



Wisconsin Conference
United Church of Christ

Changing
Church



**Following
Jesus Forward**

Incline your ear and come to me; I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast love. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

(Isaiah 55: 3, 8-9)

**61st Annual Meeting of the
Wisconsin Conference UCC
June 9-11, 2023
Green Lake Conference Center**

Thank you for joining us on the beautiful shores of Green Lake for the 61st Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference UCC! This year's theme, *Changing Church: Following Jesus Forward*, will recognize that The Body of Christ has always existed in paradox: We are called to participate in God's everlasting covenant and to imagine the Church renewed in every generation.

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Thank you to all the volunteers who made the Annual Meeting possible!

Planning Committee

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels
Rev. David Huber
Rev. Dr. Tanya Sadagopan
Rev. Lorri Steward
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz
Rev. Dr. Shawn Stapleton
Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers
Rev. Tara Tetzlaff
Rev. Franz Rigert

Worship Committee/Musicians

Ms. Andra Moran
Rev. Christopher Grundy

Arts Committee

Dr. Sheila Feay-Shaw
Ms. Sue Kaiser
Dr. Steven Shaw

Exhibition Management

Rev. Phil Schneider

Volunteer Management

Rev. Jeannie Douglas

Audio Visual Tech

Rev. Laura Hawkins

PowerPoint Creation Volunteer

Rev. Leslie Schenk

Annual Meeting Sponsors

Thank you to the following individuals who have generously contributed to the operating costs of the Annual Meeting:

Dale Bakke

Linda Bosman

Rev. Lois Buchholz

Rev. Diane Cayemberg

Rev. Kent Cormack

Laura Crouse

Stephanie Endres

Rev. Elizabeth Findley-Hazel

Rev. John Helt

Steve Hirby

Rev. Gail Irwin

Paul Karch

Rev. Robert Koepcke

Beth Meyer

Rev. Dr. Tanya Sadagopan

Rev. Jim Schleif

Rev. Dale Stohre

Updated list:



As of May 17

General Information

Description of Art Installations

The transitional art piece designed as a backdrop for our annual conference meeting draws its inspiration from Stephanie Spellers' book titled *The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline and New Hope for the Beloved Community*. A central theme of embracing change in the art piece is represented by a depiction of the story in Mark 14:3-9 about the woman who broke an alabaster jar and poured perfume over Jesus as an act of disruption and foreshadowing of change. The scenes portrayed throughout the changing art piece explore our struggles with keeping core beliefs and practices of our Christian faith while seeking new insights for what it means to follow as Christ's disciples into the future. Observe as the story changes throughout our time together.

Business Meetings

Business Meetings are schedule for Friday, June 9, from 1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. and Saturday, June 10, from 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Business items requiring a vote will be presented during Friday's meeting with opportunity for questions and answers. Voting will take place during the second business meeting on Saturday, June 10. Please refer to the Business Meeting agendas on pages 22 and 23 of this guidebook, along with supporting materials.

Voting procedures will be explained and instructions given during the meeting.

Evaluation

We value your feedback! Please complete the online Annual Meeting evaluation:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/wcucc-am-2023



Exhibit Hall

The Exhibit Hall is located in Staughton Hall (lower level of Pillsbury) and will be open during the following times:

Friday, June 9: 11:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 10: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Coffee, tea and water will be available during open hours.

To view a full list of exhibitors, visit our website at www.wcucc.org/exhibitors. For quick access, use the QR code below:



First-Time Attendees

First-time attendees are encouraged to attend the First-Time Attendee Orientation Lunch on Friday, June 9. Attendees should go through the lunch line in the Kraft Centre Dining Room at 11:30 a.m. and proceed to the Mitchell Dining Room (a private dining room inside the Kraft Dining Room) for a short introduction to the meeting.

Golf Carts

Golf carts are available for those needing a ride between locations. Look for informational signs and drivers wearing yellow vests. Drivers will circle between Pillsbury, Roger Williams, Bauer, Kern and Kraft during the following dates and times:

Friday, June 9: 10:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 10: 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Meals

All meals will take place in the Kraft Center Dining Room and meal tickets will be required for entry. All meal tickets had to be purchased by June 5. No tickets will be sold during the meeting.

Offering

The offering will be split between the Leadership Forward Campaign (which supports the Damascus Project, Ministerial Assistance and Catalyst Grants) and a Wisconsin CHHSM (Council for Health and Human Services Ministries) scholarship to the Nollau Leadership Institute. This program fosters spiritual formation and cultivates servant leadership skills.

Offerings can be texted to 73256, enter WCUCC OFFERING \$(amount), or use the QR code below:



Photographs & Video Recording

The Wisconsin Conference UCC is photographing and video recording portions of the meeting. These photographs and video recordings may be used in publications or on the website. If you do not want to appear in a recording or have your photo used, please inform the Wisconsin Conference staff on-site. Personal videotaping during Annual Meeting events is not allowed.

Registration

Please visit the registration desk upon arrival to collect your name badge and meeting materials. You will be required to wear your name badge during the meeting.

Registration Desk Hours and Locations:

Friday, June 9: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Kraft Centre Lobby

Saturday, June 10: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Pillsbury Hall Foyer

Special Seating

Seating is available in Pillsbury for wheelchairs, those that have chemical sensitivities and anyone who prefers socially distanced seating. Signs will be posted.

Daycholah Center Information for Sunday

Daycholah Center is on the southeast shore of beautiful Green Lake, the deepest natural inland lake in Wisconsin. Daycholah Center events include multi-generational events, youth camps, and retreats. The hospitality and the community of people who gather here will make your experience feel like home-away-from-home. This sacred place is the ancestral homeland of the Menomonie, Ojibwa, and Ho-Chunk Nations. UCCI acknowledges these first nations communities that have stewarded this land throughout the generations and pay respect to their elders past and present. Now home to the Wisconsin Conference headquarters, Daycholah Center is positioned to be a budding place for the work of the greater church throughout Wisconsin. Come, gather, worship, seek God, and celebrate community here at Daycholah Center.

Important info about Daycholah Center: We recommend carpooling to Daycholah if possible. Upon arrival, please follow our parking attendants to the most suitable parking location. We will have golf carts available to assist with transportation as needed. There will be coffee and water stations available in the dining hall and the chapel. Both gendered and non-gendered bathrooms can be found throughout the buildings at Daycholah Center, centrally located off the dining hall, chapel, in the Arts + Crafts Building, and inside the Conference Headquarters of Spring Grove Lodge. Proper signage marks all bathrooms and staff will be available to assist in locating anything our guests need throughout the day. A map of Daycholah Center is on page 62.

Annual Meeting 2024

June 7-9, 2024, at Green Lake Conference Center

Schedule-At-A-Glance

Friday, June 9

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Registration Open	Kraft Centre Lobby
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Golf Cart Driver Training	Kraft Driveway
11:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open	Staughton Hall
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Usher Training	Roblee Lounge - Pillsbury
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	First-Time Attendee Orientation Lunch <i>Go through lunch line at 11:30 a.m.</i>	Mitchell Dining Room - Kraft
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	WCHHSM Lunch Meeting	Tower Dining Room - Kraft
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH	Kraft Centre Dining Room
1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Opening Litany	Pillsbury
1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Business Meeting 1	Pillsbury
2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Break in Exhibit Hall <i>Coffee & Snacks</i>	Staughton Hall
3:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	<i>State of the Conference</i> - Rev. Franz Rigert	Pillsbury
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Worship Rehearsal	Staughton Hall
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	DINNER	Kraft Centre Dining Room
6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	Plenary Session: <i>Celebrations</i> <i>With piano interlude by the Rev. Jacob Nault</i>	Pillsbury
7:45 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Welcome Reception <i>Sponsored by: Pension Boards</i> <i>Church Building and Loan Fund</i> <i>Cornerstone Fund</i> <i>United Church Funds (UCF)</i> <i>Insurance Board (UCCIB)</i>	Staughton Hall

Saturday, June 10

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	BREAKFAST	Kraft Centre Dining Room
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Ordination Anniversary Breakfast	Tower Dining Room - Kraft
7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Usher Training	Roblee Lounge - Pillsbury
8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Hospitality Training	Roblee Lounge - Pillsbury
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Registration Open	Pillsbury Hall Foyer
8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Opening Worship - Andra Moran & Christopher Grundy	Pillsbury
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open	Staughton Hall
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Keynote Address and Q&A: Sarah Drummond	Pillsbury
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Workshops	See pages 11-13
12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	LUNCH	Kraft Centre Dining Room
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Business Meeting 2	Pillsbury
2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Break in Exhibit Hall <i>Coffee & Snacks</i>	Staughton Hall
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Workshops	See pages 14-17
4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.	Closing Worship: Stephanie Perdew and installation of new leaders	Pillsbury

5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	DINNER	Kraft Centre Dining Room
5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Dinner	Tower Dining Room - Kraft
7:45 p.m.	After Hours Social Gatherings	TBD; listen during announcements

Sunday, June 11

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	BREAKFAST	Kraft Centre Dining Room
9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Closing Gathering at Daycholah Center	Ley Chapel
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Individual Wellness Sessions at Daycholah Center	See page 18
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Individual Wellness Sessions at Daycholah Center	See pages 19-20

Special Thanks to Our Musicians!



Andra Moran is no stranger to the Wisconsin Conference. She is a Nashville-based singer, songwriter and author whose music can be found in congregational resources including songbooks and hymnals. In addition to her work in concert and commissioned music, Andra is a consultant in worship design, modern liturgical music, and ministry in churches and conferences across the country. She is regularly engaged as a clinician and workshop leader, teaching songwriting, worship design and creative expression. She works part time on the staff of Woodmont Christian Church in Nashville as creative director and worship pastor.

Christopher Grundy, a UCC pastor, has become a leader in the movement to forge a new musical genre: progressive Christian worship music. For many emergent and progressive Christians, it's a breath of fresh air that contains new, evocative images, emerging theologies, inclusive and expansive language, and musical styles that draw upon folk, alt rock, R&B, and a cappella chant. For the past two decades, Christopher has been writing and playing for national, regional and local church events, as well as at colleges, coffee houses and benefit conferences. A native of Naperville, Illinois, Christopher now lives with his family in St. Louis, where he serves as associate professor of preaching and worship and associate dean for the chapel at Eden Theological Seminary.



Thank you, welcome reception sponsors!

Pension Boards
Church Building and Loan Fund
Cornerstone Fund
United Church Funds (UCF)
Insurance Board (UCCIB)

Workshop and Wellness Session Times and Locations

Workshop Locations: Saturday, 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Full workshop descriptions on pages 11-13

Wisconsin Gospellers: Open Rehearsal!	Beaty (Bauer)
Faith Formation at the Core of Congregational Life	Brayton Case A (Kern)
Becoming WISE: Ideas for Engaging Mental Health in the Congregation	Lightbody (Bauer)
Saving Our Planet One Rooftop at a Time: How to Get Started with Solar Energy	Brown (Kern)
Investing Together - Strengthening All Our Churches	Brayton Case B (Kern)
Seeking Abundant Life: Authentic Happiness and Meaning	Boehr (Kern)
Sharing Leadership with Wonder and Wherewithal	Boddie/Ladue (Bauer)
Using Creation Care for Leadership Development in Congregations	Johnson (Kern)

Workshop Locations: Saturday, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Full workshop descriptions on pages 14-17

Age-Friendly Congregations: What They Are and How to Become One	Beaty (Bauer)
Catalyst Grants: Sparking Church Innovation and Mission	Brown (Kern)
3 Proven Ways to Increase Giving	Boehr (Kern)
Leadership Forward Campaign	Brayton Case A (Kern)
Using Creation Care for Leadership Development in Congregations	Johnson (Kern)
Healthy Governance, Healthy Congregation	Boddie /LaDue (Bauer)
A Project and a Place: Get to Know the Damacus Project	Brayton Case B (Kern)

Individual Wellness Sessions: Sunday at Daycholah Center, 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Full session descriptions on page 18

Labyrinth, A Walking Meditation	Ley Chapel
Opening to Compassion: A Guided Meditation	Meet at the Dock
Bible Journaling	Lake View Dining Hall

Individual Wellness Session Locations: Sunday at Daycholah Center, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Full workshop descriptions on page 19-20

Guided Walk: Building Up the Beloved Community through Creation Care	Meet outside Ley Chapel
A Weaving Connection to Prayer	Arts and Crafts Building
Labyrinth, A Walking Meditation	Meet outside Oak Mound
The Blessings of Call and Response Singing: Led by members of the Wisconsin Gospellers	Ley Chapel

Detailed Schedule

Friday, June 9

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Registration Open	Kraft Centre Lobby
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Golf Cart Driver Training	Kraft Centre Driveway
11:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open <i>Coffee and water are available</i>	Staughton Hall
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Usher Training	Roblee Lounge - Pillsbury
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	New Delegate & Visitor Orientation <i>Go through lunch line at 11:30 a.m.</i>	Mitchell Dining Room - Kraft Centre
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	WCHHSM Lunch Meeting	Tower Dining Room - Kraft Centre
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH	Kraft Centre Dining Room
1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Opening Litany	Pillsbury
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Business Meeting 1 <i>Full agenda on page 22</i>	Pillsbury
2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Break in Exhibit Hall <i>Coffee and snacks are available</i>	Staughton Hall
3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	State of the Conference Rev. Franz Rigert	Pillsbury

Using the theme from the Rev. Stephanie Spellers’ recently published book, “The Church Cracked Open,” Conference Minister Franz Rigert will reflect on the events of the past few years and their dramatic impact on church life. Acknowledging the challenges of letting go and embracing the invitation to trust God, this State of the Conference presentation will invite us to return to the basic teachings of Jesus and allow them to inspire us into humble and authentic leadership. It will also highlight the ways the Wider Church continues to resource and support congregations for vitality in this uncertain time.

The Rev. Franz Rigert has deep roots in Wisconsin, having been raised in Delavan, where his father served the Congregational United Church of Christ for over 30 years. In the fall of 2014 Franz was called to serve as the Wisconsin Conference Minister for the United Church of Christ. Prior to joining the Wisconsin Conference staff, he served at Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Grafton for almost 20 years.



