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or where you are on life's journey,  
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2015 ANNUAL REPORT

*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



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# God is still speaking,

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2015 ANNUAL REPORT



*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
**OF CHRIST**



# Ministry Reports 2015

## The Office of the General Minister and President

I have been in the office of General Minister and President for about seven months now, and am proud to bear witness to the mission and ministry that unfolds every day in the name of Jesus and through the agency of the United Church of Christ.

Most of my work to this point has been trying to build a foundation for the future.

Building that foundation includes the launching of several new initiatives. Those include:

- a year-long campaign to lift up the voice of the United Church of Christ and fulfill our call to be a bold public witness;
- breathing new life into the Stillspeaking campaign;
- creating a task force to articulate the future mission and vision of the United Church of Christ, and then to help reshape a national setting built to undertake that mission and vision;



### Dear Friends,

We are heartened by the generosity of the United Church of Christ

community! On behalf of all the ministries and services that are provided in local communities and around the world in the national setting, the Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship thanks you. You made it possible to increase our 2015 annual giving by over \$778,000.00. Every gift matters! Gifts to the UCC Annual Fund partner with support from Our Church's Wider Mission so that we can fully support essential ministries. Unrestricted gifts given to the UCC Annual Fund provide unrestricted support across the ministries of the national setting, permitting the UCC to do more in the places and programs that need more.

### Mary Paxton

*Director*

Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship

- a daily campaign of deploying national employees who reach out to local churches to find out what it is that excites them and gives them passion;

- writing a curriculum to engage the denomination in safe, meaningful, and substantive dialogue on white privilege as a part of our ongoing Sacred Conversations on Race.

In addition to these initiatives, the Office of the General Minister and President has launched strategic efforts focused on:

- Training staff in the national setting to undertake leadership initiatives designed to change the way we operate.
- Assessing the degree to which our offices function according to best practices for an organization of our size, helping us to discover efficiencies and steward our resources wisely for the sake of our mission.

- Articulating and defining both the shared mission of the United Church of Christ and the purpose and function of the National Setting in the overall accomplishment of that shared mission.

So far, I can report that:

- Hundreds of local churches have been contacted, with the hope of reporting to General Synod that a national staff person has made contact with every local church in the denomination by the time we gather in Baltimore in June 2017.
- Two pilots have been launched around Stillspeaking 2.0, and we have used input from those pilots to begin launching a more concentrated campaign in spring/summer of 2016.
- A writing team is hard at work on the white privilege curriculum, towards an anticipated release in September 2016.
- The task force on the future of the UCC gave its full report to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors at its March meeting, receiving feedback from over 3,000 sources in gathering their data for what the future UCC will need to be. Phase II is underway.
- Five of the 12 monthly media events in our bold public witness campaign have been completed, each with very successful outcomes to report.
- Over \$700,000 in new money has been gifted in support of these initiatives, and a new Office of the General Minister and President fund has been launched in conjunction with my installation in mid-April to help underwrite these and other initiatives designed to revitalize the denomination.

There is much happening, and far more to report than the space here allows. Suffice it to say that a new future for this United Church of Christ is unfolding, and I am honored to be a part of that new future.

None of this is possible without the ongoing support, prayers, and offerings of leaders at every level of this denomination. I want to thank you for all that you do to contribute to the mission and ministry of the United Church of Christ. We can't do any of this without you.

**The Rev. John C. Dorhauer**

General Minister and President



# Ministry Reports 2015

## Justice and Witness Ministries

**D**uring the past year, Justice and Witness Ministries engaged in focused activities directed at a broad range of justice issues. Here are some of the highlights:



- We grew our Justice and Peace Action Network (our online network of UCC justice advocates) from 10,000 to 15,000 members. UCC advocates sent more than 31,000 letters to decision makers through our system. In addition, our members sent Twitter and Facebook messages to legislators (357 Tweets and 258 FB posts). Through our alert on Syrian refugees, we engaged 1,388 UCC advocates, who sent 5,863 letters to Congress and state governors.
- In 2015, we were able to provide excellent in-depth analysis pieces on complex justice issues through our "Getting to the Root of It" column. They explored nuanced and intersectional issues such as religious liberty, moral injury and veterans' issues, systemic racism, trade agreements, and more.
  - We launched a new environmental justice blog and newsletter (The Pollinator) which we're using as a vehicle for building a network of engaged environmental justice advocates.
  - We organized our first UCC Ecumenical Advocacy Days pre-event gathering on criminal justice (85 attendees), which launched the UCC Criminal Justice Network. UCC advocates sent 5,200+ messages to decision makers. We engaged in over 60 Capitol Hill visits, rallies, meetings and briefings, including a congressional briefing titled "Faith Voices Speak Out on Criminal Justice Reform." Faith advocacy on criminal justice reform in 2015 was pivotal in gaining strong bipartisan support for sentencing reform and moving legislation through an otherwise gridlocked Congress.



