Focusing Our Ministry Together
Dear members, friends and colleagues in the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ,

There is so much rich ministry happening in Minnesota United Church of Christ churches! Whether you are a lay leader, a Minnesota Conference or Pilgrim Point volunteer, a licensed minister, or ordained clergy, YOU are the people doing God’s work on a daily basis in towns and cities across the state. I am so humbled by your commitment, and inspired by your faith.

This 2017 Annual Report reflects on our work together in creating vital congregations, supporting faith formation, offering compassionate service and prophetic witness, and developing lay and clergy leaders. This report also lays the groundwork for the expansive ministry of “2020 Vision” adopted in 2017, which focuses our ministry together over the next few years, with full implementation by 2020. Our “2020 Vision” plan is already infusing new life and purpose into our Conference and accomplishing amazing outcomes that benefit the entire Minnesota Conference family. All of this good work happens with your hopes and needs in mind, as we strive to support healthy, vital, and relevant ministry in this Body of Christ we share.

Thank you for all you do, and for supporting the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ with your financial contributions and continuing prayers.

With deep appreciation and gratitude,

Reverend Shari Prestemon, Conference Minister
In Spring of 2017, the Conference Board of Directors approved our “2020 Vision,” a set of eight strategic objectives that will focus our ministry together over the next few years, with full implementation by 2020. These objectives align with our Conference’s existing strategic priorities, adopted in 2012. Our “2020 Vision” was publicly launched at Annual Meeting 2017.

- Identify/support two or more post-modern, “3.0” communities of faith by the end of 2019
- Engage at least 3 congregations in each of 2018 & 2019 in an intentional revitalization/ renewal program
- Engage at least 10% of our congregations in use of the UCC’s “White Privilege” curriculum, 2017-2019
- By year-end 2018, launch a lay leadership development program that grows our capacity across the Conference for strong lay leadership, provides for multiple paths to authorized ministry, and invigorates/equips the Church for the future
- By Autumn 2018, launch a multi-church Young Adult Service Community in the MN Conference
- During 2017-2018 engage up to 5 congregational leadership teams in a 12-month coaching/mentoring process to develop a comprehensive vision and ministry plan for lifelong spiritual formation in each participant congregation
- During 2018, launch a 6-month leadership formation initiative for up to 25 faith formation leaders that supports peer connection and learning, creates space for personal spiritual renewal, and strengthens the capacity for participants to nurture faith within the congregations they serve
- By the end of 2018 recruit and support a network of content creators from across the UCC of theologically progressive faith formation resources and launch an accessible distribution platform for these resources.
Supporting Faith Formation

In 2017 the Conference began convening leaders from multiple churches to meet jointly and develop visionary faith formation plans for each participant congregation. “Our church knew we had to do something new,” says Rev. Deb Meyer of St. Paul’s UCC in Henderson. “Working with Rev. Kevin Brown and Jim Ladoux, we’ve met in a retreat, worked regularly as a group to support one another in prayer, in sharing, and in listening to each other’s stories. As a result, each church has identified who they are as a congregation, focusing on our strengths rather than weaknesses.”

“We discovered that our congregation is serving God and serving others through many outreach programs,” continues Rev. Meyer. “Our church elders have begun mentoring our young people and other community youth. Last fall, a young man joined our confirmation class. He comes from a family with no dad and an unchurched mom, and his initial behaviors in worship irritated members. But as our members began to talk to him and get to know him, he became more involved. He has participated in our drama productions, and even asked to help take the offering. He sometimes has a tough time at school and at home, so the church is a place of refuge for him. I believe that our focus on faith formation with the council and leaders of the church has allowed this hospitality and teaching moment to happen.”
When UCC leaders from across Minnesota met in 2016, they saw the need for a new type of training program to increase the number of people entering the ministry. They acknowledged that the time and cost of traditional seminary training could not be the only path to ministerial leadership: a new model is needed that is comprehensive, affordable, and yet nimble enough to anticipate and respond to shifts in cultural, religious, and congregational realities.