4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Worship Rehearsal	Staughton Hall
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5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	DINNER	Kraft Centre Dining Room
6:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.	Plenary Session: Celebrations Wisconsin CHHSM Agencies - Nancy Potter Eden Theological Seminary - Justin Shamell Wisconsin Council of Churches - Rev. Daniel Schultz United Church Camps, Inc. - Rev. James Schleif <i>With piano interlude by the Rev. Jacob Nault</i>	Pillsbury
7:45 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Welcome Reception	Staughton Hall

Saturday, June 10

7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Usher Training	Roblee Lounge - Pillsbury
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	BREAKFAST	Kraft Centre Dining Room
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Ordination Anniversary Breakfast	Tower Dining Room Kraft Centre
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Hospitality Training	Roblee Lounge - Pillsbury
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Registration Open	Pillsbury Hall Foyer
8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Opening Worship: Andra Moran and Christopher Grundy	Pillsbury
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open <i>Coffee and water available</i>	Staughton Hall
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Keynote Address Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Drummond	Pillsbury

Sarah will discuss “Sharing Leadership Into the Future.” Her keynote will include a description of the theology and history of the UCC’s leadership-sharing practices and consider how they are playing out and will play out, amidst uncertain times for institutions of all kinds, including faith communities.

The Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Drummond, *Founding Dean, Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School*

Sarah Birmingham Drummond serves as Founding Dean of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. She has been part of Andover Newton since 2005. She serves as the seminary’s lead administrator and chief academic officer and is part of the senior leadership team at Yale Divinity School. She also teaches and writes about leadership



and serves as combination advisor/minister/mentor to students engaged in graduate theological education. Sarah earned her Ph.D in Urban Education at UW– Milwaukee with a specialization in administrative leadership. During those same years, she served as Campus Minister and Executive Director of University Christian Ministries, an ecumenical outreach at UWM.

She is an ordained minister in the UCC. Sarah earned her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School. Her Bachelor of Arts degree comes from Yale, where she majored in Ethics, Politics, and Economics. Sarah has written five books on ministerial leadership and dozens of articles on the same. Her most recent books are *Sharing Leadership: a UCC Way of Being In-Community* and *Intentional Leadership In-Between Times*, published by the Pilgrim Press in 2021 and 2022 respectively. Sarah blogs weekly on Medium and her current series is entitled “Ministry Demystified.” In that series, she uses a humorous and hopeful approach as she addresses the pressures and possibilities of leadership.

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Saturday Morning Workshops

Wisconsin Gospellers’ Open Rehearsal!

Beaty (Bauer)

Waiting for an invitation to sing with our statewide music ministry? This is it! We’re learning new music—and recruiting new members—as we start planning to host German singers in Summer 2024.



Established in 2007, the Wisconsin Gospellers understand ourselves as called to share God’s Word, bridge cultural differences, and grow our own faith through gospel music. We have shared music, fellowship and homes with local congregations and community choirs across Wisconsin, in the Metro New York Association, and on four tours in Germany. We are actively recruiting new singers, and looking ahead to July 2024, when we’ll host *Gospel and More*—a partner choir from Essen, Germany.

Faith Formation at the Core of Congregational Life

Brayton Case A (Kern)

Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers

Vibrant congregations have two fundamental things in common: engaging worship and meaningful education. This workshop is a whirlwind tour of principles to guide faith formation; strategies to support biblical literacy and interpretation; and inspiring, accessible ideas for congregations.

Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers is the Minister of Christian Education at First Congregational Church in River Falls. She is passionate about story, art, and biblical literacy and interpretation. She is the author of *Picture the Bible* and *God Loves You* published by The Pilgrim Press.



Saving our Planet One Rooftop at a Time: How to Get Started with Solar Energy

Brown (Kern)

Don DeBruyn and Bill Handy

Creation Care Team members Don DeBruyn of Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, Two Rivers, and Rev. Bill Handy of Presbyterian-Congregational (UCC), Ashland, will share their experience from recent solar

projects at their churches. Emphasis will be on both reducing energy consumption and carbon footprint for your church and the availability of Creation Care grants to help with upfront costs.



Don DeBruyn is a member of the Earth Care Ministry at Grace and has had a PV system serving his home for 10 years. Don helped his church with the installation of more efficient LED lighting and guided them through the decisions and process of installing their ground-mounted solar project, completed in 2020. Don also served as Moderator of his church from 2014-2019, after retiring from his practice of internal medicine.

Photo and bio for Rev. Bill Handy not available at press time.

Becoming WISE: Ideas for Engaging Mental Health in the Congregation

Lightbody (Bauer)

Lisa Hart

Join us for an open forum discussion to hear what congregations in the Wisconsin Conference have been doing to address mental health awareness. This will be an opportunity to share what your congregation has been doing, to ask questions if you are just getting started or wondering how to get started, and to network with others in the Wisconsin Conference who are interested in mental health awareness and ending the stigma around mental illness. The WISE Team will also be prepared to answer questions about the resolution for the Wisconsin Conference to Become a WISE Conference.



Lisa Hart, a commissioned minister in the United Church of Christ, serves as the Associate Conference Minister for Faith Formation and Justice Ministries for the Wisconsin Conference UCC. She also holds a Master of Arts in Counseling from Lakeland University. Her ministry focuses on faith formation for all ages and a wide variety of justice issues...racial, immigration, environmental, domestic, and sexual violence, LGBTQ+, and mental health. Lisa is passionate about helping people connect issues of justice with living out their faith.

Investing Together- Strengthening All Our Churches

Brayton Case B (Kern)

Rev. Andrew Warner

Establishing a Church Fund at the Wisconsin Foundation UCC is a simple and efficient way to handle the endowment, long-term or reserve assets of your congregation. By investing together, we each get better investment management at a lower cost. Even more significantly, the foundation helps congregations raise new dollars for their mission and ministry.



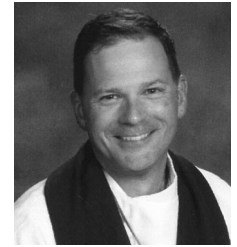
Rev. Andrew Warner serves as Director of Development for the Wisconsin Conference UCC, where he leads the fundraising efforts of the conference and supports the planned giving and effective philanthropy of congregations. He also serves as a Generosity Outreach Officer of the national setting of the UCC. In that role he trains, coaches, and mentors conference and congregational leaders across the country to strengthen the culture of generosity in the UCC. Before joining the conference staff in 2019, he served for 22 years as pastor of Plymouth Church UCC of Milwaukee.

Seeking Abundant Life: Authentic Happiness and Meaning
Rev. Chris Myers

Boehr (Kern)

In a remarkable new book titled *The Good Life: Lessons from the World's Longest Scientific Study on Happiness*, authors Robert Waldinger and Marc Schultz identify the key component that leads to happiness in people's lives: relationships. We in the church know a lot about relationships. Join us as we explore insights from this study and consider both the implications and opportunities for parish ministry.

*Rev. Christopher Myers is the senior pastor at First Congregational UCC in River Falls, on the beautiful "west coast" of Wisconsin and along the shores of the Kinnickinnic River. He is an avid reader and finds *The Good Life* to be one of the most helpful books he has read in recent years. He strives to keep relationships at the center of his life and ministry.*



Sharing Leadership with Wonder and Wherewithal
Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Drummond

Boddie/Ladue (Bauer)

The workshop will provide participants with a preview of Sarah's current book project on leadership development for ministry today and will expose attendees to new ways to think about developing themselves and others as leaders.



Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Drummond serves as Founding Dean of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. She has been part of Andover Newton since 2005. She serves as the seminary's lead administrator and chief academic officer, and is part of the senior leadership team at Yale Divinity School. She also teaches and writes about leadership and serves as combination advisor/minister/mentor to students engaged in graduate theological education. Sarah earned her Ph.D in Urban Education at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee with a specialization in administrative leadership. During those same years, she served as Campus Minister and Executive Director of University

Christian Ministries, an ecumenical outreach at UWM. She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Sarah earned her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School. Her Bachelor of Arts degree comes from Yale, where she majored in Ethics, Politics, and Economics.

Using Creation Care for Leadership Development in Congregations
The Creation Care Team

Johnson (Kern)

This workshop will take place again at 3:00 pm

Learn how establishing a "Green Team" can recruit, inspire, and develop new leaders who don't feel called to traditional church leadership roles.

The Creation Care Team of the Conference seeks to covenant with and empower congregations and their members to faithfully care for creation through resourcing, advocacy, and connections. The picture here is from last fall's Creation Care Retreat at Daycholah Center.



12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. LUNCH

Kraft Centre Dining Room

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Business Meeting 2
Full agenda on page 23

Pillsbury

2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Break in Exhibit Hall

Coffee and snacks available

Staughton Hall

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Saturday Afternoon Workshops

Using Creation Care for Leadership Development in Congregations
The Creation Care Team

Johnson (Kern)

Learn how establishing a “Green Team” can recruit, inspire, and develop new leaders who don’t feel called to traditional church leadership roles.

The Creation Care Team of the Conference seeks to covenant with and empower congregations and their members to faithfully care for creation through resourcing, advocacy, and connections. The picture here is from last fall’s Creation Care Retreat at Daycholah Center.



Healthy Governance, Healthy Congregations

Boddie/Ladue (Bauer)

Facilitator: Mark Baldwin

Tom Clippert

Rev. Franz Rigert

Rev. Chris Myers

Rev. Tanya Sadagopan

A strong relationship between clergy and lay leaders is one key to a well-governed congregation. Join the conversation as a panel of clergy and lay leaders discusses the best ways to build and maintain these relationships, the ground rules for keeping them healthy, and how to manage the inevitable disagreements.



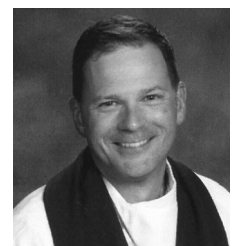
The Rev. Dr. Tanya Sadagopan has been pastor of First Congregational UCC in Janesville since September 2015. She has experience as an assistant pastor, senior minister and minister of Christian education and family life. Tanya holds a bachelor’s degree from Texas Christian University, a master’s in sociology from The Ohio State University and a master of divinity from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

Tom Clippert began his term as president of the Janesville congregation in February 2023, becoming the first openly gay individual to hold the position. He has served in the congregation’s Outreach Ministry and worked to bring LGBTQIA+ advocacy and churchwide PRIDE participation to the congregation.



The Rev. Franz Rigert was called to be conference minister in 2014. A native of Delavan, Franz holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and a master of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. Before his call to conference ministry, Franz served for nearly 20 years as pastor of Pilgrim UCC in Grafton.

Rev. Christopher Myers is the senior pastor at First Congregational UCC in River Falls, on the beautiful “west coast” of Wisconsin and along the shores of the Kinnickinnic River.





Our moderator: Mark Baldwin is Wisconsin Conference Director of Communications. He previously worked as Executive Editor of the Rockford (Illinois) Register Star. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from Northwestern University.

Catalyst Grants: Sparking Church Innovation and Mission
Michael Whiteley

Brown (Kern)

Catalyst grants are all about sparking creativity and innovation in the Wisconsin Conference. Churches can apply to the Catalyst Team for grants of up to \$5,000. Come learn about the Mission and Vision of the Catalyst Team and see some examples of previous grant recipients. We will help you understand what makes a great grant application and how to submit a grant for consideration.

Michael Whiteley has been the Moderator of the First Congregational Church of Genesee, UCC for the last 15 years. He is a member of the UCC Catalyst Team. He is Member in Discernment studying in the Damascus Project Faith Foundation and Christian Ministry curriculum. He is a retired businessman with 30 years of sales and marketing experience in international foodservice equipment manufacturing and distribution. He holds a B.A. in Philosophy from Ripon College and a Masters in International Business from Thunderbird in Phoenix.



Age-Friendly Congregations: What They Are and How to Become One
Jan Aerie, Susan McFadden, and Cathleen Wille

Beaty (Bauer)

Many of our congregations are aging, and traditional “senior ministries” no longer speak to the needs, gifts, and service opportunities of our older members. The Older Adult Ministries Task Force has been working for nearly a year to gather useful resources for our congregations to better include, honor, and challenge our older adults, including those who are contending with physical or cognitive frailty and those who care for them. Through a panel discussion and a time of conversation, we hope to stimulate congregations to pursue new avenues of ministry for and with our older members.

Jan Aerie is a gerontologist and family counselor with a lifelong career in the church and community. She has worked with local and national organizations, authored curricula, initiated advocacy and service programs and led many seminars on aging. For 12 years she served on the UCC national staff in Global Ministries. She has most recently developed older adult ministries in UCC and Disciples of Christ congregations in Missouri, Illinois and Ohio, and now Wisconsin.



Susan H. McFadden, Ph.D., is Professor Emerita of Psychology, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. With her students, she maintained an active program of research and scholarship focused on attitudes about dementia, arts and cultural programs for persons living with dementia, and expressions of religiousness and spirituality among older adults. Susan retired from the University in 2012, and now volunteers in many capacities for Fox Valley Memory Project, a nonprofit she co-founded in 2012. FVMP's programs and services aim to create a “dementia-friendly community” in northeast Wisconsin. Her most recent book is

Dementia-Friendly Communities: Why We Need Them and How We Can Create Them (2021, Jessica Kingsley Publishers)

Cathy Wille has served in her work life as a high school biology teacher for 18 years and worked as a Licensed Professional Counselor in the Samaritan network of counseling centers for 24 years. While there she developed a Clergy and Congregation Care Program. Cathy is part of the Wisconsin Conference Supportive Ministries Team and the Older Adult Ministries Team. She serves as a co-administrator and group facilitator for the Clergy Community of Practice program. She also facilitates a Faith and Ministry group and co-facilitates with her husband, Art, Appreciative Inquiry for congregations in the Wisconsin Conference. She is a life-long member of the UCC and has served on local church, conference and national committees.



Leadership Forward Campaign

Brayton Case A (Kern)

Rev. Andrew Warner, Bonnie Andrews and Paul Karch

This workshop will give attendees the opportunity to learn more about church employee and clergy payroll reporting, and clergy compensation structure. This workshop will be PowerPoint based. Questions and conversation are encouraged.



Rev. Andrew Warner serves as Director of Development for the Wisconsin Conference UCC, where he leads the fundraising efforts of the conference and supports the planned giving and effective philanthropy of congregations. He also serves as a Generosity Outreach Officer of the national setting of the UCC. In that role he trains, coaches, and mentors conference and congregational leaders across the country to strengthen the culture of generosity in the UCC.

Paul Karch is a lawyer and works for Independent Pharmacy Cooperative in Sun Prairie. He has been a member and active in Stewardship and other leadership positions at First Congregational UCC in Appleton and First Congregational UCC in Madison. He is completing a term on the Conference Board and is a member of the Foundation Board of Directors.



Bonnie Andrews is active in her local church, Bethel Bethany in Milwaukee and in the Wisconsin Conference as a facilitator for Five Practices, Appreciative Inquiry, and a Community of Practice facilitator. She serves on the Supportive Ministries team, the Leadership Forward Campaign team and co-chaired the Local Arrangements Committee for General Synod 32 in Milwaukee and is a Master Gardener volunteer.