- We helped strengthen faith community opposition to the Trans-Pacific Trade Agreement (TPP) through hosting a webinar for grassroots advocates and engaging in increased direct advocacy, media outreach, and constituent actions.
- We continued ongoing voter empowerment and strengthening civic engagement and advocacy for voting rights with an eye to building expanded capacity for a bold, prophetic non-partisan, faith-based witness in the 2016 presidential election cycle.
- As part of the implementation of the General Synod 29 resolution on the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, a biblical reflection was produced jointly with the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). The Doctrine of Discovery refers to the theological and legal concepts that authorized the genocide of indigenous peoples and the theft of their lands in the Western hemisphere, and that is still operative today in U.S. law and in international law.
- Our special mission offering campaign, Neighbors in Need, focused on the plight of communities of CAIM and beyond. It raised nearly \$655,000.
- During 2015, Franklinton Center at Bricks made significant progress to strengthen its organizational infrastructure for future sustainability. Throughout the year, FCAB hosted 10,060 persons, most of whom were participants in 25 social justice conferences and events held at the center. The types of social justice groups served: community organizing groups, policy advocates, economic development organizations, historic and cultural preservation organizations, environmental justice organizations, and municipalities located in impoverished communities.
- UCC HIV & AIDS Network (UCAN) has been organizing to implement the Framework for Dialogue to End HIV Stigma which includes a crowdsource funding campaign. A UCC HIV Ministry Survey launched the week after Easter.
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity: We launched a website with bilingual blog posts/reflections and have been working in coalitions against the wave of anti-LGBTQ legislation and policies.
- 77 Our Whole Lives facilitator trainings were held in UCC and UUA settings across the country.



# Ministry Reports 2015

## Local Church Ministries

**L**ocal Church Ministries (LCM) exists to support and encourage congregations in the fulfillment of God's mission. Working with each of the UCC's 38 Conferences, 173 Committees on Ministry and the vast majority of the UCC's local churches, both directly and indirectly, LCM provides a vast array of services, trainings, events, resources, worship and formation materials, and research support.



Last year, LCM's **Congregational Assessment, Support and Advancement (CASA) Ministry**, worked with 260 leaders from 43 congregations in 12 geographic clusters to encourage big, bold decisions in these churches' envisioned futures. New Beginnings, now entering its third year, has seen 130 congregations successfully complete this assessment program.

Through gifts to the **Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offering** and the **Testimony Fund**, 23 new and renewing churches were awarded grants totaling \$396,000 in 2015, supporting new vital ministries demonstrating both innovation and impact. LCM's new matching grants initiative — designed to help select revitalizing congregations leverage new local money — provided additional matching grants of \$32,373 for six congregations via the UCC's new crowdfunding website, [WoodToTheFire.org](http://WoodToTheFire.org), launched at the 2015 General Synod. LCM also provided \$250,000 to the Center for Progressive Renewal, which offers coaching, training and services on the UCC's behalf for hundreds of churches at significantly reduced costs.

LCM's **Faith Formation Ministry** hosted four regional Stillspeaking Worship Institute events, with more than 150 attending, and convened a National Conversation on Confirmation. In addition to planning the



**The Rev. J. Bennett Guess**  
Executive Minister

worship services and the Youth@Synod program at General Synod, Faith Formation continued weekly production of Sermon Seeds and Worship Ways, consistently among the most popular resources offered by the national church.

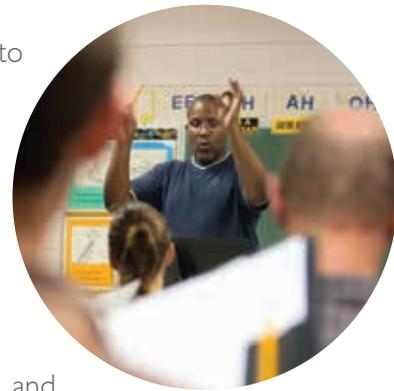


LCM co-sponsored the **African American Inclusive Church Pastors Gathering** in Washington, D.C., with 58 in attendance, and the Ecumenical Church Planters Training for Spanish-Speaking Congregations in Nashville, Tenn., with 130 participants. The New Church Leaders Institute, held in Boston, was co-sponsored by LCM, where hundreds gathered to strategize how to strengthen existing churches and support the starting of new ones.