In 2017, the groundwork was laid for The Damascus Project, a collaborative initiative between the Minnesota and Wisconsin UCC Conferences. The Damascus Project is designing an innovative new program that will offer multi-disciplinary courses that will help participants develop ministerial competencies which for some may lead to ministry authorization. These courses will be available to anyone in either Minnesota or Wisconsin. “Damascus Project courses will inspire cross-generational leaders who want to deepen their faith, expand their knowledge of Christian faith and practice, and equip their desire to strengthen Christ’s church,” says Vicki Wunsch, Director of Leadership Development. As Lynne Krehbiel-Breneman, Damascus Project Design Team Member explains, “Damascus Project serves as a rich starting point for lay persons, faith leaders and communities, and theological education, generally. As it grows, Damascus Project can work within a network of existing local and regional seminaries and other nonprofit organizations on behalf of the wider and global church.”
According to the church calendar, spring, summer and fall are Ordinary Time. At Pilgrim Point, it’s a time for making new friends and having fun through Extraordinary programming.

“Congregations continue to find Pilgrim Point to be a sanctuary filled with silence and noise of the Holy Spirit, where people of all ages, religious preferences, and all human identities can find the Energy of the Spirit moving through the trees, waves, and grass,” shares Rev. Sheri Nelson from New York Mills. Indeed, Minnesota’s UCC congregations continued to fill Pilgrim Point’s programming in 2017.

“We felt so welcomed at Pilgrim Point,” says Joyce Atchison, Director of MN Deaf Family and Friends Camp. The Conference was thrilled to host their summer program where families who have a deaf or hard of hearing child come together. “We especially loved the philosophy of Pilgrim Point to offer an experiential intergenerational family camp: we could offer our participants the opportunity to learn American Sign Language while enjoying the lake, trees, beach, kayaks, canoes, and pontoon boat, and having plenty of room to run and play in nature!”

The Conference is excited to share Pilgrim Point with other community partners, maximizing its potential to bring people together and build a vibrant and sustainable space for outdoor ministry.
Grounded in the United Church of Christ’s declaration that “no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here,” the thirty-first General Synod in Baltimore passed a resolution to become an Immigrant Welcoming Denomination. Diane Haines, Chair of the MN Conference Immigration Team, shares, “Under the leadership of Rev. Noel Anderson, a Church World Services immigration advocate, a group of UCC church leaders from across the country met 2-1/2 years ago to move immigration issues to the forefront of our denomination. The Minnesota Conference was asked to take the leadership in getting a resolution before General Synod asking for the UCC to become an Immigrant Welcoming Church. The late Rev. John Guttermann wrote the template for that resolution, and four other conferences joined the Minnesota Conference in bringing that resolution before General Synod. On July 1, 2017 General Synod, after a vote of 96% in favor of the resolution, declared itself an Immigrant Welcoming Church.”

To date, eleven Minnesota congregations have voted to become Immigrant Welcoming, Sanctuary Congregations, or Sanctuary Supporting Congregations with several other congregations discerning their call to be prophetic witnesses through their immigration ministries.
# Financials for Fiscal Year 2017:
October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support and Revenue - Unrestricted</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>OCWM</td>
<td>657,348</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Capita</td>
<td>167,185</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Fund &amp; Gifts</td>
<td>105,676</td>
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<td>Program Revenue</td>
<td>171,836</td>
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<td>Restricted Contributions Released</td>
<td>367,510</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue - Unrestricted</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,469,555</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCWM National Payments</td>
<td>223,595</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>221,102</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>126,342</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,615,554</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Change in Net Assets - Unrestricted  

(145,799)

| Restricted Net Asset Activities    | 698,135 |

| TOTAL Change in Net Assets         | $ 552,336 |

*Restricted Net Asset Activities includes:
- Contributions to Restricted Net Assets 20,678
- Release from Temp Restricted Net Assets (367,510)
- Realized Gain on Investments 72,696
- Other Investment Activity 972,271

TOTAL Restricted Net Asset Activities $ 698,135
Ministry Facts for Calendar Year 2017

Our Churches

128 Churches
3 Churches Withdrawn or Closed
23,965 Church Members

Our Ministers

3 Ordinations
6 Installations
23 Members in Discernment

Our Youth & Pilgrim Point

923 Campers at PPC
Individual Support

* Sustaining Donors

◊ Pilgrim Point

$5,000—9,999
Robert & Barbara Peterson

$2,500—4,999
Rudi & Diann Anders

$1,000—2,499
Janet Bartz

Mike Rice
Judy & Gene Rose
Rev. Richard & Nancy Scheerer
Rev. Garth Schumacher & Rev. Norma Rae Hunt
Kim & Jan Shaffer
Rev. Michael Small & Rev. Sheila Hunter
Steven & Karen Sorensen
Glen & Becky Taylor
Rev. Parker & Albert Trostel
Dr. Mary Walser & Lynne Meyer