A Project and a Place

Brayton Case B (Kern)

Rev. Stephanie Perdew

Discussion and updates on The Damascus Project

Stephanie Perdew, M.Div., Ph.D is a lifelong member of the United Church of Christ. With roots in the the Nebraska Conference UCC, served 25 years in parish ministry in the Illinois Conference UCC, and most recently completed a role as a transitional Associate Conference Minister in the Illinois Conference. She now directs the Damascus Project theological learning collaborative of the Minnesota and Wisconsin Conferences UCC. She is an enrolled tribal citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. She received her BA in Religion and Native American Studies from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, her M.Div. and Ph.D. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and her training as a Spiritual Director from the Siena Center of the Racine Dominicans in Racine. She is as an Affiliate Professor



of Christian History at Garrett and co-chairs the seminary's Indigenous Study Committee, which is researching Garrett's historic relationship with Native people and proposing recommendations to the seminary for actions of repentance or repair. At present, she makes her home in Evanston, Illinois, where she serves on the Board of Directors of the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian.

3 Proven Ways to Increase Giving
Rev. Andy DeBraber

Boehr (Kern)

Your church can implement these strategies now to boost generosity this year and for many years to come!

After serving as a local church pastor for 15 years and then a nonprofit executive director, Rev. Andy DeBraber has been a Generosity Officer with UCC National since 2017. He loves normalizing money talk in churches and helping dreams come true. Andy works from home in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he lives with his family and six backyard chickens. He enjoys kayaking, biking, hiking, racquetball, triathlons, playing games, and contemplative mornings with a journal and very dark coffee.



4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	Closing Worship with Communion Rev. Stephanie Perdew	Pillsbury
5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	DINNER	Kraft Centre Dining Room
5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Dinner	Tower Dining Room Kraft Centre
7:45 p.m.	After Hours Social Gatherings Creation Care with Rev. John Helt	

Sunday, June 11

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	BREAKFAST	Kraft Centre Dining Room
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All Sunday morning programming after breakfast is at Daycholah Center, W1010 Spring Grove Road, Ripon, WI 54971

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Closing Worship at Daycholah Center Amanda Edwards	Ley Chapel
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Morning opening worship will be lead by Daycholah Center Managing Director Amanda Edwards. Daycholah Center welcomed Amanda as Managing Director in January 2023. Amanda shares, "I am thrilled to share my passions for building community, fostering spirituality, and connecting with nature with the UCCI community." Amanda is looking forward to working with diverse groups to envision the future of Daycholah Center as a sacred gathering space for all

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Individual Wellness Sessions

Labyrinth, A Walking Meditation (Indoors)

Ley Chapel

Jane Anderson

Come learn more about labyrinths and their use within the Christian tradition and other faith traditions. Come and walk the labyrinth for yourself and experience how you may incorporate the labyrinth in your spiritual journey. *If you'd like an outdoor labyrinth, attend the session at 10:30 a.m.*

Rev. Jane Anderson serves on the Wisconsin Conference UCC staff and is a resource for Church and Ministry in the Northeast and Southeast Associations, supports the executive committees in both associations, provides pastoral care for pastors and churches with congregations in transition, and helps churches transform conflict. Prior to her call as the Associate Conference Minister for the Northeast and Southeast Associations, Rev. Anderson had been in ministry in the local church for 30 years.



Opening to Compassion: A Guided Meditation

Dock

Rev. Rachel Bauman

This meditation guides us in relaxing the body, opening the imagination, and connecting with our compassionate heart.



Rev. Rachel Bauman is an ordained minister within the United Church of Christ and a Program Associate within the Spiritual Guidance Program of the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. Rachel is an Associate Conference Minister with the Wisconsin Conference UCC and serves the Southwest Association and half of the Southeast Association. Rachel lives in Madison and loves birds, spicy food, good fiction, travel and adventure.

Bible Journaling

Lake View Dining Lodge

Malena Koplín

Do you like to journal, color, draw, stamp, or craft? Would journaling help you understand scripture better? Learn how to use your journaling or crafting skills right in your Bible to clarify your understanding of Bible passages or the Sunday sermon. Bible Journaling is a great way to connect with scripture and creativity. You can journal and highlight OR use fun art supplies! I'll bring some art supplies and examples and some pages to practice on! Bring your favorite pens or craft supplies if you want - or just use mine!

Malena Koplín and her family have been members of First Congregational UCC Waukesha for 33 years. Malena is a K-12 educator and has worked for the last 20 years as a school librarian. Malena's family has hosted two foreign exchange students over the years. The family also fosters cats and currently has four foster cats living with them. Malena's hobbies include photography and scrapbooking. Malena discovered Bible Journaling during the pandemic, and uses it to understand scripture in a new way.



10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Individual Wellness Sessions

Guided Walk: Building Up the Beloved Community through Creation Care **Rev. John Helt**

**Meet on grass outside
Ley Chapel**

Join the Wisconsin Conference Creation Care Team in a time of spiritual reflection on how we care for ourselves as we care for God's good earth. Weather permitting, we will walk outdoors, among the trees, along the lake, and beneath the sky, using words of scripture, prayer, and song to cultivate our connections with God, with one another, and with the whole created world around us, adapting the "stations of the cross" tradition. We will explore some of the many ways our faith inspires us to care for creation, especially becoming involved as individuals, families, and congregations in the movement to respond to climate change through the Kairos Call to Action, approved at the 2020 annual meeting.

Rev. John Helt co-chairs the Conference Creation Care Team with Rev. Bob Ullman. John is a retired pastor who has since 1973 served congregations in Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, and Wisconsin. He and his wife, Cindy, live in the Milwaukee south shore neighborhood of Bay View. He grew up on a farm near Burlington, Iowa, also the boyhood home of Aldo Leopold. He also sings with the Lutheran A Cappella Choir of Milwaukee.



A Weaving Connection to Prayer **Sheila Feay-Shaw and Steven Shaw**

Arts + Crafts Building

Join us to create a small weaving of your own that can be used to hang around your neck when you are centered in prayer or can be created into a pin that you can wear. The texture and color that you choose to include can be a tactile connection to your personal prayer time or a visual focal point. No prior specific artistic skills are needed. Assistance will be given to help you design and realize and image for your small weaving. Both workshop leaders find weaving to be a soothing, creative process that they hope to share with participants.



Sheila Feay-Shaw is professor of music education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with almost 20 years' experience teaching adults and 15 years teaching music to children in K-12. She has also served as church choir director for several churches and does worship design including banners and altar arrangements. With a specialization in world music, her interest in fabric arts has often blended with learning about the cultural traditions of many places around the world. Weaving and woven materials are a particular interest along with quilting and embroidery.

Steven Shaw has over 35 years of experience as an educator in K-8 schools and colleges in Wisconsin and Washington. In 2011, he completed his Ph.D in curriculum and instruction at the University of Washington-Seattle, which included study and research in the role of design and the arts in education. Steven has worked in a variety of settings including a camp for children with disabilities and a citywide specialty school for the arts and humanities where he engaged children and adults in making art. He has been particularly interested in the textile arts, including off-loom weaving, and has used this interest to create banners and images for church settings.

Labyrinth, A Walking Meditation (Outdoors)
Jane Anderson

Meet outside Oak Mound

Come learn more about labyrinths and their use within the Christian tradition and other faith traditions. Come and walk the labyrinth for yourself and experience how you may incorporate the labyrinth in your spiritual journey. *If you'd like an indoor, accessible labyrinth, attend the session at 9:15 a.m.*



Rev. Jane Anderson serves on the Wisconsin Conference UCC staff and is a resource for Church and Ministry in the Northeast and Southeast Associations, supports the executive committees in both associations, provides pastoral care for pastors and churches with congregations in transition, and helps churches transform conflict. Prior to her call as the Associate Conference Minister for the Northeast and Southeast Associations, Rev. Anderson had been in ministry in the local church for 30 years.

The Blessings of Call & Response Singing
Wisconsin Gospellers

Ley Chapel

“Sing a new song!” The Wisconsin Gospellers’ soloists and director will lead simple vocal techniques and songs suitable for all ages and abilities. The goal is to create a space where God’s Spirit can fill our souls, warm our hearts, and help us carry Psalm 33 (this week’s lectionary) into the week ahead.

The Wisconsin Gospellers have been bridging cultural divides and touching souls through gospel music since 2007, and have shared music, fellowship, and homes with local congregations and community choirs across Wisconsin, in New York City, and on four tours in Germany. In 2024, we’ll host the “Gospel & More” choir from Essen, Germany.



Save the Date!

Annual Meeting
June 7-9, 2024

Green Lake Conference Center

Officers of the Conference 2022-2023

Moderator: Rev. Shelby Perez*
Vice-Moderator: Mr. Jim Schowalter
Secretary: Rev. Leslie Schenk
Treasurer: Mr. Farrel Smith

Board of Directors 2022-2023

Chair: Mr. Bret Bicoy
Vice-Chair: Rev. RaeAnn Beebe

Northeast Association

Rev. RaeAnn Beebe, Vice-Chair
Mr. Bret Bicoy, Chair
Ms. Linda Bosman
Rev. Jeffrey Dodson

Southeast Association

Ms. Amy Drewa
Rev. Robert Gross
Mr. Thomas Kolb
Rev. Leanne Rose

Northwest Association

Mr. Jerry Goen-Penney
Rev. Elizabeth Hazel
Ms. Ann Larrabee
Mr. Stephen Ottman

Southwest Association

Mr. George Adams
Ms. Jacy Boldebuck*
Mr. Paul Karch*
Rev. Sara Rabe

*Board service ending in 2023

New Officers and Directors Beginning June 2023

Moderator: Mr. James Schowalter
Vice-Moderator: Rev. Beth Voigt
Director Southwest: Rev. Gayle Tucker

United Church Camps, Inc. Board of Directors

Thomas Bayer, President
Bret Bicoy
Paul Black
Kythie Boyd
Wendy Dallman
Lori Davis
Julie Garber
Kevin Haass
Mimi Hayashi

Julie Jennings
Holly Kirking-Loomis
Ben Lentini
Nathan Litt
Rob MacDougall
Liz Metzloff
Franz Rigert
Chuck Thiesenhusen



2023 Business Meeting 1
Friday, June 9, 2023
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

AGENDA

Welcome and Statement of Quorum - Rev. Shelby Perez, Moderator

Call to Order - Rev. Shelby Perez, Moderator

Approval of Agenda, Rules, and Voice & Vote -Rev. Leslie Schenk, Board Secretary

2023 Nominating Committee Report and Q&A - Rev. Ruth Hansen, Chair, Nominating Committee

2022 Financial Report, 2024 Budget Presentation, and Q&A - Rev. Andrew Warner, Conference Staff

Action on Declaring the Wisconsin Conference a WISE Conference for Mental Health - Lisa Hart and WISE Team

Immigration Working Group Update - Rev. Elizabeth Findley-Hazel

Creation Cares Update - Rev. John Helt and Creation Care Team

Newly Retired Clergy and Newly Settled Clergy - Rev. Jane Anderson, Rev. Rachel Bauman, Rev. Michael Jones, and Conference Staff

Presentation of Scholarships - Rev. Jane Anderson, Rev. Rachel Bauman, Rev. Michael Jones, and Conference Staff

Greetings from National UCC - Rev. Andrew DeBraber

Recognition of Churches Participating in OCWM and 5 for 5 - Rev. Franz Rigert, Conference Minister

Staff Introductions - Rev, Franz Rigert, Conference Minister

Announcements - Jim Showalter, Vice Moderator

Parliamentarian: Rev. Michael Southcombe

Secretary: Rev. Leslie Schenk

Assistant Secretary: Rev. Bob Gross



**Wisconsin Conference
United Church of Christ**

**2023 Business Meeting 2
Saturday, June 10, 2023
1:15 pm-2:15 pm**

AGENDA

Welcome and Call to Order - Rev. Shelby Perez, Moderator

Vote on the 2024 Proposed Budget - Rev. Andrew Warner, Conference Staff

Action on Declaring the Wisconsin Conference a WISE Conference for Mental Health - Lisa Hart, Conference Staff

Update on the Leadership Forward Campaign - Rev. Andrew Warner, Conference Staff

Reading of the Necrology - Rev. Franz Rigert, Conference Minister

Installation of New Leaders - Lisa Hart, Conference Staff

Moderator's Moment - Rev. Shelby Perez, Moderator

2024 Annual Meeting Preview - Jim Showalter, Vice Moderator

Motion to Adjourn Following the Closing Worship & Installation of New Leaders - Jim Showalter, Vice Moderator

Speakout (as time allows)

Parliamentarian: Rev. Michael Southcombe

Secretary: Rev. Leslie Schenk

Assistant Secretary: Rev. Bob Gross

2023 Annual Meeting Procedural Guide

1. Voting membership consists of ordained ministers of the Conference and two (2) lay delegates from each local church, plus one (1) for each additional 500 members or major fraction thereof, beyond the first 500, and also such lay persons, not delegates from their local church, who are at the time serving as an officer of the Conference, a member of the Board of Directors, or as Chairperson of a Commission, Council, or Standing Committee designated in this connection; and all commissioned or licensed workers or ministers engaged in full-time church service, and all full-time Directors of Christian Education who have been certified by the UCC through its appropriate agency and by an Association of the Conference.
2. A quorum for a Conference meeting shall consist of Representatives, either ordained ministers or lay delegates, from at least one-third of the constituent churches of the Conference, provided that such ministers and local churches have full standing in the United Church of Christ.
3. A simple majority is required for transaction of all business unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution. One such exception which requires a two-thirds vote is an overture to General Synod (Constitution, Article VII, D).
4. Only registered voting delegates situated within the bar of the house may vote. The bar of the house this year includes the entire seating area in Pillsbury Hall.
5. All motions regarding budgetary items or financial commitments beyond the budget must be referred first to the Business Committee.
6. Subject to waiver by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote, no resolution or other action, except elections, matters of procedures and amenities shall be voted upon unless a recommendation that the same be presented for vote shall have been adopted by the Business Committee.
7. Discussion on any motion shall be limited to five (5) consecutive minutes per presenter and two (2) minutes to each of the other speakers. A delegate who has spoken shall not speak a second time on the same question as long as any delegate who has not spoken on that question desires to speak. Please always identify yourself and your church.
8. All major motions and amendments shall be placed in writing by the mover and immediately delivered to the presiding Moderator. Please see an usher for a sheet on which you can print major motions. Please print and include your name, church name, and church location.
9. Friendly motions and amendments to amendments are not permitted.
10. Nominations may be made from the floor for any office or posted at the time of the election providing the nominee has consented to serve if elected.
11. The Secretary's Minutes will not be read and approved at the opening of each succeeding session, but will be read and approved by a Committee of three persons authorized by the Board of Directors.
12. Procedures shall follow Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, except as modified by this Procedural Guide.
13. According to our polity, the actions taken speak only for those assembled here, but should be held in the highest regard by every local church (Constitution, Article V).