The **Church Building and Loan Fund** had its most successful year in decades, closing 14 construction loans worth nearly \$11 million, staffing four capital campaigns that raised more than \$1 million, working with over 70 church leaders from 37 congregations to ready congregations considering expansion projects, and offering technical assistance to 33 churches. One exciting project is in Louisville, Ky., where a radically renewed St. Peter's UCC will break ground this fall on a \$7.2-million mixed-use development, spurring economic revitalization alongside the church's numerous social service and justice outreach ministries, breathing new life into one of the city's poorest neighborhoods.

The **Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization (MESA) Ministry** offered trainings for all 38 UCC Conferences, touching hundreds of individuals and churches, through search committee and pastoral relations orientations, Committee on Ministry trainings, bias-elimination seminars, clergy ethics and healthy boundary conversations, Members in Discernment activities, new Conference staff trainings, Regional Theological Programs support, and more.



The **Center for Analytics, Research and Data (CARD)** completed its phase-three build of the UCC Data Hub, the denomination's one-stop information center that has rendered written paper forms a thing of the past. Every setting of the church now benefits from seeing and sharing in the collective impact of the church's mission together. CARD conducted multiple research projects in 2015, with reports and findings available at [ucc.org/research](http://ucc.org/research).

# Ministry Reports 2015

## Wider Church Ministries

**F**or over 200 years, Wider Church Ministries and its predecessor bodies have worked domestically and globally to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable, to develop mutually enriching partnerships that express the UCC's vocation of unity, and to equip all settings of the church to engage in God's mission. This heritage lives on through faithful, innovative and life-changing initiatives.

At General Synod 31, Wider Church Ministries launched the **Middle East Initiative** with our Global Ministries' partners in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Initiative promotes education, advocacy, action and relationship building in the unstable region where our faith was born. Our ministry is multiplied by partners like the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services in Egypt, which touches the lives of over two million Egyptians annually through literacy, economic development, health care, housing and agriculture programs.

In the Middle East and elsewhere, the number of refugees and displaced persons has grown exponentially. In Syria alone, over half of the population has been forced from their homes by ongoing violence. With the support of the **One Great Hour of Sharing** special mission offering and in collaboration with partners in the Middle East and Europe, we have made a difference. At least 380,000 displaced Syrians have received basic necessities such as food, clothing, shelter and education for children through our combined efforts. We remain strong advocates for the just treatment of refugees and an end to the violence from which they flee.

**Disaster Ministries** responded to natural disasters in 33 countries during 2015. When a devastating earthquake struck Nepal, we joined with partners to meet immediate needs including food, water and shelter, and we committed to a long-term response of building 50 earthquake-resistant homes. Domestically, Disaster Ministries responded to tornadoes, floods, hurricanes



and wildfires in 15 states. **UCC-initiated ecumenical work** in West Virginia has replaced 20 private access bridges destroyed by floods, allowing families to access their homes safely.

We engage in ministry by building relationships, and that includes hands-on involvement. 140 Global Ministries' mission personnel served in 46 countries last year, building capacities in church leadership, health care, education, agriculture, communications and justice advocacy. The **People-to-People Pilgrimage** program facilitated 56 delegation visits to 18 countries. **UCC Mission Trip Opportunities** assisted 87 partner organizations in the U.S. to host 1,218 UCC groups with 13,137 volunteers serving local communities. 70 long-term volunteers were deployed domestically in support of disaster recovery and service/justice work through **Volunteer Ministries** programs.

Educational and worship resources are much used in our churches. Vacation Bible School materials, youth resources, prayers, partner updates, webinars and worship liturgies are all updated and available online. In 2015, **Global Ministries** launched the **REACH curriculum**—**Renewing, Engaging and Advocating Churches**. This three-part adult curriculum is designed to expand our understanding of God and the world we share.

Wider Church Ministries continues to build on its tradition of active participation in God's mission for the sake of all people and all of creation.



**The Rev. James A. Moos**  
Executive Minister

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Established in 1909, United Church Funds offers a family of 13 professionally managed, diversified and socially responsible investment funds to over 1,000 churches, conferences and other ministries of the United Church of Christ. Investing with United Church Funds, investors enjoy the best practices of modern portfolio management while remaining faithful to the values of the United Church of Christ. We provide solid and consistent investment performance with a purpose: to make more money available for your ministry.