$500—999
Hobart & Charlotte Anderson
Melissa Aspen
Rev. Obadiah Ballinger & Rev. Javen Swanson
Jim & Nancy Barbour
Rev. Howard Bell & Christopher Cook
David & Betty Jo Braun
Ray & Ann Croadston
Maureen & David Engelhardt
Rev. Kathy Gibson Christensen & Robert Christensen
Kimberly Graff
Thom & Diane Haines

$250—499
Dr. Richard & Sharon Anderson
Rev. Obadiah Ballinger & Rev. Javen Swanson
Rev. Tara Bauer
Rev. Lisa Bodenheim
Carol Crowe
Melanie & Ken Davis
Marcelynn Ediger
Rev. Al Fiene
Diane Gardner
Rev. Muriel Pool
Rev. Javen Swanson
Rev. Bridget Haefer
Barry & Diana Hanke
Rev. Tom & Peg Lammers
Dorothy Lundberg
Robert & Lynette Malles

$100—249
Adrienne Banks
Jane & Tom Barthell
John Beard
Rev. Rex Beyer
Ted Bowman
Rev. Brian & Glennis Brosz
Dwight & Helen Brown
Rev. Susan & Jim Burns
Rev. Joseph Clay
Rev. Beth Donaldson
Rev. Richard Eick
Gordon & Marty Everest
Rev. Charles Eversman
Marvin Fabyanske
Don & Arlene Fancher
Kristina Felbeck
Bart & Sally Finzel
Sylvia Fleming
John Fox
Rev. Charlotte Frantz
Betty Fritz
Robert & Rebecca Galkiewicz
Maggie George & Rev. Rebecca Voelkel
Rev. Richard & Jane Gerber
Rev. David Groenemann
Rev. Clare & Rev. Justin Gromoll
Rev. Victor Hallberg
Rev. Jerry & Liz Hankins
Ann Hartmann
Kathleen Hayden
Norma Heinbuch
Evelyn Rentz
Henrickson
Catherine & Eric Johnson
Sue & Erin Scully
Lynne Severson
James Snoxell
Dana & Michael Steiner
Helen & Gene Stukel
Nathan Syverson
Rev. Dennis Tooley
Richard & Janet Tripp
Eleanore Troxel
Rev. John & Carol Tschudy
Ann Turnbull
Marilyn Twete
Karen Udstrand
Anita Vanderploeg
Rev. Dwight & Jean Wagenius
Rutheda Wagner
Suzanne & Jim Liddle
Rev. Kent & Rev. Debra Meyer
Darrel Mosel
Helen Myers
Priscilla Nauer
Thomas Nelson
Al Obernolte
Bob & Margot Olsen
Ole & Sharon Olson
Renee Petersen
Karen Peterson
Patricia Postlewaite
Susan Purdy
Bruce Richardson
Rev. Anthony Romaine
Cindy Russell
Belle & Dr. Robert Scott
Rev. Rev. Jane Millikan
Rev. Leslie Moughty
Rev. Dr. Carolyn Pressler & Sue Ebbers
Rev. Gary Reiersen
Rev. Margaret Richardson
Rev. John & Marion Roschen
Rev. Dr. Karen Schuder
Rev. Brigit Stevens
Patricia & Jerry Stone
Doris Strong
Rev. Nancy Swanson
Ina May Taylor
Rev. Howard & Betsy Tobak
Rev. Jill Warner
Don & Mary Jane Westra
Donna Wolff
Tim Wulling

$50—99
Dr. Richard & Sharon Anderson
Rev. Obadiah Ballinger & Rev. Javen Swanson
Rev. Tara Bauer
Rev. Lisa Bodenheim
Carol Crowe
Melanie & Ken Davis
Marcelynn Ediger
Rev. Al Fiene
Diane Gardner
Rev. Muriel Pool
Rev. Javen Swanson
Rev. Bridget Haefer
Barry & Diana Hanke
Rev. Tom & Peg Lammers
Dorothy Lundberg
Robert & Lynette Malles