Rev. Shelby Perez, moderator

Robert's Rules Reduced

(for use by the Wisconsin Conference UCC)

The following motions, adapted from Robert's rules of Order, should be sufficient for Conference business. Any motion takes precedence over those listed below it in the table. However, once an undebatable motion has been made and seconded, the Chair will normally not recognize other speakers until the vote has been taken.

Motion	Debatable?	Vote Required?	Amendable?	Action
To adjourn (recess)	No	Majority	No	"Adjourn" ends the entire meeting. "Recess" is to a specified hour.
The order of the day	No	Majority	No	Forces an immediate return to the established agenda.
To suspend the rules	No	2/3	No	Suspends the stated rules or order or agenda for a specified purpose.
To table	No	Majority	No	Lays aside the main motion and any motions pertaining to it until taken from table.
The previous question	No	2/3	No	Forces immediate vote on motion to refer, amend, and the main motion to which they pertain.
To limit debate	No	2/3	No	Limits duration of debate on a particular motion.
To refer	Yes	Majority	Yes	Refers matter to a committee or other specified group.
To amend	Yes	Majority	No	Amends main motion by "adding," "deleting," or "substituting." "Amendments to amendments" will not be recognized by the Chair.
The main question	Yes	Majority*	Yes	Opens a new subject to debate. In order only when no other motion is on the floor. *Overtures to General Synod require 2/3 vote.
To take from table	No	Majority	No	Reopens debate on a matter previously tabled. Will be accepted only when no other motion is on the floor.
To reconsider	No	Majority	No	Reopens debate on a matter voted upon earlier in the meeting. Must be made by one who voted with the prevailing side. Will be accepted only when no other motion is on the floor.

Main motions and amendments to main motions must be presented to the Chair in writing at the time they are made.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2023

COMMITTEES ELECTED BY THE CONFERENCE

For Conference Vote

Conference Officers

Vice Moderator – Rev. Beth Voigt
Secretary – Rev. Leslie Schenk

Board of Directors

(Conference-elected positions)
Rev. Jeffrey Dodson
Rev. Bob Gross

Council for Health and Human Services Ministries (CHHSM)

NEA Rep, Rev. Nicole Herda
NWA Rep, Rev. Paul Veldman
SWA Rep, Ms. Kari Westphal

General Synod Delegates

For Conference Vote

To serve General Synods in 2023 and 2025:

Mr. Ken Forbeck (SW)
Rev. Bob Gross (SE)
Ms. Debbie Manley (NE)- alt in 2023
Rev. Kerri Parker (SW)- alt in 2023
Rev. Wayne Shannon (SW)

The full list of delegates for the 2023 Synod is on the next page

COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Informational

Budget Committee

Appointed in September

Catalyst

Ms. Lou Ann Norsetter
Ms. Christina Schoenwetter
Rev. Jessica Taft
Mr. Mike Whiteley

Church and Ministry Commission, Chair

Mr. Chris Keadle

Nominating Committee

Rev. Ruth Hansen (SE)
Rev. Kim Henning (NE)
NW position open

Personnel Committee

Mr. Charlie Tiede

*Filling an unexpired term

General Synod Delegates for 2023

For informational purposes only. As of May 15, 2023.

Ms. Cathy Benjamin	Ms. Debbie Manley
Rev. David Bowles	Ms. Kelly Mundell
Ms. Esperanza DeJesus Bowles	Rev. Kevin Mundell
Rev. Jeannie Douglas	Ms. Kate O'Brien
Rev. Julie Eklund	Rev. Kerri Parker
Mr. Ken Forbeck	Mr. Jeff Pommerening
Rev. Linda Furray	Rev. Asafa Rajaofera
Rev. Bob Gross	Mr. Ron Roloff
Ms. Sarah Gross	Dr. Ruth Russell
Ms. Shannon Joshi	Rev. Tanya Sadagopan
Mr. Paul Karch	Ms. Nandini Sadagopan
Ms. Dawn Kay	Rev. Wayne Shannon
Mr. Tom Kolb	Ms. Laura Stalder

2023 Candidate Bios

Jeffrey Dodson is nominated to his second term on the Conference Board of Directors. Jeffrey is Pastor at the First Congregational Church of Ripon. Jeffrey serves on the Executive Council and the Division of Local Church Committee of the Northeast Association, the Boundary Workgroup for the conference, and was a delegate for the 2021 General Synod. He previously served as Clergy Dean of the Western Association of the Rocky Mountain Conference, directed summer camps, and has been in ministry for 17 years. Outside of the church, Jeffrey enjoys time with his family and directing theatre at Ripon High School.

Bob Gross, OCC, has been nominated to a third term on the Conference Board of Directors where he serves as Assistant Secretary and a member of the Governance Committee. Bob is a member of St. John's UCC in Merton and is currently serving as an Intentional Interim Minister at First Congregational UCC in Oconomowoc. He has served other congregations in Wisconsin, New York, and Ohio, where he has served in various UCC Association, Conference, National capacities along with community leadership roles. Bob currently serves as the Abbot of the Order of Corpus Christi (OCC), a community of clergy and laity from a variety of Christian communions who live and serve in settings across the United States. Bob and his wife Mary have two adult children. He enjoys time with his family, walks in the community, and sewing quilt tops for charity.

Ruth Hansen is appointed to her second term on to the Nominating Committee. Ruth is bi-vocational, serving as Pastor at Salem UCC in Wayne and Administrative Assistant at First Congregational UCC in Hartland. Ruth has served on the Southeast Association Mission Team 2015-2021 with the final year as Chair, and on the Conference Evangelism Committee 2005-2007. She also is engaged in several Conference-wide groups: Small/Rural Churches Working Group, UEK/UCC Working Group, and since 2005 the German/Honduran/Wisconsin Conference Partnership. Ruth loves to learn new things, meet new people, and catch up with friends through travel and attending wider church meetings and events.

Kim Henning is appointed to his first term on the Nominating Committee. He is a pastor of the United Church of Christ who is retired. He lives in rural Kiel after serving pastorates in Two Rivers and Lake View, Iowa. Kim has most recently served on the Wisconsin Council of Health and Human Services. In his retirement, Kim has audited classes at Lakeland University and Eden Theological Seminary. He enjoys being a Miracle League Buddy for his grandson, Jacob. He also volunteers to assist two students at Zielanis Elementary School in Kiel. Kim is married to Fay; they have three children and six grandchildren.

Nicole Herda is nominated to her first term as the Northeast Association Representative to the Council for Health and Human Services (CHHSM). Nicole is pastor at St Peter's UCC in Kiel. She is married to Robert Herda and has one son Jacob. Together, they serve the Miracle League of the Lakeshore steering committee as well as coaching the over 19 league. She has served on the UCCI Board of Directors and now looks forward to serving CHHSM.

Chris Keadle is appointed for a second term as chair of the Church and Ministry Commission. He is a life-long UCC member and has been a member of First Congregational UCC -Waukesha for 35 years. During that time, he has served in many roles including: youth ministry and the "Kickstart Cooking for Kids" program, the Board of Stewards & served as Moderator. Within the Southeast Association, Chris served two terms on the Church & Ministry team, and one term on the Nominating team. Currently his energies for the Wisconsin Conference are spent as part of the Conflict Transformation Team. Professionally, Chris has a Master's Degree in Social Work and spent his career in school social work. Now, mostly retired, Chris occasionally leads nature field trips and serves as a poll worker for elections. Chris enjoys spending time in Door County!

Lou Ann Norsetter is appointed for a second term on the Catalyst Committee. Lou Ann is a member of Union Congregational UCC Church in Green Bay. She has a long history with UCC beginning in 1979 with First Reformed in Manitowoc. Since moving to Green Bay, Lou Ann has taken leadership roles in both First and Union Congregational UCC Churches: Education, Worship, Outreach, and Congregational Leadership. She has completed Lay Academy and uses her training in pastoral care and preaching. Outside of church activities, Lou Ann teaches and participates in the Lifelong Learning Institute at University of Wisconsin – Green Bay. She enjoys playing piano, sewing, and traveling. Her daughter Erica lives in Milwaukee – she usually visits her at the barn where "grandhorse" Blake resides. Lou Ann retired in 2016 from We Energies in Milwaukee having served over 30 years with Wisconsin Public Service in Green Bay.

Leslie Schenk is nominated to a second term as Board Secretary. Leslie has served as pastor of Plymouth Congregational UCC in Madison since 2015. She has just completed a term as Board Secretary, and previously served as a representative for the Southwest Association on the Conference Board. She is also active on the Wisconsin Foundation United Church of Christ, the Board of Trustees and UCBMA of the UCC Pension Boards, and Dane Sanctuary Coalition. Leslie served as Moderator of the Northwest Wisconsin Association when she served as pastor to the Ladysmith and Conrath UCC congregations prior to her current calling. Outside of her ministry, she is an avid crafter.

Christina Schoenwetter is appointed to her first term on the Catalyst Committee. Christina is the Associate Pastor of Engagement at St. John's UCC in Monroe. Although St. John's is her first pastorate, she has provided Pulpit Supply and has been a teacher for the past 20 years, most recently for students at-risk of not graduating high school. Before enrolling at Chicago Theological Seminary with a focus in practical theology and chaplaincy studies, Christina participated in the Lay Academy program. She also serves as the Conference Disaster Coordinator. Outside of the church, Christina enjoys sitting on rocks in front of large bodies of water, dabbling in watercolor painting, spending time with her family, and savoring long walks with her dog Spirit.

Jessica Taft is appointed to her first full term on the Catalyst Committee. Jessica is currently serving a full-time call as a stay home parent and a member of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Madison, where

she has been a member for twelve years. During those years, she has served on the Board of Deacons and the Board of Stewardship. She serves on the Social Concerns Committee for the Southwest Association and the Arts Committee for the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting.

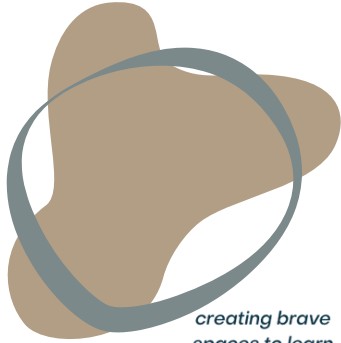
Charlie Tiede is appointed to the Personnel Committee. Charlie is a current member of Ebenezer United Church of Christ in Sheboygan and has previously served on that church's Consistory for a number of years in various capacities, including as a delegate representative to the Wisconsin UCC's Northeast Association and Conference meetings. He is currently active as a Sunday School teacher and also serves as Ebenezer's Music Coordinator, supporting and coordinating live and online worship musical content. He is a member of the church's StillSpeaking Band, which provides contemporary worship music on a regular basis. Charlie is a retired business executive who served in a variety of leadership, operational, IT and HR/Training roles with several companies during his 44-year working career. He also has been a youth mentor and member of service clubs in his free time.

Paul Veldman is nominated to complete an unfinished term as the Northwest Association representative on the Council for Health and Human Services (CHHSM) Board. He is retired clergy and a member of Elcho UCC. Prior to his career in ministry, he was a safety compliance coordinator for Keen Transport in Carlisle PA, and before that a manager for Sargento Foods. He currently serves as a longterm volunteer for Back Bay Mission.

Beth Voigt is nominated to serve as the Vice-Moderator, and then Moderator, of the Wisconsin Conference. She has served as an interim minister in the Southwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference since 2015. She is currently contracted with an ELCA church in Reedsburg as pastor of transition. Prior to her interim work she was called to congregations in Wisconsin Rapids and Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. She has just completed two terms on the Southwest Division of Church and Ministry and is a current member of the Wisconsin Conference Conflict Transformation Team. Beth lives in Reedsburg and is a member of the city's Historic Preservation Committee. She is wrapping up her tenure as the president of the show choir parent support group and participates in the local community choir. Beth has three daughters, two who graduate high school this May and one who is a junior. Next fall one daughter will proudly wear the Badger red while the other will be sporting the maroon and gold as a University of Minnesota Gopher. The youngest is eager to have the house (and the car) to herself.

Kari Westphal is nominated for her first full term on the Council for Health and Human Services (CHHSM). In April of 2023, she was elected to serve as an At-large member of the Executive Committee for CHHSM. Kari is a member of Salem UCC in Verona where she is a member of the Salem Chancel Choir. In the past, Kari has served as a member Salem's council from 2020 through 2023, directed the Children's Choir and was a Sunday School Teacher. Additionally, she served a six-year term as a member of the New Glarus Home Board of Directors from 2013 through 2019. Outside of the church, Kari has been a nurse for over 20 years where she currently holds the position of Clinical Education Manager of Post-Acute for SSM Health, serving patients in Illinois, Oklahoma, Missouri and Wisconsin. She also acts as the co-leader for her daughter's Girl Scout troop, volunteers for her daughter's dance and softball teams and her son's cross country, swimming, tennis and Boy Scout troop events. In her spare time, she enjoys camping, crafting, gardening, and spending time with her husband, son, daughter and their family pets.

Michael Whiteley is appointed for a second term on the Catalyst Committee. He has been the Moderator of the First Congregational Church of Genesee, UCC for the last 15 years. He is Member in Discernment studying in the Damascus Project Faith Foundation and Christian Ministry curriculum. He is in his third year of study and hopes to complete his MiD process next year. He is a retired businessman with 30 years of sales and marketing experience in international foodservice equipment manufacturing and distribution. He holds a B.A. in Philosophy from Ripon College and a Masters in International Business from Thunderbird in Phoenix, Ariz.



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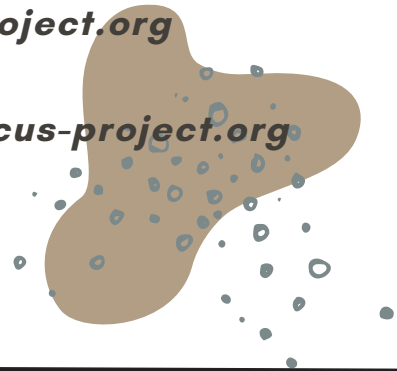
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and

<https://learning.the-damascus-project.org>



2024 Proposed Budget

On the income side, OCWM Basic Support continues to provide most of the funding for the conference. We project that increased income from our investments, growth in individual giving, and common services revenue (fees paid by four Associations and the Wisconsin Foundation for staffing) will offset anticipated declines in Basic Support.

On the expense side, we anticipate modest changes in staff compensation after having made some significant adjustments to salaries to reflect inflation in 2023. The move of the Wisconsin Conference office from the Trost Center to the Daycholah Center provided slight savings in basic operations. In the programs section, note that the Damascus Project support now appears in this category (past support was in the staff category). Our support declines as the Leadership Forward Campaign grows the Damascus Project Endowment. Additionally, while Wider Church Ministries remains 41.7% of our OCWM Basic Support, we continued to shift funds into the “Grants from Partners” to allow for more strategic engagement with our partner organizations.

