

2025 Annual Celebration

UCC Illinois Conference Stewardship Committee

First, a special thank you to all those promoting the stewardship of God's great gifts. Special thank you to the IL Conference churches giving to Our Church's Wider Mission. As the financial life blood of the IL Conference, OCWM is both vital and volatile—as is the ministry of the Conference's staff and approx. 190 churches.

The IL Conference Stewardship Committee serves on behalf of the member churches to uphold the commitment as God's stewards. The committee offers support through committee member visitation and consultation and the availability of programs for easy implementation in local churches. These programs help churches grow faithful stewards. In 2025, Stewardship Committee representatives attended all five (5) Association Fall Meetings promoting four (4) annual stewardship programs and encouraging churches to raise stewardship awareness.

Rising expenses for households today place a strain on their charitable giving. The Stewardship Committee is aware and strives to address these trends. Financial strain on the household impacts churches making tough decisions about budgeting ministry. Consequently, the Conference staff must face such cutbacks. Ultimately, OCWM is affected by lowered giving amounts.

It is more important than ever for local churches to not only support but also connect with the Stewardship Committee to work closely on the economic and demographic challenges affecting ministry. Faithfulness and commitment to serving our Lord is paramount; yet, to make a difference in our communities takes money and *humanpower*.

Gratitude is extended to the Stewardship Committee members and especially to Kay Quinney-Burnard. Kay resigned her service after five (5) years of dedication through innovating, supporting, and serving as Co-chair. One of her special gifts was presenting and preaching with passion and clarity! God's blessings on Kay as she pursues new directions of ministry and service.

Current members of the Stewardship Committee and their representation:

Larry McCure – Chair - ljm17746@gmail.com – Eastern Association

Rev. Harlette Washington - harlettesmithw@gmail.com – Chicago Metropolitan Association

Deborah Thrash - damcneil62@gmail.com - Chicago Metropolitan Association

Rev. Dave Bateman - dbatemanlbrn@aol.com – Prairie Association

Ken Webster - kenwebster2681@gmail.com – Western Association

Bob Meinershagen - bsinc70@comcast.net – Western Association

Stewardship Programs available on the IL Conference website under *Stewardship*:

Giving Tree Stewardship Program

Hospitality Stewardship Program

Tree-Mendous Faith Stewardship Program

Planting Seeds of Renewal Stewardship Program

Respectfully Submitted
Lawrence McCure, Chair