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# THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

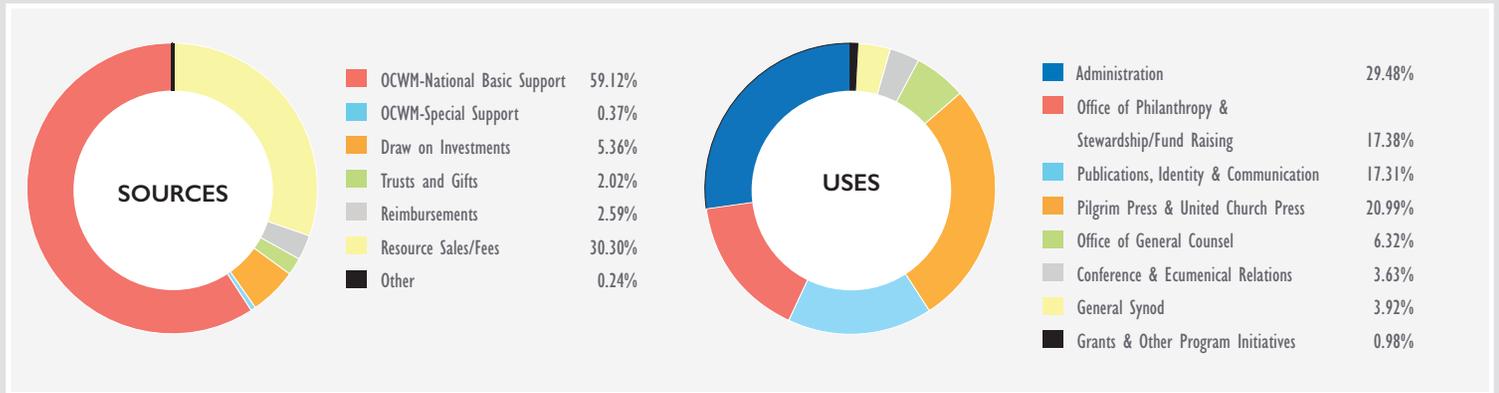
UNAUDITED FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015

	OGMP	JWM	LCM	WCM	PB	Total	Percent of Totals
<b>SOURCES</b>							
OCWM-National Basic Support	\$ 4,074,020	\$ 787,009	\$ 343,390	\$ 460,445	\$ 337,383	\$ 6,002,247	28.72%
OCWM-Special Support	25,753	654,357	231,777	2,199,143		3,111,030	14.88%
Draw on Investments	369,223	1,107,557	2,704,333	2,796,989		6,978,102	33.39%
Trusts and Gifts	139,293	104,783	346,839	621,150		1,212,065	5.80%
Reimbursements	178,333	-	118,549	1,117,644		1,414,526	6.77%
Resource Sales/Fees	2,088,454	1,718	62,135	941		2,153,248	10.30%
Other	16,569	1,025	3,360	9,512		30,466	0.15%
<b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 6,891,645</b>	<b>\$ 2,656,449</b>	<b>\$ 3,810,383</b>	<b>\$ 7,205,824</b>	<b>\$ 337,383</b>	<b>\$ 20,901,684</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