The slight deficit projected for 2023 and 2024 will be funded with past surpluses, such as in 2022.

	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed
Revenues			
OCWM Basic Support Contributions	\$ 1,384,592.86	\$ 1,400,000.00	\$ 1,358,000.00
Strengthen the Church Revenue	\$ 15,082.02	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00
Contributions	\$ 33,466.00	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 48,400.00
Investments	\$ 381,967.65	\$ 359,000.00	\$ 404,000.00
Program Registrations	\$ 49,048.50	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 52,000.00
Common Services Revenue	\$ 60,837.52	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
Other Revenue	\$ 29,008.42		\$ -
Total Revenues	\$ 1,954,002.97	\$ 1,952,000.00	\$ 1,964,400.00
Expenses			
Salary and Benefits	\$ (870,622.33)	\$ (928,264.33)	\$ (949,900.00)
Basic Operations	\$ (282,773.85)	\$ (249,695.00)	\$ (243,650.00)
Programs			
New Initiatives			\$ (5,000.00)
Damascus Project		\$ (37,500.00)	\$ (35,000.00)
Program Committees	\$ (7,121.57)	\$ (10,000.00)	\$ (10,000.00)
Church & Ministry General	\$ (4,030.74)	\$ (8,000.00)	\$ (8,000.00)
Communities of Practice	\$ (35,195.32)	\$ (34,000.00)	\$ (34,000.00)
Annual Meeting	\$ (33,611.41)	\$ (34,000.00)	\$ (34,000.00)
Catalyst Grants & Shift Consulting	\$ (27,278.05)	\$ (56,000.00)	\$ (61,000.00)
Ministerial Support	\$ (32,163.00)	\$ (37,500.00)	\$ (37,500.00)
Wider Church Ministries			
Grants to Partners	\$ (13,982.55)	\$ (15,000.00)	\$ (63,000.00)
United Church Camps INC	\$ (135,000.00)	\$ (130,000.00)	\$ (130,000.00)
National Setting Support	\$ (345,000.00)	\$ (322,000.00)	\$ (310,000.00)
United Conference Appeals	\$ (126,231.95)	\$ (110,500.00)	\$ (64,500.00)
Total Expenses	\$ (1,913,010.77)	\$ (1,972,459.33)	\$ (1,985,550.00)
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ 40,992.20	\$ (20,459.33)	\$ (21,150.00)

2023 Salaries and Housing of Conference Ministerial Staff

At the Annual Meeting of our Conference in 1973, the delegates requested that the salaries and housing of each of the Conference Ministerial Staff be listed on a separate sheet in the packet. The following information is offered in response to that request:

Staff Position 2022	Salary 2022 & Housing	Soc. Sec. Benefit-7.65%	Total
Conference Minister	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 8,032.50	\$ 113,032.50
Associate Conference Minister (Support of Pastors & Care of Churches)	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 5,967.00	\$ 83,967.00
Associate Conference Minister (Support of Pastors & Care of Churches)	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 6,120.00	\$ 86,120.00
Associate Conference Minister (Support of Pastors & Care of Churches)	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 5,967.00	\$ 83,967.00
Associate Conference Minister (Faith Formation & Justice Ministries)	\$ 62,000.00	\$ 4,743.00	\$ 66,743.00
Director of Development (Part-time)	\$ 43,794.57	\$ 3,350.28	\$ 47,144.85

In addition to the salaries, housing, and Social Security listed above, each staff person working at least half time receives 14% of salary basis in payments to a pension plan. Benefits include enrollment in the Conference Group Health Plan or health insurance reimbursement, Disability insurance, and a Group Term Life Insurance policy for full time positions.

Wisconsin Conference General Operating Fund Balance Sheet

	12/31/2021		12/31/2022
Assets			
Cash Accounts	\$ 171,438.55	\$	156,003.32
Investments & CD's	\$ 456,521.98	\$	457,853.22
Receivables	\$ 28,024.34	\$	5,370.43
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 20,280.66	\$	19,195.09
Property	\$ 248,368.33	\$	246,916.51
Total Assets	\$ 924,633.86	\$	885,338.57
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ 7,249.87	\$	1,989.46
Payroll Liabilities	\$ 29,326.73	\$	342.98
Prepaid Revenue	\$ -	\$	-
Accrued Expenses	\$ 2,394.50	\$	2,394.50
Missions Payable	\$ 33,844.00	\$	33,844.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 72,815.10	\$	38,570.94
Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$ 851,818.76	\$	846,767.63
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ 924,633.86	\$	885,338.57



Wisconsin Foundation

United Church of Christ

The Wisconsin Foundation UCC, a subsidiary of the Wisconsin Conference, holds the restricted and invested funds of the Conference, the four Associations, and several congregations and related organizations. Please contact Rev. Andrew Warner if you would like to discuss moving your investments into the foundation.

	Dec. 31, 2021	Dec. 31, 2022
	Balance	Balance
Agency Funds (Congregations and other partners)	\$ 3,141,093.28	\$ 3,489,951.07
Association Funds	\$ 410,707.47	\$ 397,995.34
Foundation Funds	\$ 260,431.90	\$ 1,108,019.87
Conference Funds		
Conference General Operating Fund	\$ 851,818.76	\$ 656,510.72
Emergency Response Fund	\$ 11,788.05	\$ 1,651.73
Conference Ministry Fund	\$ 182,543.97	\$ 149,290.11
Trost Center Fund	\$ 600,574.94	\$ 497,592.63
New Initiative Funds	\$ 38,747.20	\$ 31,354.11
Charles W. Stiger, Jr. Trust Fund	\$ 2,115,548.14	\$ 1,761,103.74
Staff Services Fund	\$ 119,242.63	\$ 101,041.83
General Synod Delegate Fund	\$ 11,869.26	\$ 20,164.00
Leadership Forward	\$ 1,076.85	\$ 146,750.14
Brown Deer UCC Fund	\$ 183,816.00	\$ 179,765.64
Church Development and Renewal Fund	\$ 5,187,566.31	\$ 4,268,133.58
Sarah Hand Ministerial Excellence Fund	\$ 20,925.16	\$ 17,272.68
Ministerial Assistance Fund	\$ 457,140.79	\$ 376,187.14
Ministerial Assistance Fund	\$ 100,700.24	\$ 82,979.05
Rural and Small Town Ministry Fund	\$ 507,950.67	\$ 422,549.52
MID Scholarship Fund	\$ 187,695.37	\$ 153,781.47
Lay Leadership Fund	\$ 57,093.06	\$ 60,711.71
Youth Ministries Scholarship Fund	\$ 2,414.33	\$ 1,805.10
Mission House Colloquy	\$ 1,945.61	\$ 1,606.66
Conference Social Service Fund	\$ 35,601.32	\$ 29,378.41
Conference Social Justice Fund	\$ 12,647.44	\$ 10,719.39
Kairos Climate Fund	\$ 3,496.50	\$ 680.74
Other Partnerships	\$ 27,585.01	\$ 17,074.60
Disaster Ministries	\$ 17,288.34	\$ 58,323.97
Subtotal Conference Funds	\$ 10,735,100.01	\$ 9,046,428.67
Total	\$ 14,547,332.66	\$ 14,042,394.95

Wisconsin Foundation UCC Annual Report



The Wisconsin Conference UCC founded the Wisconsin Foundation UCC in 2019 to strengthen the financial and fundraising capacity of congregations and the Conference. More than 20 congregations, organizations or initiatives hold \$3.5 million in the foundation; an additional \$10.5 million belongs to the Conference, associations and foundation itself. (Total assets were \$14 million at the end of 2022.) By working together in the foundation, we strengthen the United Church of Christ in Wisconsin.

Helping to Raise the Next Dollar

The Wisconsin Foundation UCC helps its partner organizations raise new contributions for their endowments. This help ranges from facilitating gifts of stock and consulting on gift opportunities to guidance on endowment-building campaigns. Over the past three years, the foundation helped raise an average of \$300,000 a year in new contributions. Although the amounts raised by any one congregation vary widely, the ability to help churches occurs because we cooperate together in the foundation.

Assisting as Churches Adapt

The council of Trinity UCC of Portage, below left, decided to sell their church building and relocate to rented space in the community. The move freed up financial resources for ministry. Because of the Wisconsin Foundation, Trinity could offer seller financing to the new congregation that wanted to purchase the building. The foundation tracks mortgage payments for Trinity and manages their invested funds so the council can concentrate on ministry in their community. “I was very happy with

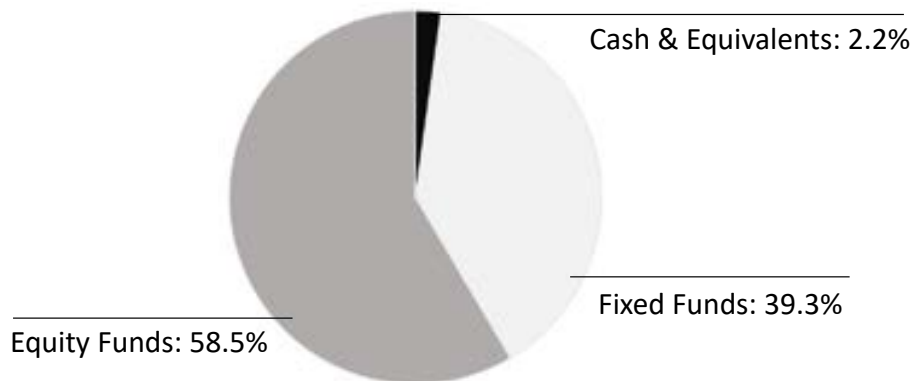
all Andrew’s work in making this transition happen,” said council President Joy Morse, referring to the Rev. Andrew Warner, director of development for the Wisconsin Conference and president of the foundation. “It was not an easy thing to do but we were all in agreement that it was time because of our declining membership. Our new location has been so accommodating and we actually have a new person coming on Sundays.”



Pastor Kay Hallanger, reflecting on what the congregation learned about generosity through the process, said: “Andrew gave us suggestions on being generous with what was in the building. As a result, we gifted our local museum as well as two state museums with church records of great historical value, some going back

to the early 20th century and in German. Our sister church in Endeavor received furniture and many other items, which they are putting to good use. We gifted Bibles and hymnals to a residential facility and another UCC church. We plan to gift a significant portion of the proceeds from the sale of our building to local community groups which could benefit. As we continue through this process, we have come to realize generosity comes in many forms. The sale of our building will benefit others in ways we had not foreseen but certainly have come to appreciate and be forever grateful.”

Investment Distribution - Dec. 31, 2022



The foundation diversifies its 10 million dollar investment pool

Diversified Investments Include Camp

The Investment Committee of the Wisconsin Foundation UCC works with our investment manager to ensure a well-diversified investment pool. In general, we aim to invest 65 percent of our funds in equity and 35 into into fixed-income assets (primarily bonds), but the investment manager can vary this by up to 10 percent in either direction based on market conditions.

Unique to the Wisconsin Foundation UCC as an investment option, our fixed income assets include a significant loan to United Church Camps, Inc. The loan reduced the interest rate paid by the camps but exceeded the 5-year average return on bonds for the foundation—a win-win.

Contact Rev. Andrew Warner to learn how your congregation can invest through the Wisconsin Foundation UCC.
 awarner@wcucc.org
 414-758-6233



The Rev. Jim Schlieff, executive director of UCCI, spoke to the impact of this loan on outdoor ministry. “The low-interest loan meant UCCI could restructure and reposition the organization for continued operation so that we can provide outdoor ministry opportunities to the local congregations of the Wisconsin Conference UCC and community partners,” he said. “This has been a lifeline allowing UCCI to continue operation.”

Investing Together Benefits Every Church

As more and more congregations join the foundation, the fees everyone pays continue to go down. The foundation began in 2020 with annual fees of 1.25 percent, but this declined every quarter as we grew. At the end of 2022, the investment management and administrative fee was under 1 percent. As congregations continue to move into the foundation, the cost for quality investment and fundraising support will continue to decline.

Generating Resources for Ministry

The past year proved to be a challenging investment environment as world events and concerns about inflation affected equity and bond performance. The investment manager for the foundation reduced our exposure by holding some funds in cash or cash equivalents. Overall, our investments outperformed the market as a whole.

2022 Investment Pool Performance	
Foundation Returns	-13.58%
Benchmark Returns	-16.02%

Investing for Good

The Wisconsin Foundation UCC practices faith-informed investing, meaning we seek out opportunities to make investments or use our shareholder votes to encourage corporate action aligned with our UCC values. The foundation works with an interfaith coalition of shareholders to press companies to change their internal policies and practices. On climate change, current shareholder activism involves a push for Bank of America, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley and Wells Fargo to phase out the financing of new fossil fuel exploration. This is combined with bond investments in sustainable energy production. Together, these actions are part of the reason global investment in clean energy matched fossil fuel investments for the first time in 2022.



The audited financial statements for the Wisconsin Foundation UCC can be found on the Conference website underneath the Foundation tab - www.wcucc.org/foundation.

A Resolution Declaring the Wisconsin Conference a WISE Conference for Mental Health

(WISE: Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged)

Delegates at the 2022 Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ Annual Meeting voted to enter into a year of study and reflection on mental health and how to become a WISE Conference for Mental Health. If at least 30% of the congregations in the Wisconsin Conference UCC report having engaged this issue, a Resolution of Witness “Declaring the Wisconsin Conference a WISE Conference for Mental Health” would be voted on at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ.

Since June 2022, many Wisconsin Conference UCC congregations have engaged in study and discussion of this issue, with a significant number of congregations beginning the process of becoming WISE Congregations for Mental Health. We expect to pass the 30% threshold and the Board of Directors has endorsed bringing the resolution on “Declaring the Wisconsin Conference a WISE Conference for Mental Health” to the floor of the 2023 Annual Meeting for a vote.

A Resolution Declaring the Wisconsin Conference a WISE Conference for Mental Health

Presented to the 2022 Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ and the WCUCC WISE Team.

Summary

God's call to wholeness includes our physical and mental health. Every human has a brain and a body. Physical and mental health are, therefore, a reality of life for every person. Normalizing the importance of taking care of our physical AND mental health will help destigmatize neurodiversity (embracing the differences in brain function and behavioral traits, understanding diversity is a natural element of the human population), and challenges to our mental health (including, but not limited to, depression, anxiety, substance-related and addictive disorders) and the stigma and attitudes directed at those suffering these challenges. Creating a more welcoming community where people feel safe to address these issues will encourage those struggling to seek out needed treatment or access community support for their mental health.