$25—49
Dr. Richard & Sharon Anderson
Rev. Obadiah Ballinger & Rev. Javen Swanson
Rev. Tara Bauer
Rev. Lisa Bodenheim
Carol Crowe
Melanie & Ken Davis
Marcelynn Ediger
Rev. Al Fiene
Diane Gardner
Rev. Muriel Pool
Rev. Javen Swanson
Rev. Bridget Haefer
Barry & Diana Hanke
Rev. Tom & Peg Lammers
Dorothy Lundberg
Robert & Lynette Malles

$10—24
Dr. Richard & Sharon Anderson
Rev. Obadiah Ballinger & Rev. Javen Swanson
Rev. Tara Bauer
Rev. Lisa Bodenheim
Carol Crowe
Melanie & Ken Davis
Marcelynn Ediger
Rev. Al Fiene
Diane Gardner
Rev. Muriel Pool
Rev. Javen Swanson
Rev. Bridget Haefer
Barry & Diana Hanke
Rev. Tom & Peg Lammers
Dorothy Lundberg
Robert & Lynette Malles

$5—12
Dr. Richard & Sharon Anderson
Rev. Obadiah Ballinger & Rev. Javen Swanson
Rev. Tara Bauer
Rev. Lisa Bodenheim
Carol Crowe
Melanie & Ken Davis
Marcelynn Ediger
Rev. Al Fiene
Diane Gardner
Rev. Muriel Pool
Rev. Javen Swanson
Rev. Bridget Haefer
Barry & Diana Hanke
Rev. Tom & Peg Lammers
Dorothy Lundberg
Robert & Lynette Malles

$1—$4
Dr. Richard & Sharon Anderson
Rev. Obadiah Ballinger & Rev. Javen Swanson
Rev. Tara Bauer
Rev. Lisa Bodenheim
Carol Crowe
Melanie & Ken Davis
Marcelynn Ediger
Rev. Al Fiene
Diane Gardner
Rev. Muriel Pool
Rev. Javen Swanson
Rev. Bridget Haefer
Barry & Diana Hanke
Rev. Tom & Peg Lammers
Dorothy Lundberg
Robert & Lynette Malles
Thank You
Donors!

Thank you to all of our individual and congregational donors who financially support the Minnesota Conference UCC and Pilgrim Point Camp with your gifts. Your generosity multiplies our impact and empowers our ministry. We simply can’t do it without you!

If you have made arrangements to remember the Minnesota Conference through a legacy gift and we have not included you on this list, please let us know so that you can be added.

Up to $100
Shari & Allen Alm
Leslie Amundson
Doris Anderson
Ellen Baker
Muriel Besser
Rev. Kevin Brown
Linda Buchs-Hammonds
Rev. Henry D. Campbell
Joseph Capistrant
Gary & Jane Clements
Rev. Molly Cox
Jean Daniels
Sue Ebbers
Randy & Helen Edinger
Susan Evans
Marla Field
Michael Florey
Rev. Timothy Forester
Bette Gerling
Elizabeth Glover
Adam & Meghan Gordon
Rachel Griffith
Mark Gustafson
Rev. Sue Hamly
Norm Hanson
Barbara Heinrich
Lori Heitman
Rev. Abigail Henderson
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Hess
Carri Hoagland
Rev. Kristen & Bruce Jeide
Dwight Johnson
Stacy Kehrwaldo
Ellen Kruschke-Olson
Kathy & Larry LaFayette
Douglas Larsen
Pearl Lenzen
James Leslie
Julie Lofdahl
Ruby Lynk
Richard & Dianne Marquart
Rev. Barbara Martin
James & Karen McConkey
Rev. Alan McNamara
Rev. Robert Meissner
Theresa Meyer
Rev. Kent & Rev. Debra Meyer
Sham Moteelall
Rev. Paula Nordhem
Rev. Bryan Olson
Jean Ostrom
Ann Peterson
Joan Peterson
Parker Quammen
Joanne Rohricht
Rev. Herb Rotunda
Dan & Dorothy Schmidt
Linda Schultz
Judith Schulze
Gordon Stobb
Barbara Stone
Rev. Sheryl Stowman
Rev. Anne Swallow
Gillis
James Thares
Craig Thorsen
Rev. David Tillman
Rev. Betsy Tobak
Rev. Terese Tomanek
Lisa Triplett
Linda Wagenbach
Rev. Rosanna Walker
Zilla Way
Betty Wentworth
Susan Weston
Nancy Zaworski

