



Money Matters

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Weekly insights into generosity, Conference finances, and being stronger together.

This week's Offering

Chair of the Tuthill Commission of the Illinois Conference, Rev. Dr. Thom Parrott-Sheffer brings this week's thoughts on Money

If you will excuse a slight foray into the poetic, The Tuthill Commission is one area that exemplifies the Church's marriage or personal faith, commitment to economic and social justice, continued service to Christ in mission, and the opportunity for our local churches to reach further into the world with acts of faith, love, and joy. Too much? I don't think so.



The Tuthill Commission began as both a vision and a challenge. In October of 1924, Frank H. Tuthill of Evanston Ill. gave the Congregational Conference of Illinois 380 shares of the capital stock of the Tuthill Spring Company. His generous gift was "to be devoted to foreign missionary purposes under the provisions of the by-laws of the Conference." (The words in quotations are from the wording of the Trust.) In due time the Tuthill Commission was created by the Illinois Conference Council to assist in the administration of the Tuthill Trust. In the succeeding years, the trust has appreciated in value and has received additional gifts and donations from individuals and churches with the Illinois Conference. Because of this generosity, the Tuthill Trust has traditionally provided an annual distribution between \$35,000 - \$50,000 for grants to UCC-related foreign projects endorsed and supported by our UCC/DOC Global Ministry Partners. (The money available for grants is based on the interest accumulated with the Trust, the principle is intended to remain intact and invested.)

In 2019 grants were approved for the Evangelical Christian Church in Timor (Indonesia) for disaster relief, education, and health care; The Bazaar Café/United Church of Christ in Japan for work with HIV/AIDS, and others, in Kyoto; Joint Christian Commission for Palestinian Refugees for counseling, education, and training; The Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico for distance education and support in training church leaders; and the Illinois Maya Ministry – SIPAZ for peacebuilding and human rights work in Chiapas, Mexico.

It has been an impressive resume of outreach and mission on behalf of the members of the Illinois Conference – United Church of Christ. Every year 4-6 deserving and faithful missions have been helped do Christ's work. That would be approximately 415 grants over the last 83 years.

Unfortunately, the recent financial issues within the Illinois Conference have called for a temporary freeze on discretionary expenses, so our grants for 2020 have remained unfulfilled. It is a temporary situation which we are hopeful to rectify at the earliest moment; once we get a clear understanding of the actual worth of discretionary funds, including the Tuthill Trust.

Until then, you are asked to keep the Conference, the Commission, and those we serve in your

prayers and thoughts. And, if possible, to commit to the work of the Commission by giving a gift to the Conference for Tuthill, seeking a nomination to the Commission from your Association, and continuing to think globally as you work mission and justice in your church.

(The Tuthill Commission is made up of 7 people, the chair, 2 people from the Chicago Metropolitan Association, and 1 person from each of the Eastern, Fox Valley, Prairie, and Western Associations.)

And we Celebrate!!!

The following announcement made by the First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake:

... Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2021! We are so proud of these remarkable students. We are also incredibly grateful. Many thanks to their families for getting them to classes, both online and in person. Thank you to our pastors, staff, and congregation for supporting all our ministries to and with children and youth. Thanks to Joy Irwin, co-lead for this year's amazing class. And, DEEP gratitude to Jason Princer, Director of Children and Youth, for guiding the whole team through it all.



Picture credit: [First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake, Illinois](#) (Facebook Page)

God is good! All the time!
All the time! God is good!



Who we are

The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ is made up of all of the churches, members, clergy and covenant partners affiliated with the United Church of Christ in the northern half of Illinois. The shared work of the Conference is funded primarily

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THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE UCC Money Matters - a weekly conversation about money and ministry in the Illinois Conference UCC is published by the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, 1840 Westchester Blvd., Suite 200, Westchester, IL 60154. The Rev. Molly Carlson, Conference Minister; Carmen Torres, Editor. Copy may be sent to: ilconfcarmen@gmail.com.

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