While dominant media narratives and socio-political discourse would depict individuals with mental illnesses as dangerous threats to public or personal safety, in reality, statistics indicate those with a mental illness are up to ten times more likely to be the victims of violence than the perpetrators of that violence. This social stigma and resulting community isolation contribute to:

- lower rates of employment
- higher rates of homelessness and incarceration
- social policies leading to the lack of adequate and affordable mental health services

Too often, this stigma extends into the church, one place where every child of God should find support and be nurtured in their spiritual, mental, emotional and physical needs. All persons who enter our doors should feel safe and welcomed in the totality of their being. Yet, in ways both interpersonal and systemic, Christians have participated in the stigmatization and exclusion of individuals experiencing mental health challenges.

In recent years, the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network has made a concerted effort to support local churches in addressing mental health stigma through its Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged (WISE) initiative. The objective of WISE is to encourage UCC congregations to become more welcoming of those with

mental health challenges, to expand church and community inclusion of those who are living with mental health challenges, to be supportive of all who are affected by mental health challenges, and to engage in ways to live out a commitment to be WISE about mental health.

It is in this spirit of unconditional love and radical welcome this resolution is offered.

Biblical, Theological and Historical Grounding

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:30, NRSV)

From the early historic roots of the United Church of Christ and carrying through to our present-day church bodies, it is part of our denominational identity and theology to contemplate and practice our love of God by loving our neighbors and ourselves, in body, heart, soul, and mind, in practical and life-giving ways.

We proclaim as central to the faith life of our conference this commandment Jesus offers in the Gospel according to Mark. In practice, this commandment calls the Wisconsin Conference UCC (WCUCC) to understand challenges to mental wellness as a natural part of the human experience and, through our education, programming missions and ministries, to honor the inherent wholeness of all individuals, recognizing that mental health is part of being embodied souls.

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35, NRSV)

The church united in Christ is called to be a community which breaks through fear and isolation offering love, hope, care and healing through providing compassion, community, and support. In the ways the church has hurt one another by its use of holy scripture to discriminate against mental illness, used prayer as a weapon against those seeking treatment for mental dis-ease, and ‘demon-ized’ those experiencing mental health challenges, we own the trauma and violence we have caused.

We proclaim as central to the faith life of our conference this commandment Jesus offers in the Gospel according to John. In practice, this commandment calls the WCUCC to walk alongside local ministries and members engaged in efforts to reduce stigma and enhance inclusion in their communities, provide communities of support and education for those with mental health challenges and offer tangible support through

local and conference-wide efforts.

In adopting this resolution we join the wider United Church of Christ, who in 1995, passed a resolution proclaiming justice for those with serious mental illness; who in 2015, passed a resolution encouraging congregations to become WISE; and in 2019, voted to recognize those with mental health challenges as an historically under-represented group. With these historical foundations and the work begun by the Mental Health Network of the United Church of Christ, the WCUCC will stand, historically, in a line of justice advocacy around mental health.

The Text of the Resolution

WHEREAS, all people have bodies and brains and therefore have physical and mental health; and

WHEREAS, God calls all people to wholeness, which occurs through physical, spiritual, emotional and mental health, and with this understanding, God calls all people to recognize the diversity of issues related to mental health as being a natural element of the human existence; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 4 people experience some form of mental health challenge; and

WHEREAS, continued stigma, discrimination, pain, and silence occurs in society and within our churches against individuals with mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has a suicide rate of 14.5 per 100,000, above the national average of 13.5, according to 2020 data from the Centers for Disease Control; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin consistently ranked poorly on access to mental health care, as well as, overall mental health outcomes in annual reports published by Mental Health America; and

WHEREAS, marginalized populations, particularly persons in jails/prisons, persons experiencing homelessness, persons lacking health insurance coverage, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, experience systemic barriers to adequate mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has on three separate occasions adopted resolutions supporting the increased inclusion of individuals with mental health challenges in the fullness of the life of the church; and

WHEREAS, the Florida, Northern California Nevada, and Indiana-Kentucky Conferences have adopted WISE covenants at the Conference level; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Conference recognizes the need for increased inclusion of those with mental health challenges and their communities of support in the full life of the Conference; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the communities of support for people with mental health challenges often do not have their own emotional, mental, spiritual, and physical needs met in local ministry settings; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the need to support the well-being and mental health of all, including our authorized ministers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we the Wisconsin Conference (WCUCC) of the United Church of Christ, being committed to the work of justice and inclusion for all people as image-bearers of the divine, designate ourselves as a WISE Conference for Mental Health (in the community and the wider world).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCUCC convene a WISE Team to develop a strategic plan for implementing WISE at the conference level, including consideration of possible education and training needs, financial support, personnel, and opportunities for collaboration with existing community resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCUCC through the WISE Team, the Conference Staff and the Board of Directors, identify and pursue opportunities to be in shared mission, ministry, fellowship and advocacy with other faith and community organizations, including, but not limited to, the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network, the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries, and the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we encourage associations and local ministry settings to develop and adopt covenants to be WISE for Mental Health, and to work to understand the needs and experiences of those living with mental health challenges and their communities of support within their local and regional settings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we encourage local ministry settings to work to eradicate stigma around mental health challenges and neurodiversity, and to offer support to all persons affected by mental health challenges, including advocating for access to adequate treatment options for all persons but especially for persons in jails/prisons, persons experiencing homelessness, persons lacking health insurance coverage and BIPOC communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we encourage associations, local church ministry settings and related organizations to offer support to the family and friends of those who struggle with mental health challenges.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, we encourage congregations to offer regular feedback to the WCUCC WISE Team as it works to implement WISE in the conference setting.

FUNDING

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the Board of Directors as funds are available.

IMPLEMENTATION

The WISE Team in consultation with the Conference Staff and Board of Directors will design a strategic plan outlining Conference priorities and new opportunities for mission and ministry to be presented to the Board of Directors of the WCUCC prior to the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Presented to the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Conference by the WISE Team for consideration at the 2022 Annual Meeting as a Resolution of Witness.

WISE Team Members:

Lois Buchholz

Sue Kaiser

Kristal Klemme

Michael Southcombe

Lisa Hart, staff

Welcome Our Newly Settled Pastors



Rev. Dana Caldwell
Congregational UCC
Amery



Rev. Judine Duerwaechter
St. John's UCC
Sheboygan



Rev. Nicole Herda
St. Peter's UCC
Kiel



Bonnie Jacque
St. Paul's UCC
Erin



Mary Jo Laabs
First Congregational UCC
Appleton



Rev. Lance Lackore
First Congregational UCC
Lake Mills



Jim Langreder
First Congregational
Church - Hartland, and First
Congregational Church - Genesee



Rev. Debra Meyer
First Congregational UCC
River Falls



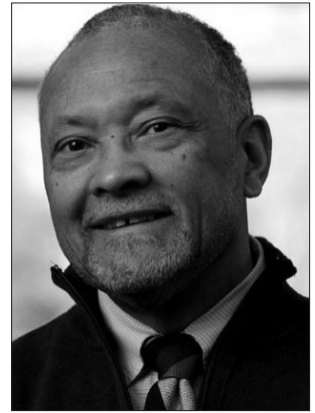
Rev. Timothy Miller
Ely Memorial UCC
Land O' Lakes



Les Munnik
Truax Congregational UCC
Eau Claire



Rev. Jacob Nault
Pilgrim UCC
Fond du Lac



Rev. Dr. Okogyeamon
(Herbert Perkins)
St. Paul's UCC, Ellsworth



Rev. Dr. Sara Rabe
First Congregational UCC
Fort Atkinson



Rev. Carol Reynolds
Hope UCC
Sturgeon Bay



Rev. Christopher Ross
First Congregational UCC
Watertown



Rev. Stephen Savides
First Congregational UCC
New London



Rev. Micah Schlobohm
United Church of Christ,
Hancock and Peace UCC,
Stevens Point



Rev. Joshua Simon
Emanuel UCC
Hales Corners

“5 for 5” Churches in the Wisconsin Conference

We celebrate with deep thanksgiving our 5 for 5 congregations! 5 for 5 churches are those that fully support Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM), giving to Basic Support as well as all four Special Mission Offerings. Special Mission Offering dates are: Neighbors in Need is on World Communion Sunday, The Christmas Fund is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, One Great Hour of Sharing is the Fourth Sunday in Lent, and Strengthen the Church is on Pentecost Sunday.

Northeast Association

St. Marks UCC, Cleveland
Christ Congregational UCC, Clintonville
Church of Peace, Fond du Lac
Union Congregational UCC, Green Bay
First Congregational UCC, New London
First Congregational UCC, Plymouth

Peace UCC, Shawano
Ebenezer UCC, Sheboygan
First Congregational UCC, Sheboygan
St. John’s UCC, Sheboygan
Hope UCC, Sturgeon Bay
Grace Congregational UCC, Two Rivers

Northwest Association

Faith United Church, Christ, Antigo
St. John’s UCC, Arpin
First Congregational UCC, Bloomer
Cable UCC, Cable
Congregational UCC, Conrath
Namekagon Congregational UCC, Earl
Plymouth UCC, Eau Claire
United Church of Christ, Elcho
First Congregational UCC, La Crosse

First Congregational UCC, Menomonie
United Church of Christ, Neillsville
Nekoosa United Church of Christ, Nekoosa
United Church of Christ, Osseo
United Church of Christ, Prescott
Peace UCC, Schofield
Union Congregational Church UCC, Three Lakes
St. Paul’s UCC, Wausau

Southeast Association

Brookfield Community Church UCC, Brookfield
Trinity UCC, Brookfield
Pilgrim UCC, Grafton
First Congregational Church, Hartland

Raymond Community Church, Franksville
Peace UCC, Kewaskum
Redeemer UCC, Menomonee Falls
First Congregational UCC, South Milwaukee

Southwest Association

Plymouth Congregational UCC, Dodgeville
First Congregational UCC, Fort Atkinson
First Congregational UCC, Janesville
First Congregational UCC, Madison
Lake Edge UCC, Madison
Plymouth Congregational UCC, Madison
First Congregational UCC, Milton

St. Johns UCC, Monroe
Washington Reformation UCC, Monticello
Zwingli UCC, Monticello
United Church of Christ, Mukwonago
Salem UCC, Verona
Congregational UCC, Whitewater

Farewell, Trost Center!



1992-2023



The Wisconsin Conference UCC offices moved from the Trost Center in DeForest to Spring Grove Lodge at Daycholah Center near Ripon on April 12.

Hello, Daycholah Center!



2023 -



2023 Scholarship Award Winners

Myrtle I. Baker Scholarship Award: Bridget Hill

The Myrtle I. Baker scholarship was established in 1982 in honor of the Rev. Myrtle I. Baker, who in 1933 was the first ordained woman to serve congregations in the Wisconsin Conference. She served as minister of First Congregational UCC in Boscobel and the Congregational UCC at Steuben, from 1955 until her retirement in 1977. The scholarship was presented to the Wisconsin Conference by Florence M. Bohlman, a lay leader of the church at Boscobel. The scholarship is presented annually to a member in discernment who exhibits the character, love for the church and the pastoral qualities that marked the life and ministry of Myrtle I. Baker.

Bridget is the pastor of St. John's UCC, Random Lake, and New Horizon UCC, Kewaskum. She is currently a full-time seminary student at Lexington Theological Seminary and will be seeking ordination in the next couple of years. Bridget also serves as the Chaplain to the Silver Creek Fire Department. Bridget is a mother of two young adults, Toby and Anna, as well as her dog Harlan. Previously, Bridget worked in Kenya, Africa and utilized training and connections she gained through the UCC's Global Ministries resources.



Carl H. Zeyher Award: Jim Langreder

The Carl H. Zeyher Award scholarship was established by the late Helen Zeyher and her family in memory of husband and father, the Rev. Carl H. Zeyher, who was ordained by the Evangelical Synod of North America at New Braunfels, Texas, in 1925 and served faithfully in congregations of the Synod, the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and the United Church of Christ, in Texas, Minnesota, Virginia, Connecticut, and Wisconsin until his retirement. The Award is presented annually to a member in discernment and a seminarian whose devotion to word and deed reflect the ways in which Carl H. Zeyher served as a pastor among us.

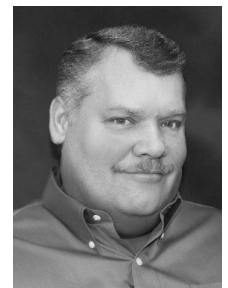


Jim is an energetic, passionate leader who resides in Delafield with his family. Jim began his journey with the UCC nearly 20 years ago and is the former music/choir director for Emmanuel in Dousman. Over the past five years, Jim studied various topics utilizing courses offered through the Damascus Project as well as online programs offered from conferences across the country to satisfy his learning covenant goals on his alternative path to ordination. He is currently a licensed minister in the UCC, approved for ordination in August and serves at First Congregational UCC in Genesee and First Congregational UCC in Hartland.

First Congregational Church-McDowell Scholarship: Michael Whiteley

The First Congregational Church-McDowell Scholarship was established in 1988 by Florence and Vilas Bohlman and First Congregational UCC, Boscobel, in memory of Mrs. Bohlman's parents, Ross and Vere McDowell. The scholarship is presented annually to a seminarian and member in discernment of one of the four Associations whose devotion to the church and commitment to parish ministry offer exceptional promise for service to the Word in congregational life.

Michael Whiteley has been the Moderator of the First Congregational UCC of Genesee for the last 15 years. He is a member of the UCC Catalyst Team. He is Member in Discernment studying in the Damascus Project Faith Foundation and Christian Ministry curriculum. He is in his third year of study and hopes to complete his MID process next year. He is a retired businessman with 30 years of sales and marketing experience in international foodservice equipment manufacturing and distribution. He holds a B.A. in Philosophy from Ripon College and a Masters in International Business from Thunderbird in Phoenix.



Time of Remembrance

Rev. Dorothy Heckner Mendonca, passed away on August 28, 2022. Dorothy was one of the very first ordained women to serve the Moravian Church in Sturgeon Bay. One of her passions was Christian Education. She served as interim pastor at many United Church of Christ parishes throughout the state. In 1997, Dorothy became pastor at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Redgranite where she remained until 2014. While there, she dedicated a lot of time working for restorative justice in the prison system. Dorothy also enjoyed serving on committees for the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ. Dorothy believed in equity. She was a good listener who had relevant things to say. She was extremely independent. She was a pioneer for women clergy and women in general. She taught her daughter and grandchildren that they could do anything they set their minds to doing.