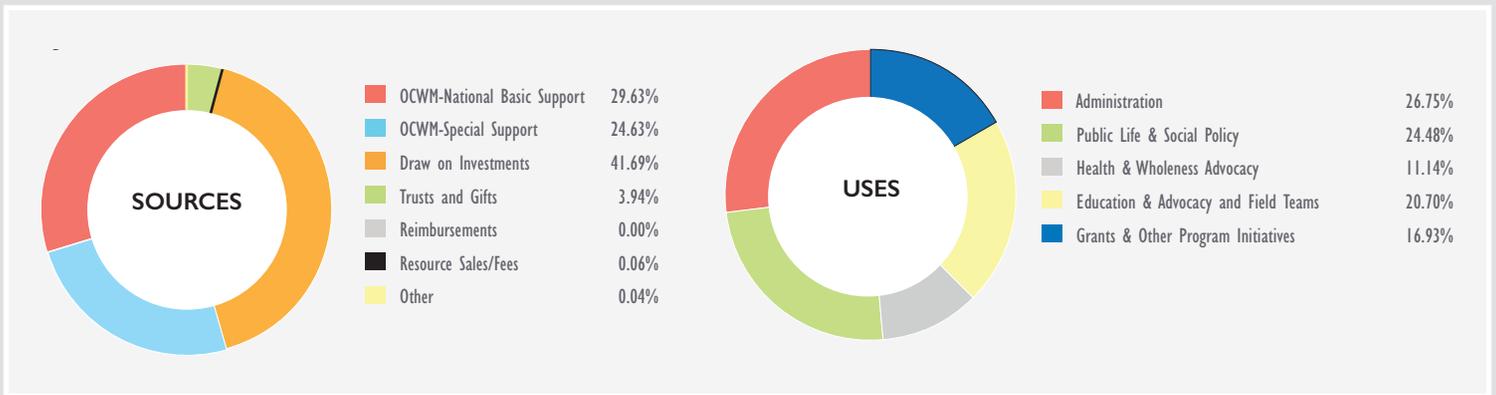
<b>USES</b>							
Administration	\$ 2,031,369	\$ 710,718	\$ 748,708	\$ 380,773		\$ 3,871,568	18.52%
Office of Philanthropy & Stewardship/Fund Raising	1,197,881			374,470		1,572,351	7.52%
Publications, Identity & Communication	1,192,668					1,192,668	5.71%
Pilgrim Press & United Church Press	1,446,603					1,446,603	6.92%
Office of General Counsel	435,409					435,409	2.08%
Conference & Ecumenical Relations	249,868					249,868	1.20%
General Synod	270,020					270,020	1.29%
Public Life & Social Policy		650,278				650,278	3.11%
Health & Wholeness Advocacy		295,805				295,805	1.42%
Education & Advocacy		550,014				550,014	2.63%
Congregational Assessment, Support & Advancement			752,882			752,882	3.60%
Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization			1,169,484			1,169,484	5.60%
Faith Formation			559,035			559,035	2.67%
Center for Analytics, Research & Data			467,672			467,672	2.24%
Overseas Programs				4,052,478		4,052,478	19.39%
Global Sharing of Resources				1,480,589		1,480,589	7.08%
Local Church Relations				223,742		223,742	1.07%
Grants & Other Program Initiatives	67,827	449,634	112,602	693,772	337,383	1,661,218	7.95%
<b>TOTAL USES</b>	<b>\$ 6,891,645</b>	<b>\$ 2,656,449</b>	<b>\$ 3,810,383</b>	<b>\$ 7,205,824</b>	<b>\$ 337,383</b>	<b>\$ 20,901,684</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# SOURCES AND USES 2015 By Ministry

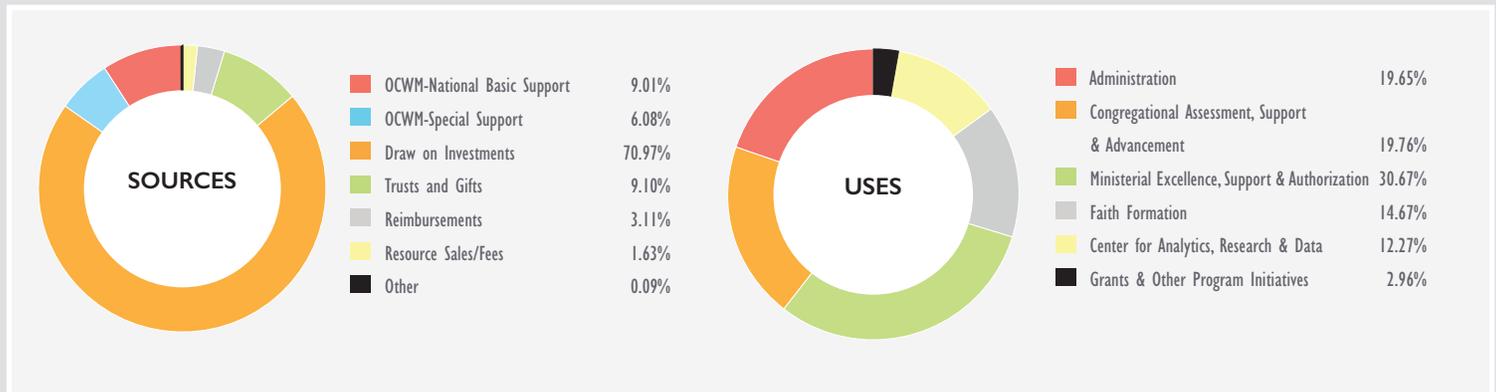
## OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT



## JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES

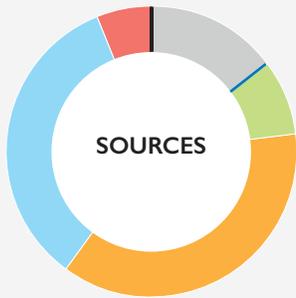


## LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

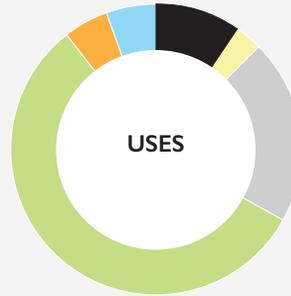


# SOURCES AND USES 2015 **By Ministry**

## WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES

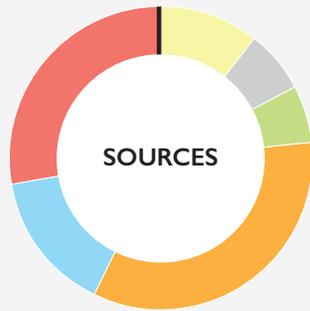


OCWM-National Basic Support	6.39%
OCWM-Special Support	30.52%
Draw on Investments	38.82%
Trusts and Gifts	8.62%
Reimbursements	15.51%
Resource Sales/Fees	0.01%
Other	0.13%

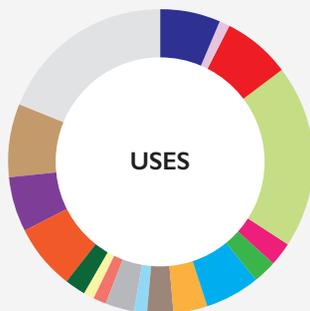


Administration	5.28%
Office of Philanthropy & Stewardship/Fund Raising	5.20%
Overseas Program	56.24%
Global Sharing of Resources	20.55%
Local Church Relations	3.11%
Grants & Other Program Initiatives	9.63%

## TOTALS



OCWM-National Basic Support	27.55%
OCWM-Special Support	15.13%
Draw on Investments	33.93%
Trusts and Gifts	5.89%
Reimbursements	6.88%
Resource Sales/Fees	10.47%
Other	0.15%



Administration	18.83%
Office of Philanthropy & Stewardship/Fund Raising	7.65%
Publications, Identity & Communication	5.80%
Pilgrim Press & United Church Press	7.03%
Office of General Counsel	2.12%
Conference & Ecumenical Relations	1.22%
General Synod	1.31%
Public Life & Social Policy	3.16%
Health & Wholeness Advocacy	1.44%
Education & Advocacy and Field Teams	2.67%
Congregational Assessment, Support & Advancement	3.66%
Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization	5.69%
Faith Formation	2.72%
Center for Analytics, Research & Data	2.27%
Overseas Programs	19.71%
Global Sharing of Resources	7.20%
Local Church Relations	1.09%
Grants & Other Program Initiatives	6.44%



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**Bud Trayner**  
Church Administrator, Pilgrim UCC  
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## OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION

### Top 50 Congregations, Total Giving

**Central Congregational UCC**, Providence, RI

**Christ Congregational UCC**, Silver Spring, MD

**Church of Christ At Dartmouth UCC**, Hanover, NH

**Church of the Apostles UCC**, Lancaster, PA

**Congregational Church in South Glastonbury UCC**,  
South Glastonbury, CT

**Coral Gables Congregational UCC**, Coral Gables, FL

**Countryside Community Church UCC**, Omaha, NE

**Covenant United Church of Christ**, South Holland, IL

**Evangelical Reformed Church**, Frederick, MD

**Federated UCC**, Chagrin Falls, OH

**First Church in Cambridge Congregational UCC**,  
Cambridge, MA

**First Church of Christ UCC**, Simsbury, CT

**First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn UCC**, Glen Ellyn, IL

**First Congregational Church**, Wellesley Hills, MA

**First Congregational Church UCC of Columbus**,  
Columbus, OH

**First Congregational UCC**, Berkeley, CA

**First Congregational UCC**, Colorado Springs, CO

**First Congregational UCC**, Greeley, CO

**First Congregational UCC**, Dubuque, IA

**First Congregational UCC**, Nashua, NH

**First Congregational UCC**, Hudson, OH

**First Congregational UCC**, Sioux Falls, SD

**First Congregational UCC**, Appleton, WI

**First Congregational UCC**, Madison, WI

**First United Church of Christ**, Northfield, MN

**First-Plymouth Congregational UCC**, Lincoln, NE

**Little River UCC**, Annandale, VA

**Mayflower UCC**, Minneapolis, MN

**Naples United Church of Christ**, Naples, FL

**Newman Congregational UCC**, East Providence, RI

**Pleasantville UCC**, Chalfont, PA

**Plymouth Congregational UCC**, Des Moines, IA

**Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC**, Seattle, WA

**Rock Spring Congregational UCC**, Arlington, VA

**Saint John UCC**, Saint Charles, MO

**Saint John's UCC**, Lansdale, PA

**Saint Pauls UCC**, Chicago, IL

**St Paul United Church of Christ**,  
Columbia, IL

**The First Church in Oberlin UCC**,  
Oberlin, OH

**The First Church UCC**, Windsor, CT

**The First Congregational Church of Guilford, Inc.**, Guilford, CT

**The Second Church in Newton UCC**, Newton, MA

**Trinitarian Congregational UCC**, Concord, MA

**Union Congregational UCC**, Montclair, NJ

**United Church of Christ**, New Brighton, MN

**United Church of Chapel Hill UCC**, Chapel Hill, NC

**United Church of Christ of Kent**, Kent, OH

**University Congregational UCC**, Seattle, WA

**Wellesley Congregational Church UCC**, Wellesley, MA





## OPERATING AT THE INTERSECTION OF FAITH AND FINANCE

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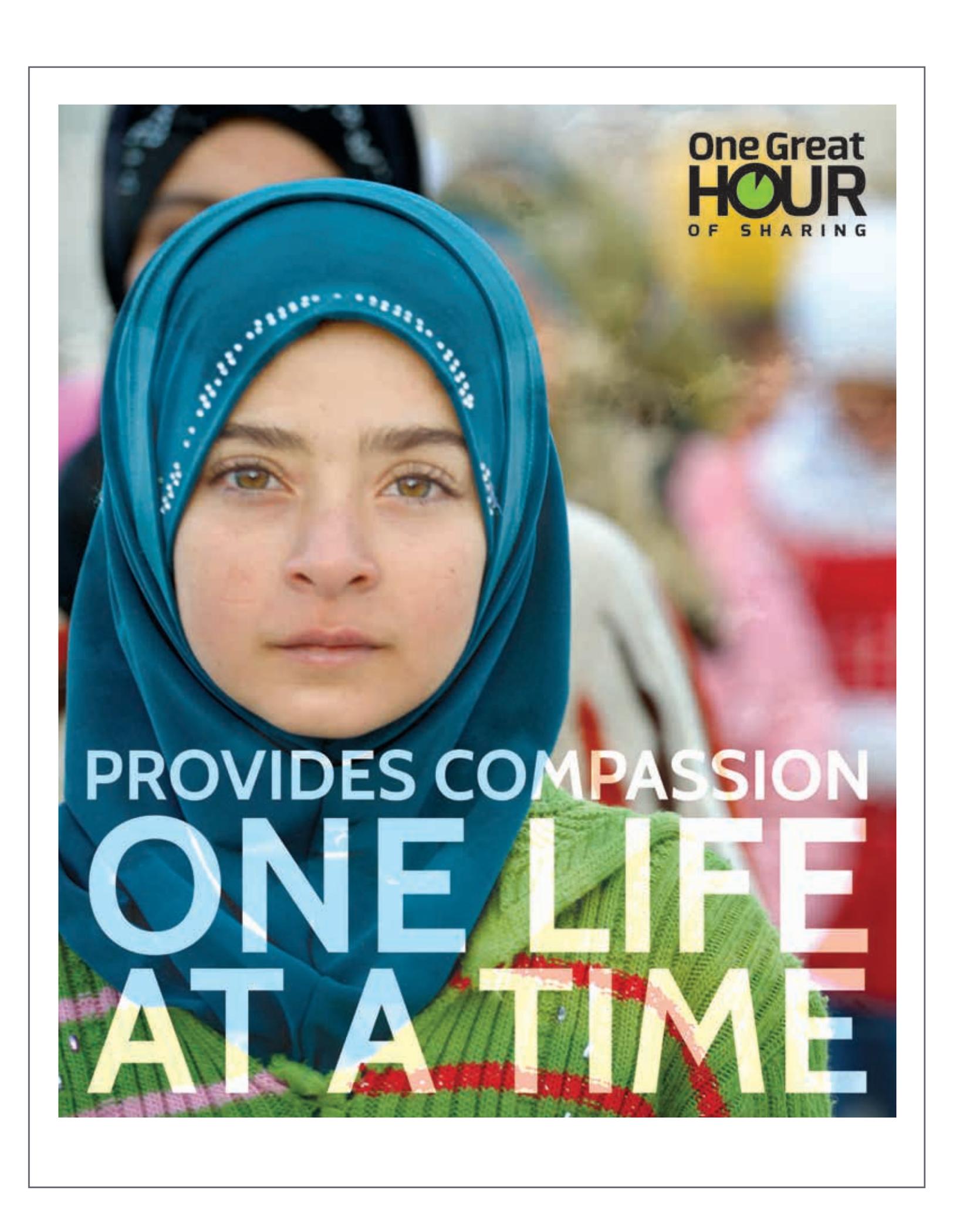
## OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION

### Top 50 Congregations, Per Capita Giving

- Bethany Church UCC, Montpelier, VT
- Brush Creek Salem UCC, Irwin, PA
- Church of Christ At Dartmouth UCC, Hanover, NH
- Church of the Apostles UCC, Lancaster, PA
- Congregational Church of Lincoln City UCC, Lincoln City, OR
- Congregational Church UCC, Columbia, SD
- Crossroads United Church of Christ, Indianola, IA
- Earlville United Parish, Earlville, IA
- Edwards Congregational UCC, Davenport, IA
- Emmanuel UCC, Nuremberg, PA
- First Congregational Church of Ripon UCC, Ripon, WI
- First Congregational UCC, Dubuque, IA
- First Congregational UCC, Whiting, IA
- First Congregational UCC, Indianapolis, IN
- First Congregational UCC, Flat Rock, MI
- First Congregational UCC, Burwell, NE
- First Congregational UCC, Great Falls, MT
- First Congregational UCC, Platteville, WI
- First Congregational UCC, South Milwaukee, WI
- First Trinity UCC, Youngwood, PA
- First United Church of Christ, Galion, OH
- First United Church of Christ, Apollo, PA
- Grace Congregational UCC, Two Rivers, WI
- Little River UCC, Annandale, VA
- Malcolm Congregational Church, Pettibone, ND
- Maquoketa United Church of Christ, Maquoketa, IA
- Morganville United Church of Christ, Stafford, NY
- Mount Hope UCC, Portage, PA
- Newman Congregational UCC, East Providence, RI
- Orangeville United Church, Orangeville, PA
- Paradise Community UCC, Reynoldsville, PA
- Peace UCC, Tilden, NE
- Post Mills Congregational Church, Post Mills, VT
- Revolution United Church of Christ, El Paso, TX
- Rolling Hills Congregational UCC, Salina, KS
- Saint John UCC, Humbird, WI
- Saint Peter/Shumans UCC, Bloomsburg, PA
- Saint Vincent UCC, Phoenixville, PA
- Samoan Church of Hawaii LMS UCC, Nanakuli, HI
- Shalom United Church of Christ, New Haven, CT
- The First Church in Oberlin UCC, Oberlin, OH
- Trinity UCC, Portage, WI
- United Church of Christ of Kent, Kent, OH
- United Church of Christ, Oto, IA
- United Church of Christ, Edgemont, SD
- United Methodist Church UCC, Wisner, NE
- United Parish UCC, Elk Point, SD
- West Parish Congregational UCC, Bethel, ME
- Zion United Church of Christ, Burlington, IA
- Zwingli UCC, Monticello, WI

Thank You!





One Great  
**HOUR**  
OF SHARING

PROVIDES COMPASSION  
**ONE LIFE**  
**AT A TIME**

## D O N O R S

### \$10,000 and up

Anonymous (2)  
 The Estate of Ms. Shizue M. Asai  
 The Estate of Mrs. Gertrude C. Braun  
 Mr. David and Mrs. Ella Cleveland  
 Ms. Heleny Cook and Mr. Richard Hall  
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 Mr. Richard and Ms. Angelica Harter  
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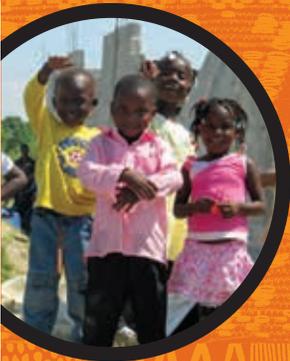
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