Legacy Circle
Hobart & Charlotte Anderson
Rev. Muriel Pool
Hachfeld & Rev. Randall Hachfeld
Rev. Cindy Mueller & Rev. Dr. Jeff Palmer
Priscilla & Joseph* Nauer
Robert W. Rosene
Rev. Mary Kay & Rev. Orville Sauter
Vernon & Adele Zander

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Range</th>
<th>Church Names</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 or more</td>
<td>UCC, Northfield, Mayflower Community Congregational, Minneapolis, United Church of Christ, New Brighton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000—$49,999</td>
<td>First Congregational Church of MN, Minneapolis, Peace UCC, Duluth, Robbinsdale UCC, Robbinsdale, St. Paul’s UCC, St. Paul, The Congregational UCC, Rochester, Union Congregational UCC, St. Louis Park, Wayzata Community Church, Wayzata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000—$24,999</td>
<td>Chapel Hills UCC, Edina, Falcon Heights Church UCC, Falcon Heights, First Congregational UCC, Anoka, First Congregational UCC, Fairmont, First Congregational UCC, Mankato, First Congregational UCC, Brainerd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,000—$9,999</td>
<td>Community UCC, St. Paul Park, Edina Morningside Church, Edina, First Congregational, Grand Marais, First Congregational Church, Minneapolis, Macalester Plymouth United Church, St. Paul, Mizpah UCC, Hopkins, New Journey UCC, Hutchinson, Parkview UCC, White Bear Lake, Pilgrim Congregational, Duluth, Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis, St. Anthony Park UCC, St. Paul, The Congregational Church of Detroit Lakes UCC, Detroit Lakes, Union Congregational Church UCC, Hackensack, Union UCC, Elk River, United Church of Christ, Gaylord, Zion UCC, LeSueur</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2,500—$4,999</td>
<td>Bethlehem UCC, Maple Lake, Circles of Faith UCC, Waubun, Clark Memorial UCC, South St. Paul, Community Church of Walker, UCC, Walker, Community UCC, Wiibakik, Faith UCC, International Falls, Faith United Church, Ada, First Congregational Church, Staples, First Congregational UCC, Alexandria, First Congregational UCC, Winona, First Congregational UCC, Lake City, First United Church, Little Falls, Glenwood United Parish, Glenwood, Granite Falls UCC, Granite Falls, Linden Hills Congregational Church, Minneapolis, Living Table UCC, Minneapolis, Lyndale Congregational UCC, Minneapolis, New Spirit UCC, Savage, Olivet Congregational Church, St. Paul, Peace UCC, Rochester, St. Mark’s UCC, Bloomington, St. Paul’s UCC, Welcome, The Associated Church, Owatonna, The Federated Church, Morris, United Church of Christ, New Ulm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to $499</td>
<td>Faith UCC, Bertha, First Congregational Church of Aldrich, Wadena, Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Benson, St. Paul’s UCC, Eyota, The United Protestant Church, Silver Bay, United Church of Christ, St. Charles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500—$999</td>
<td>Faith UCC, Winthrop, First Congregational Church UCC, Hancock, First Congregational UCC, Dodge Center, First Congregational UCC, Graceville, First Congregational UCC, Pelican Rapids, First United Church UCC, Sauk Centre, Mendota Heights United Church of Christ (Cong’l), Mendota Heights, Peace UCC, Glencoe, Peace UCC, Minnesota Lake, Scambler Union UCC, Pelican Rapids, St. Luke’s UCC, Eitzen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to $999</td>
<td>Zoar UCC, Waldorf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Show your commitment to supporting the Minnesota Conference mission as we continue to transform lives in our churches, our clergy, and our lay leaders for all generations as we grow in our faith. Thank you for your support of the Minnesota Conference.

Donate Today at [www.uccmn.org/donate](http://www.uccmn.org/donate)