Dorothy Mohr, wife of the late Rev. George and mother of Rev. James Mohr, passed away on September 20, 2022. Dorothy was 102 years young. Dorothy's husband was pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ in Waukegan, Illinois for seven years; Peace UCC in St. Paul, Minnesota for seven years; and Zion UCC in Sheboygan for 25 years from 1958-1983. After his death, she lived for 35 years in her beloved condo at Cross Creek on Sheboygan's south side. Dorothy took an active part in all the church women's organizations and taught Sunday school during those years. Outside of the church she did volunteer work teaching in the Laubach Literacy Program. She spent thirty years as a volunteer at Sheboygan (Aurora) Memorial Hospital. She was formerly a member of the Sheboygan Women's Club. She spent much time knitting afghans for all her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She knit over 2000 caps for the newborn babies at Memorial Hospital. Her grandchildren received many of her knit clothing items.

Howard Dale "Howie" Gloff, age 63, husband of Rev. Kathleen Gloff, passed from Earthly Life to Eternal Life on Wednesday September 28, 2022, at Aurora Medical Center in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He had lived with cancer since 2015. Rev. Kathleen Gloff is pastor at Somers Community United Church of Christ in Somers, Wisconsin. Howie took to being a pastor's spouse and living in a parsonage the best that he could. While in Chilton, Howie worked briefly for Kroger (Pick N Save) and then for Walmart. He promised that Kathy's work would take priority, and in 2011 they relocated to Kenosha, Wisconsin so that Kathy could become the pastor at Somers United Church of Christ.

Dr. Jack Westfall, husband of Rev. Judine Duewaechter, passed away Sunday, October 16, 2022 at his home. Rev. Judine is interim pastor at St. John's United Church of Christ in Sheboygan. Jack's professional career began with his construction company, Westfall Construction. From there, Jack held a Vice President position at Kohler Co. He was instrumental in working with Herbert V. Kohler creating Blackwolf Run Golf Course and Woodlake Market and Shops, then as Manager of Real Estate Product Development. In addition, Jack held multiple positions during his career, including Director of Finance and Chief Underwriter for The Wisconsin Partnership and Supervisor of Corporate Research and Chief Methodologist for Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Margorie D. Schowalter, wife of the late Rev. Daniel Schowalter, passed away on October 17, 2022 at the age of 92. In the 23 years of marriage with Dan until his death in 2020, they enjoyed their retirement community and many friends at Tudor Oaks in Muskego, taking trips, and singing in various choirs. Marj loved spending time with both her children and Dan's children, as well as their many grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was especially proud of her Welsh heritage and was glad to have visited Wales.

Rev. Arthur W. "Chris" Christofersen, died at his home in Baraboo on October 24, 2022. Arthur started his career at the Mayflower Congregational Church in Detroit, Michigan. From there he was called to Illinois and served as Pastor at the Sandwich Congregational Church, the Union Congregational Church in Moline, and the

Congregational Church of Batavia. He also was the director at the Patten House in Glenview. Arthur retired in 1990 and moved to the home his family built in the Buckhorn Community in Wisconsin. He was an active member of the First Congregational Church in Baraboo, the National Crane Foundation, the Baraboo Theatre Guild and Habitat for Humanity.

Susan Safford-Gaul, wife of Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy, died on November 24, 2022 at Sharon Richardson Community Hospice near Sheboygan Falls. Rev. Michael is pastor at Ebenezer United Church of Christ in Chilton and St. John United Church of Christ in New Holstein, Wisconsin. Susan was called to ministry later in life and earned her Masters of Divinity from United Theological Seminary in the Twin Cities. During her time as a pastor, Susan served many churches and provided worship for her beloved parishioners. She first served at Amherst and Buena Vista United Methodist churches, followed by Emmanuel Community UMC in Menomonee Falls, Faith UMC in Brillion, and Faith and Bethel UMC in Sheboygan Falls.

Cynthia Evans West, wife of Rev. Frederick (Fritz) West, passed away at the age of 91. Cynthia is survived by two daughters and two sons, Melanie Lewis (Paul Johnson), Gwendolyn Countryman, Kevin R. Lewis (Janine Eastep), and Tom Weisinger (Kathy Bauman) five grandchildren, Eileen Lewis, Ester Lewis, Zoe Lewis, Michael Countryman (Tiara) and Naomi Countryman; with the first great-grandchild on the way.

Donna B. Winger, age 91, died on December 20, 2022 at her home in Marinette, Wisconsin. Donna was the wife of Rev. Daniel Winger, who served Peace United Church of Christ in Marinette from 1965-1994. Donna and Dan lived an adventurous life together. They passed their love of life to their four children as they camped, bike-toured, skied and sailed as a family. Donna was an adventure seeker, curious student of the world and loving teacher. Wherever she traveled, it was the people and in particular the children, who captured her heart. After retiring from the Marinette School District, she and Dan toured the United States and Canada by motorcycle and RV.

Rev. Kent A. Mosebach, age 82, died on January 3, 2023. Kent received his Bachelors of Arts degree from Lakeland College in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. He graduated with a Bachelors of Divinity degree from the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained into the Christian Ministry at St. John's United Church of Christ of Melbourne, Iowa. He was installed as the Assistant Pastor of St. John's UCC of Michigan City, Indiana. He went on to serve pastorships at Portage Congregational UCC in Portage, Michigan; Faith UCC in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; St. John's UCC in Merton, Wisconsin; St. Paul's UCC in Colgate, Wisconsin; and St. Paul's UCC in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. During his time at St. John's UCC in Merton and St. Paul's UCC in Colgate, he graduated with a Masters of Arts in Counseling at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Kent immersed himself into anything he considered important with intensity and energy; he considered a compassionate gospel and the institutional church to be highly important things. He loved children and singing with them and teaching the faith through song. He was an integral part of community rotaries and churches in which he attended.

Verna Faisst, age 94, died on January 14, 2023. Verna was the wife of Rev. Ralph Faisst. Verna was very active in the United Church of Christ and volunteered at Fellowship Center and as a Caravaner promoting racial and ethnic understanding within youth groups of the church. She worked for St. Louis Public Schools as a teacher before marrying Ralph. After marrying, she continued her work in the church as a Sunday school teacher and member of the choir. She also worked as a substitute teacher and in a medical office. When they retired, she remained active in volunteering - tutoring struggling readers, helping with tour groups at the Cedar Community "Little Red School House", and abiding with those on Hospice care.

Jacqueline Kuck, age 93, died on February 18, 2023 in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Jacqueline was the wife of the late Rev. Dale Kuck. Jacqueline married Rev. Dale Gene Kuck of New Knoxville, Ohio, on July 18, 1953, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, which started a 68 year-long romance and adventure. They spent over 55 years enjoying

the Merrill community, in which they raised a family and built their careers. Jacqueline's life was centered around God, family, and friends. She made everyone feel special and went above and beyond to assist and serve others. She actively participated in numerous church and community organizations with the focus of enhancing the lives of others. She found comfort and enjoyment spending time at Lake Pesobic in Merrill with family and friends. For over 50 years, she had the privilege of ending her days watching beautiful sunsets.

Marcia Yochum passed away on April 8, 2023 after a year-long struggle with cancer. Marcia was the wife of Rev. David Yochum. Marcia held nursing positions and nursing related positions in Omaha and Ogallala, Nebraska; Clinton, Iowa; and Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. She married David Yochum on January 29, 1972. She considered her husband of 50+ years as a man of many hats literally and figuratively. She shared, he was often willing to engage in a variety of projects including, lightheartedly, "my quirky personality." Marcia was a member of the United Church of Christ, having been past Moderator of the Nebraska Conference. She was a member of P.E.O. Sisterhood, AAUW (American Association of University Women) and the Fontana (Wisconsin) Garden Club. Marcia often said that in her associations, there were many remarkable role models in each group. While husband David was Executive Director of Fairhaven Retirement Community in Whitewater, the Yochum family presented over 15 Christmas programs on Christmas morning for any Fairhaven residents willing to view the serious and not so serious skits.

Audrey Schowalter, age 93, of West Bend, died on April 8, 2023 with her family by her side. Audrey was the wife of the late Rev. Phillip Schowalter. Audrey met her husband Philip at Lakeland College. Philip preceded Audrey in death on October 26, 1989. Audrey was a housewife and stay at home mom. Later in life, she did volunteer work at Cedar Community. Audrey and Philip were the first managers of Cedar Ridge where she continued to live until her passing. She was an active long-time member of Immanuel United Church of Christ. She enjoyed singing in the choir and was also part of the Choristers at Cedar Ridge.

WE HONOR THESE WISCONSIN PASTORS AS THEY CELEBRATE ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES IN 2023

THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED OVER FIFTY YEARS IN MINISTRY

Rev. Ralph Faisst - West Bend	1953	Rev. Charles Yoak - Amery	1964
Rev. Charles Lowder – Crossville, TN	1954	Rev. Stephen Rohloff – Knoxville, TN	1964
Rev. H Richard Hoblin – Romeoville, IL	1955	Rev. Jack Frohn - Oshkosh	1964
Rev. George Schowalter - West Bend	1955	Rev. David Lauer - Elkhart Lake	1966
Rev. Gale Wolf - Madison	1956	Rev. Howard Bowman - Madison	1967
Rev. Gene Krueger - Oshkosh	1956	Rev. Phillips Sweet - Sturgeon Bay	1967
Rev. Roger Wentz - Black River Falls	1956	Rev. Stephen Davidson - West Bend	1968
Rev. Howard Kusler - West Bend	1956	Rev. James Burd - Elkhorn	1968
Rev. John Sheild - Monona	1957	Rev. William Wineke - Stoughton	1970
Rev. Gerald Schrankler - West Bend	1957	Rev. David Strang – Huntley, IL	1970
Rev. Daniel Winger - Marinette	1957	Rev. Robert Mutton - Sun Prairie	1970
Rev. Robert Horst - Muskego	1957	Rev. Earl Eckhart - Baraboo	1970
Rev. Delbert Permann – Tacoma, WA	1960	Rev. David Rumpf - Neenah	1970
Rev. Roger Brooks - Madison	1960	Rev. David Yochum - Whitewater	1970
Rev. Arlan Schlundt - Plymouth	1960	Rev. Gerald Bertsch - Sheboygan	1970
Rev. Donald Minnick - Stevens Point	1961	Rev. Paul Quackenbush – Chicago, IL	1971
Rev. Ronald Segedy - Racine	1961	Rev. Charles Wolfe - Prescott	1971
Rev. John Eyster - Edgerton	1962	Rev. Curtis Anderson - Wauwatosa	1971
Rev. Gerald O'Connor - West Bend	1962	Rev. David McBride - Trempealeau	1972
Rev. Milton Staskal - New London	1962	Rev. Robert Meyer – Chicago, IL	1972
Rev. Frederick Trost - Sheboygan	1962	Rev. Steven Hecky - Menomonee Falls	1972
Rev. Ramon Hunt - Rice Lake	1962	Rev. Arthur Wille - Neenah	1972
Rev. John Jewell – Deland, FL	1963	Rev. Donald Baumann - Wausau	1972
Rev. Keith Farnham - Menomonee Falls	1963	Rev. Russell Knoth - Germantown	1972
Rev. Daniel Jonas – Littleton, CO	1963	Rev. James Mohr - Neillsville	1972
Rev. Ralph Schultz - Waukesha	1963	Rev. Thomas Uphaus - La Crescent, MN	1972
Rev. Beryl Melcher - Mineral Point	1963	Rev. Dr. David Moyer - Waunakee	1972
Rev. Max Rigert - Whitewater	1963	Rev. David Ostendorf - Saint Paul, MN	1972
Rev. Jake Close - Wisconsin Rapids	1963	Rev. William Heath – Bend, OR	1972

THOSE CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS IN MINISTRY

Rev. Edward Freese - Germantown	Rev. Norman Luecke - Bruce
Rev. Lynn Larson - Drummond	Rev. Kendell Nordstrom - Beloit
Rev. Stephen Gifford - Kenosha	Rev. Dale Stohre - Franklin
Rev. Timothy Kehl - Milwaukee	Rev. John McFadden - Appleton

THOSE CELEBRATING FORTY-FIVE YEARS IN MINISTRY

Rev. James Eckblad - Elmwood Park, IL
Rev. Jeanne Tyler - Lake Mills
Rev. John Tyler - Lake Mills
Rev. Carol Barth - Waunakee
Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell - Chicago, IL
Rev. Gregory Whelton - Sheboygan

Rev. James Hill - West Bend
Rev. William Hoglund - Westchester, IL
Rev. Laura Hoglund - Westchester, IL
Rev. John Helt - Milwaukee
Rev. Michael Matheny - Rio Rancho, NM
Rev. Holly Whitcomb - Elm Grove

THOSE CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS IN MINISTRY

Rev. Judith Tisserand - Kenosha
Rev. W. Steve Butler - Manitowoc
Rev. William Colby-Newton, Maplewood, MN
Rev. Jeffrey Aderman - Viroqua

Rev. Susan Stull Carr - Muscoda
Rev. Betsy Miller-Ruben - Trempealeau
Rev. Deborah Howland - Waukesha

THOSE CELEBRATING THIRTY-FIVE YEARS IN MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. David Ambroso - Omro
Rev. James Liddle - Howards Grove
Rev. David Gaeth - Greendale
Rev. Jo Ann Schoblaski - De Pere
Rev. Sharon Goss - Middleton
Rev. Gail Irwin - Oconto Falls

Rev. Joan Sulser - Madison
Rev. Stephen Savides - Appleton
Rev. Marty Carney - Lake Geneva
Rev. James Hollister - Sheboygan
Rev. Deborah Payden - Milwaukee

THOSE CELEBRATING THIRTY YEARS IN MINISTRY

Rev. David Wernecke - Sheboygan
Rev. Mary Snell Willis - North Royalton, OH
Rev. Barbara Yara - Red Wing, MN

Rev. Wanda Veldman - Elcho
Rev. Patricia Handley - Lake Forest, IL
Rev. Dr. David McDonald - Deforest

THOSE CELEBRATING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN MINISTRY

Rev. Myles Alexander - Rhinelander
Rev. J Eric Kirkegaard - Kewaskum

Rev. Gail O'Neal - Madison

THOSE CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS IN MINISTRY

Rev. Lorri Steward - Sheboygan
Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy - Chilton

Rev. Laura Blanco - Brown Deer

THOSE CELEBRATING FIFTEEN YEARS IN MINISTRY

Rev. Meredith Anderson - West Allis
Rev. Leslie Schenk - Madison
Rev. Lois Rosko - Madison

Rev. Deb Pyne - Drummond
Rev. Craig Modahl - Port Washington
Rev. Lora Whitten - Janesville

THOSE CELEBRATING TEN YEARS IN MINISTRY

Rev. Barbara Brakey - Platteville
Rev. Lance Smith - Monticello
Rev. Deborah Tyler - Elkhart Lake
Rev. Dr. Julia Burkey - Madison

