

# Money Matters

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Friday, July 23, 2021

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

## A Change in Workspace for the UCC National Office

During the 2021 General Synod, our Illinois Conference Delegation had the chance to hear from General Minister and President (GMP), Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer. One of the big topics that the GMP addressed with the delegates was the impending sale of the building that has been the home for our National Setting for the last 30-plus years. In his letter to the wider church in April (linked below), John Dorhauer begins by saying,



**"One of the most important responsibilities of the National Setting of the United Church of Christ is the faithful stewardship of resources entrusted to us for the sake of our shared mission."**

The GMP continues on to say that any decision made by the UCC Board and task force formed to research and discern would be:

1. A "faithful response to our call to be good stewards of resources entrusted to us for the mission of the United Church of Christ."
2. "Ensure that our staff are given full consideration for the expectations they have a workplace environment that enhances rather than inhibits their contributions to this mission."
3. Made only "after extensive analysis from experts, key stakeholders, and critical covenant partners."

With these things in mind, an office space committee was formed by the UCC Board, in consultation with the GMP, to evaluate the options and to then make a recommendation to the Board. The team consisted of the chief executives of all five financial ministries of the UCC, the UCC controller and CFO, the GMP, and several UCC Board directors. They met every two weeks for the last two years. The week before General Synod recommended that the building at 700 Prospect be sold. The CFO shared a conservative estimate that selling the property and leasing a new, more appropriately sized, office space would **reduce the annual building expenses by over half a million dollars**. The UCC Board unanimously agreed to this recommendation.



In an email responding to questions from one of our delegates, John Dorhauer shared that all possible options were considered during this process of discernment, which involved well over one hundred leaders. Included in the options they considered were staying in the space but repurposing it for a missional purpose and finding a UCC partner to take over the property. Unfortunately it became clear that neither of these were viable options.

## UCC leader reviewing Cleveland workspace options ...

In this letter to the wider church on April 12, 2021, the UCC General Minister and President shares plans to review future work environment options for the denomination's national staff.

[Read more](#)  
[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

[Read the Full Letter to the Delegation](#)

The pandemic, as has been the case for many of our conferences and local churches, also revealed a lot and opened doors we didn't even know existed. A majority of the national staff are in preference of a more hybrid model of work moving forward. The sale of the building on 700 Prospect would also "decenter the building as the locus of work for the National Setting", allowing us to deploy "National Setting employees in other parts of the denomination" - something the church has been asking for.

What the GMP shared in his letter to the delegation was that "property serves mission - not the other way around."

**Maintaining our staff who "enable the shared mission of the UCC by supporting churches, authorized clergy, Global Mission Partners, Associations, and Conferences" is our mission and priority.**

## And we Celebrate!!!

### Immanuel UCC in Peotone Celebrates 150 years of Ministry!

On Sunday, July 18th, Immanuel Church had a celebration in honor of their sesquicentennial! The day began with a joy-filled worship and concluded with a time of food and fellowship.



Immanuel Church's Sanctuary on Sunday, July 18th filled with flowers and hand-bells for worship.



Street view of Immanuel Church.



Celebrating 150 years with food and fellowship with both current and former members!



#### 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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