

Our Church's Wider Mission

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) is the name of the congregational gifts that support wider United Church of Christ ministry in Conference and National settings. Why give to OCWM? Because these gifts make it possible for our Church to emphasize God's continuing testament in the world, to support the extravagant welcome of our churches and to change lives.

The Missouri Mid-South OCWM goal for 2017 is: \$594,631.00.

The OCWM Covenanted Ministry seeks to encourage intentional annual growth in all congregational mission giving but especially OCWM growth.

The Covenanted Ministry supports OCWM promotion and development in each congregation through personal visits with church councils and mission committees, providing mission moments during worship, printed materials and other resources. We also encourage the use of the 2017 stewardship theme materials, *Journey to Generosity – The Way of Jesus* based on Matthew 9:35 – 10:23.

The Covenanted Ministry is engaging each local church in conversations leading to the establishment of a budget line item for OCWM or to an understanding of the other unique ways congregations make decision regarding OCWM support. It has been a wonderful learning experience.

And we want to say, thank you for your gifts as often as we can. We want to respond each time contributions arrive at the Conference office as well as offer expressions of support and appreciation for total annual giving from each church.

In the fall of 2017, we will offer a three-unit webinar series that would cover "Conditions for Creating a Culture of Generosity"; "Stewardship and Best Practices"; and "Scripture and Stewardship: Preaching and Teaching for Impact". Watch for upcoming announcements of the dates and times for these events.

Additional support for the work of the Missouri Mid-South Conference is realized through the Friends of the Conference Challenge. This year the goal is \$15,000. The first letter has gone out via email and other follow-up letters will be emailed soon. You can even make a donation to the Friends of the Conference Fund here at Annual Gathering. See Lorin Cope for more information.

Our Church's Wider Mission dollars carry on church-wide ministries we cannot do by ourselves. The wider church helps us reach out to the whole world while informing and helping us participate outside the footprint of our local faith communities. Through these connections, our ministry is bigger than when we work by ourselves. We become part of the Body of Christ. We connect to each other in a wonderful process that informs and changes us as our ministry serves others in Christ's name.

Thank you for sharing the journey and for sharing a portion of the resources you have been given by God in support of Our Church's Wider Mission.

The OCWM Covenanted Ministry membership continues to evolve, the membership at this time is noted below.

Faithfully,

Lorin Cope
Ken Ulmer
Vernon Howard
Nancy Litzinger
David Rauch
David Mehl
Ginny Brown Daniel