



Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ

STRONGER TOGETHER

1840 Westchester Boulevard, Suite 200, Westchester, Illinois 60154
P: 708.344.4470 | F: 708.344.4654 | ilucc.org

WESTERN ASSOCIATION

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rev. Dr. Terrill Murff
Interim Conference Minister
E: TerrillMurff@ilucc.org
P: 708.701.4325

Rev. Kathy Lawes
Associate Conference Minister
E: KathyLawes@ilucc.org
P: 708.701.4962

Rev. Shernell Edney Stilley
Associate Conference Minister
E: ShernellEdneyStilley@ilucc.org
P: 708.701.4933

SUPPORT STAFF

Naomi Else
Administrative Assistance
E: ConferenceAdmin@ilucc.org

Lauran Smith
Operations
E: LauranSmith@ilucc.org

Rev. Sarah Lohrbach
Communications/Technology
E: SarahLohrbach@ilucc.org

OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

Pilgrim Park Camp
26449-1340 North Avenue
Princeton, Illinois 61356
P: 815.447.2390
E: PilgrimParkCamp@ilucc.org

Mitch Kloster
Site Manager
Pilgrim Park Camp
E: MitchKloster@ilucc.org

Tower Hill Camp
12173 Tower Hill Road
Sawyer, Michigan 49125
P: 269.426.3881
E: TowerHillCamp@ilucc.org

Rev. Tracy Heilman
Site Manager
Tower Hill Camp
E: TracyHeilman@ilucc.org

TPIRC PROGRAM

Rev. Melody Seaton
TPIRC Program Director
E: MelodySeaton@ilucc.org

Lindsey Svetlick
TPIRC Program Coordinator
E: LindseySvetlick@ilucc.org

Kathy Brown
TPIRC Program Assistant
E: TPIRCAAdmin@ilucc.org

January 6, 2025

Greetings to our Western Association Churches! Your Western Association Council is excited to announce that the *Leonhart Fund* grant program is available in 2025.

The Helen Leonhart Fund originated with a generous bequest which awards annual grants to provide assistance with funding new projects, ministries, and initiatives in our Western Association congregations and related church ministries and organizations. Many churches in our Association have applied after identifying needs in their communities to which they creatively responded with assistance from this fund. Now is your opportunity to do likewise and discern how your congregation might be able to live into new callings and serve in your community with the help of additional funding through the *Leonhart Fund*. You can find additional information on this fund and its origin on the Illinois Conference website.

The timeline for the 2025 Leonhart Fund grant cycle:

- January: New link available for Leonhart Fund application on Illinois Conference website. Hard copies of all information will also be mailed to WA congregations.
- **March 1: Applications are due.**
- March: Leonhart Committee meets to discuss & make recommendations.
- March 16: Western Association Council Meeting will act on Leonhart Committee recommendations. Grantees notified immediately by email.
- April: Checks requested from Conference Office.
- **Spring Association meeting: Grantees will receive their checks, be introduced, and will offer short presentations on how they will use the funds.**

As you begin discernment regarding your application, it is important to highlight that these grants are specifically intended to be used as seed money for a new project that your congregation is envisioning and imagining. We cannot wait to see the new ways God is leading and calling you in your ministries!

With peace and grace,
Your Western Association Council Leonhart Committee:
Bob Meinershagen
Ken Harding
Rev. Lauren Padgett
Ursula Webster