership;

Supporting the Youth Initiative, for youth and young adult Ministries;

Doing new church development and renewing existing congregations;

Providing camping opportunities and experience with Outdoor Ministries for all ages;

Aiding in resolving church conflict;

Supporting discernment and mentoring new pastoral leadership;

Collaborating as mission partners with organizations and local churches to provide for human need and development; and

In many other ways.

**In Our Illinois Conference and the wider United Church of Christ:**

**Through our Ministries, we...**

- Witness to the Stillspeaking God
- Transform lives by responding to disasters and human tragedies
- Continue testament of Christ by feeding the hungry and providing help around the world
- Extend ourselves like Christ, reaching out to our newest neighbors, embracing change and caring for children and youth
- Care for Clergy and their spouses

**Through our Justice and Witness Ministries, we...**

- Preach Extravagant Welcoming, diversity and open understating of Christian faith
- Take stands for justice and peace
- Support local empowerment and citizen participation
- Care about people society casts off

**Through our Local Church Ministries, we...**

- Foster beauty in worship
- Raise our children in our faith
- Support clergy and lay leadership in their ministries
- Learn and practice good stewardship
- Support mission and higher education
- Help local churches call pastors

**Through our Annual Celebration, and Association Gatherings we...**

- Vision and plan for future mission
- Equip leaders, empower ministry, and faithful witness
- Strengthen the acceptance of difference and promote inter-racial and cultural understanding
- Create new consciousness about white privilege and embracing those less like us