

# Money Matters

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

### What the heck is OCWM?

Our Church's Wider Mission is the financial support that local UCC congregations send to the Conference Office to fund the Conference and National Ministries of the UCC. Bottom line, that is it. But that is not the compelling story as to WHY churches contribute or WHAT this money funds.

Here in the Illinois Conference, we have been talking a lot about what "the Conference" is and what "the Conference does".



**The Illinois Conference is all of the MEMBERS, all of the CHURCHES, all of the CLERGY and all of the COVENANT PARTNERS affiliated with the United Church of Christ and located in the northern half of Illinois.**

**We are 240 congregations and 60,000 members strong.**

**The WORK of the Illinois Conference (that is, the work of the whole body) is to support local churches by being *Stronger Together***

To this end, the Conference hires staff (support staff, Associate Conference Ministers, Conference Minister, Camp Staff, etc) to fulfill the vision of helping congregations be stronger BECAUSE they are part of the United Church of Christ. Some of the ways we do that include:

- Supporting Congregations through pastoral transitions
- Supporting Congregations through conflict or revisioning efforts
- Maintaining and managing two camp properties and lots of outdoor ministry programs
- Nurture partnership that support the educational, missional, global, advocacy, systemic change, justice, healthcare, senior and low income housing, legislative, interfaith, ecumenical, and social service priorities of our local churches.
- Connect local churches with one another around common mission.
- Proclaim the values of the UCC in the public square.
- Proclaim the good news and share ideas between and throughout the congregations of our region.
- Provide oversight and accountability of our clergy to maintain the highest levels of ethical behavior
- Provide and participate in continuing education opportunities for clergy and lay leaders alike
- Curate and share local, regional and national resources throughout the Conference
- Host communities of practice and other support groups that support clergy and congregational vitality
- Seek out and manage grants (such as the TPIRC program) that further the ministry of the Conference

- And SO MUCH MORE!!!

The Conference also facilitates long term legacies of the many ministries that have been birthed from our congregations over the years:

- Advocate Aurora Health is a major health system that was born out of the ministry of a few Congregational Congregations many many years ago and still maintains a close and meaningful relationship with the Conference.
- The Tuthill Commission manages a fund donated by UCC members that funds international projects including a recent project that supports microloans for female entrepreneurs in Indonesia.
- Off the Pews is a newer ministry born out of a local UCC ministry that focuses on reducing youth violence.
- Many times when congregations end their public ministry, their properties revert ownership to the Conference and we work to leverage these legacy assets to honor the UCC heritage of these communities and support the work of the Conference - most often in helping birth new faith communities and ministries.
- and SO MANY MORE

### WHY DONATE TO OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION?

*Our Church's Wider Mission makes it possible to live out the vision of the United Church of Christ: United in Christ's love, a just world for all.*

## 80% of OCWM offering stay in the Illinois Conference

20% of these donations are sent on to the National body of the United Church of Christ. Click on the infographic here to learn more about how these funds are used.

## Over 90% of the money that funds the work of the Conference comes from the local churches that make up the Conference

I cannot overstate how much your OCWM contributions matter!!!  
 These dollars fund YOUR ministry. The funds support YOUR staff. These contributions help your church be STRONGER because you are A PART of something larger! We are **STRONGER TOGETHER**

And when you send your contributions in on a regular schedule throughout the year, we can manage our cashflow with much more ease. Just like in the local church, our donations come in irregularly throughout the year. We expect this and manage to this reality - but your help evening this out is much appreciated!!!

And we Celebrate!!!

We welcome new support staff to our Westchester Offices





Sarah Lohrback is joining the  
team as Support Staff for  
Technology and Communication



Lynn Chindlund is joining the staff  
as Support Staff for Operations

Kim Whisler-Vasko is sharing the  
Support Staff for Administrative  
Assistance with Naomi Else



### 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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Support the work of the  
Illinois Conference  
with your gifts today!

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](mailto:ilconfcarmen@gmail.com).

This communication is made possible by your contributions to

## Our Church's Wider Mission

Illinois Conference UCC | [lucc.org](http://lucc.org)