Rev. Nicole Bettivia - Two Rivers
Rev. Tara Tetzlaff - Wisconsin Rapids
Rev. Timothy Miller - St. Germain
Rev. Zayna Thomley - Madison

THOSE CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS IN MINISTRY

Rev. Beth Petzke - Sheboygan
Rev. Karin Wells - Madison
Rev. Kelsey Beebe - Kenosha

Rev. Lois Buchholz - Muskego
Rev. Gretchen Martin - Winston Salem, NC

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THESE ORDINATIONS IN THE WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THOSE CELEBRATING ORDINATIONS IN THE PAST YEAR

Rev. Teri Hanson - Colby
Rev. Nicole Herda - New Holstein

Rev. Jacob Nault - Waupun

“Ordination is the rite whereby the United Church of Christ, through an Association in cooperation with the person and a local church of the United Church of Christ, recognizes and authorizes that member who God has called to ordained ministry, and sets that person apart by prayer and the laying on of hands. By this rite ordained ministerial standing and status as an Ordained Ministerial Partner is conferred and authorization given to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.” - (Constitutional Provision #22 of the United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry)

Annual Meeting Evaluations: We want your opinion!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wcucc-am-2023>

Churches Celebrating Anniversaries in 2023

185 Years

First Congregational UCC, Milton
First Congregational UCC, Waukesha

180 Years

First Congregational Church, Elkhorn
First Congregational UCC, Genesee
St John UCC, Germantown

175 Years

United Church of Christ, Rosendale

165 Years

Christ Congregational UCC, Clintonville
First Evangelical & Reformed UCC, Lowell
Plymouth Congregational UCC, Burlington
United Church of Christ, Windsor
Zion UCC, Dale

160 Years

Community UCC, Elkhart Lake
Our Saviour's UCC, Ripon
Roberts Congregational UCC, Roberts
St James UCC, Newton
St Paul's UCC, Wausau

155 Years

First Congregational UCC, Bloomer
Parkside Community UCC, Saukville
Peace UCC, Manitowoc
Salem Plankroad UCC, Plymouth
St John's UCC, Random Lake
St Pauls UCC, Menomonee Falls

145 Years

United Church of Christ, Osseo

140 Years

Ebenezer UCC, Chilton
St Stephens UCC, Merrill

135 Years

Emanuel Church UCC, Hales Corners
St Paul's UCC, South Wayne
Zwingli UCC, Monticello

130 Years

Federated Church UCC/UMC, Bruce
St Paul's UCC, Marshfield

125 Years

First Congregational Church UCC, Port Washington
Peace UCC, Dorchester
Peace UCC, Kewaskum

120 Years

First UCC, Green Bay
Plymouth Congregational UCC, Madison

115 Years

Phelps Congregational UCC, Phelps

110 Years

Congregational UCC, Mineral Point
First Congregational UCC, Grand Marsh
Zwingli UCC, Paoli

105 Years

Union Congregational Church UCC, Three Lakes

100 Years

Delta UCC, Mason
Salem UCC, Verona

95 Years

St Paul's UCC, Sheboygan

75 Years

Lake Edge UCC, Madison

55 Years

Community of Hope UCC, Madison
Redeemer UCC, Sussex

Conflict Transformation Team

a ministry of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ

As a ministry of The Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ whose mission is to equip, resource and support our local churches:

- Our services are engaged through the Associate Conference Ministers, who are kept apprised of our work with the congregation.
- The Wisconsin Conference and its Associations support the training and administration needs of this ministry.

Who We Are:

- a cohort of lay and clergy persons trained in conflict transformation practices
- trained through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Institute
- gathered by the Wisconsin Conference
- for the purpose of assisting congregations and leaders of the Wisconsin Conference to bring transformation out of conflicted situations.

What We Do:

When engaged to explore solutions for a particular congregation, we send out a team of two neutral facilitators for a 2-hour initial consultation (mileage reimbursement is the only cost for the first two hours). Based on that consultation, we put together a plan (with the congregational leadership) for further work, which may include facilitated conversations, workshops for the leadership or the entire congregation or training involving conflict transformation. Once a plan and costs are agreed upon, we schedule our work with your congregation.

Services Offered:

- Facilitated conversations between conflicted parties
- Facilitating the creation of a relational covenant
- 3-hour workshops for up to 30 people. Topics are determined during the initial consultation, but may include: core values, personality types, healthy communication skills, leading through transition, understanding conflict
- Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches (8-hour workshop), including all of the above topics.

If conflict transformation services may be helpful in your individual congregation, please contact your Associate Conference Minister for further information, or contact the Rev. Jane Anderson at janderson@wcucc.org.



Apply for a Catalyst Grant by September 30, 2023

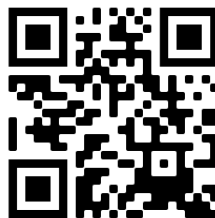
Catalyst's mission is to resource and encourage vital and innovative ministries that transform lives.

The Catalyst Team, made up of representatives from all four associations, works to spur, spark and stimulate innovation and creativity throughout the Wisconsin Conference by providing grant funding to congregations.

We are seeking opportunities to support initiatives in congregations that:

- Transform lives through community-based initiatives
- Stretch or deepen a congregation's commitment to working for justice
- Expand a congregation's ideas about what constitutes ministry, who their members are and what their role is in their local community

To learn more, check out our website: wcucc.org/catalyst, or scan the QR code below.



“The best thing I’ve done for my mental health and spiritual growth in a long time.”

Communities of Practice Peer Learning Groups

Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ
www.wcucc.org then Programs & Education/Communities of Practice

Clergy Communities of Practice

Don’t go it alone! Communities of Practice (COP) groups provide the sustenance that your ministry needs in order to be effective well into the future. COP groups are designed to be peer learning groups, focused both on the practice of ministry and your growth in your role as a pastoral minister.

COP groups are facilitated by a “seasoned pastor,” but rely on the wisdom and experience of the whole group in caring for and supporting one another. All of the facilitators are either seasoned, respected pastors or therapists who are lay leaders in UCC congregations, and who have expertise in group dynamics and leadership. There are groups organized by geographic area as well as by specialty, such as pastors nearing retirement, licensed pastors, or newly ordained pastors.

For more information, **contact Jane Anderson** at (920) 540-2586 or email her at janderson@wcucc.org. There is also information and registration on the Wisconsin Conference website at wcucc.org **under the Programs & Education tab.**

Fee: \$250. The fee is intended to be paid by your congregation, and is included in new call agreements/covenants. No one will be kept out of a Community of Practice because of inability to pay. Please apply for a scholarship using the form available online, or speak to Jane.

Join a Christian Education/Faith Formation Community of Practice

The Christian Education/Faith Formation Commission of the Wisconsin Conference offers a Communities of Practice (COP) program for educators as a parallel to the successful COP program for pastors in our conference. Lay volunteer or paid staff involved in Sunday school, youth group, or overall education/faith formation are supported and enriched by involvement in a COP with others practicing ministry in similar ways.

Groups will:

- be composed of about six Christian educators/youth leaders from throughout the Wisconsin Conference;
- have a trained facilitator who has experience in Christian education/faith formation ministry;
- meet every four to six weeks for three hours at a day/time that is reasonable for those involved;
- meet at a central location when possible, or groups may choose to use technology to meet remotely.

If you, or the faith formation leader/staff at your church, would appreciate the support of a network of Christian education/faith formation peers, register today! COP groups for 2023-2024 will start in September. The cost for the year is \$250. For more information, go to wcucc.org/COP-CEFF, or contact Lisa Hart at lhart@wcucc.org.

Annual Meeting Evaluations: We want your opinion!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wcucc-am-2023>

OUR FOCUS AREAS (as 2022 unfolded)



- Continue providing COVID-19 ministry info & vaccine community outreach
- Equip congregations for restorative actions with Wisconsin's First Nations
- Fostering collaboration in racial equity work by religious advocates statewide
- Outreach for peace & justice: forging connections, congregational relationships

Community Health Program

We have engaged more than **300 houses of worship**

and helped organize **234 COVID vaccination clinics** with **3218 shots** administered.



Interfaith Voter Engagement

WIVEC partnered with the Dane County League of Women Voters, Souls to the Polls, Madison Urban League, RIC, CUSH, and other organizations for "Pray with Your Feet, Pray With your Vote," a nonpartisan voter registration and education project.

115 canvassers representing 29 congregations and organizations knocked on **2,547 doors** and had **950 conversations** with potential voters.



The Community Investment Program **received \$85,000 in new investments from WCC members.** These funds are reinvested in Wisconsin-based Community Development Financial Institutions supporting local entrepreneurs & under-banked communities

Awaken Dane accepted its second cohort, now working with 82 people from 12 churches in 11 denominations toward thriving congregations and a thriving ecumenical ecosystem in Dane County

25 trained clergy and faith leaders served as **poll chaplains** at polling sites across the state

Cohosted 4 webinars with the Clergy Emergency League



Council staff preached, led worship, participated in panels, & facilitated conversation on more than **40 occasions in roughly 20 locations** throughout the state.

Up to 13,000 Afghan refugees lived at Fort McCoy between September 2021 and February 2022. Over the past 12 months, the WCC's network (YOU!) and our **Volunteer Coordinator for Refugee Relief & Resettlement** worked with a wide range of partners to provide surge support to an overwhelmed system. THANK YOU for your support!



3 Phases of the WCC's Afghan Refugee Response

1. recruiting, training, sending volunteers to help with Catholic Charities' Morale, Wellness, and Recreation mission at Fort McCoy for **115 days of volunteer service.**
2. working with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) to coordinate the **furnishing of five homes** for Afghan and refugee families, **supporting cosponsor congregations through their discernment and orientation, and coordinating volunteer services** to their facilities in Milwaukee;
3. **allocating \$43,500 in grants** to assist partners resettling and caring for Afghans and other refugees; leading educational forums and meetings, weekly newsletter, hosting a virtual workshop on cultural competency.



Sponsored an **Interfaith Vigil Against Gun Violence** following the school shooting in Uvalde TX, with MOSES and Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, at Common Grace, an ELCA/Moravian church in Madison.

We have exciting programs in the works for 2023, as well as continuing many existing efforts. Drop an email (wcoc@wichurches.org), check out our main website at wichurches.org or our social media (Twitter, Instagram, YouTube & Facebook) if you're interested in learning more!

Storm Procedures

GLCC has two storm sirens:

1. **Lightning Siren:** Set off by Lawsonia or lightning strike. Siren has a tone that rises and falls, rises and falls. Lightning is a thunder storm's worse killer. Stay indoors and away from electrical appliances when storms are overhead. If you are caught outside, stay well away from the tallest conductor of electricity. (Trees, poles, etc...)
2. **Tornado Siren:** Set off by the county in the event of a Tornado. Siren is steady, just like city tornado sirens or old air raid sirens. Take cover in the following places:
 - Children's Center: Move to Lone Tree Lodge, 1st floor hallway
 - Roger Williams Inn: Back of Staughton Hall (Pacific Southwest)/ Hallway by Snackery
 - Kern: Interior hallways and West Service hallway
 - Bauer: Interior hallways and West Service hallway
 - Lone Tree Lodge: First floor hallway
 - Boathouse: RWI storm locations
 - Campers and cabins: RWI storm locations, Conwell House basement, or camp utility/bathroom buildings if there is not enough time to move to RWI
 - Kraft Centre: Basement office suite area or hallways
 - Dining Room: Basement, Kitchen, Dish Room, or Interior hallway. For safety, keep away from equipment.
 - Robbins Student Center: CYC back hallway or RWI if time permits

In the event of severe weather, Guest Services has a list to call and notify. The Safety Department notifies campers and cabins.

A Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch means that the weather is favorable for severe conditions. In the event of a Watch, keep informed by listening to the radio: **WRPN 1600AM** or **Berlin 1090AM**, and keep an eye on weather conditions. Sirens will **not** blow if a **watch** has been issued, but GLCC staff will try to notify all guests.

A Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Warning means a storm is in the area and you need to take cover. Severe Thunderstorms contain high winds and lightning and can produce TORNADOS. The Tornado siren will blow if a Tornado Warning has been issued. The lightning siren will blow if Lawsonia is open, or if lightning strikes in the area.

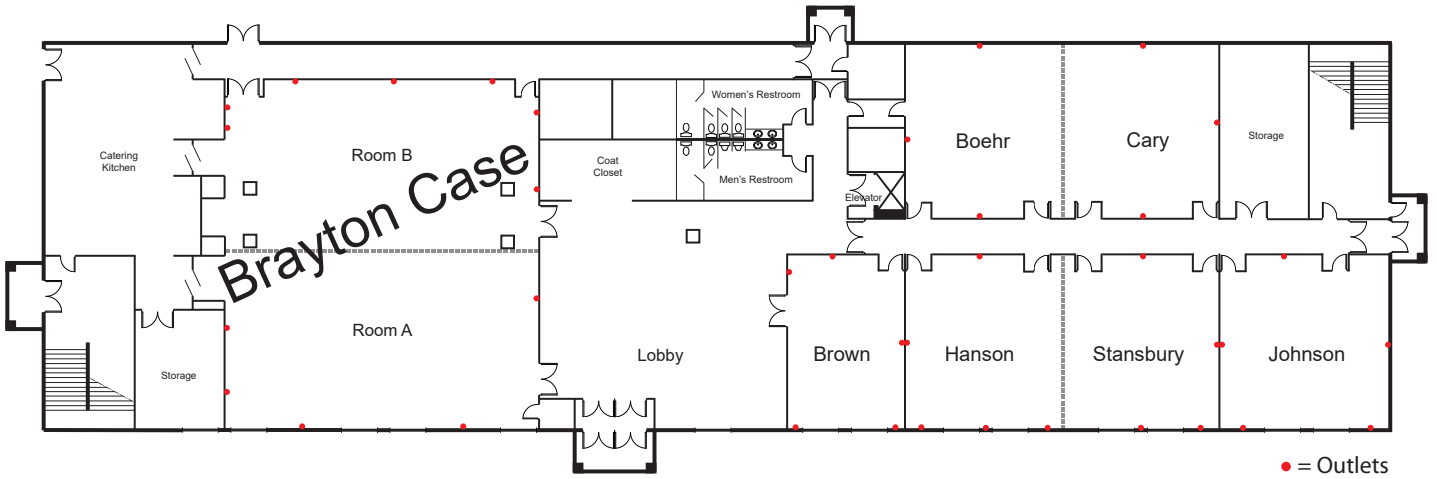
These procedures and shelter areas are suggestions. Every situation is different, and common sense and good judgment need to be used when taking shelter from a storm.

Annual Meeting Evaluations: We want your opinion!
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wcucc-am-2023>

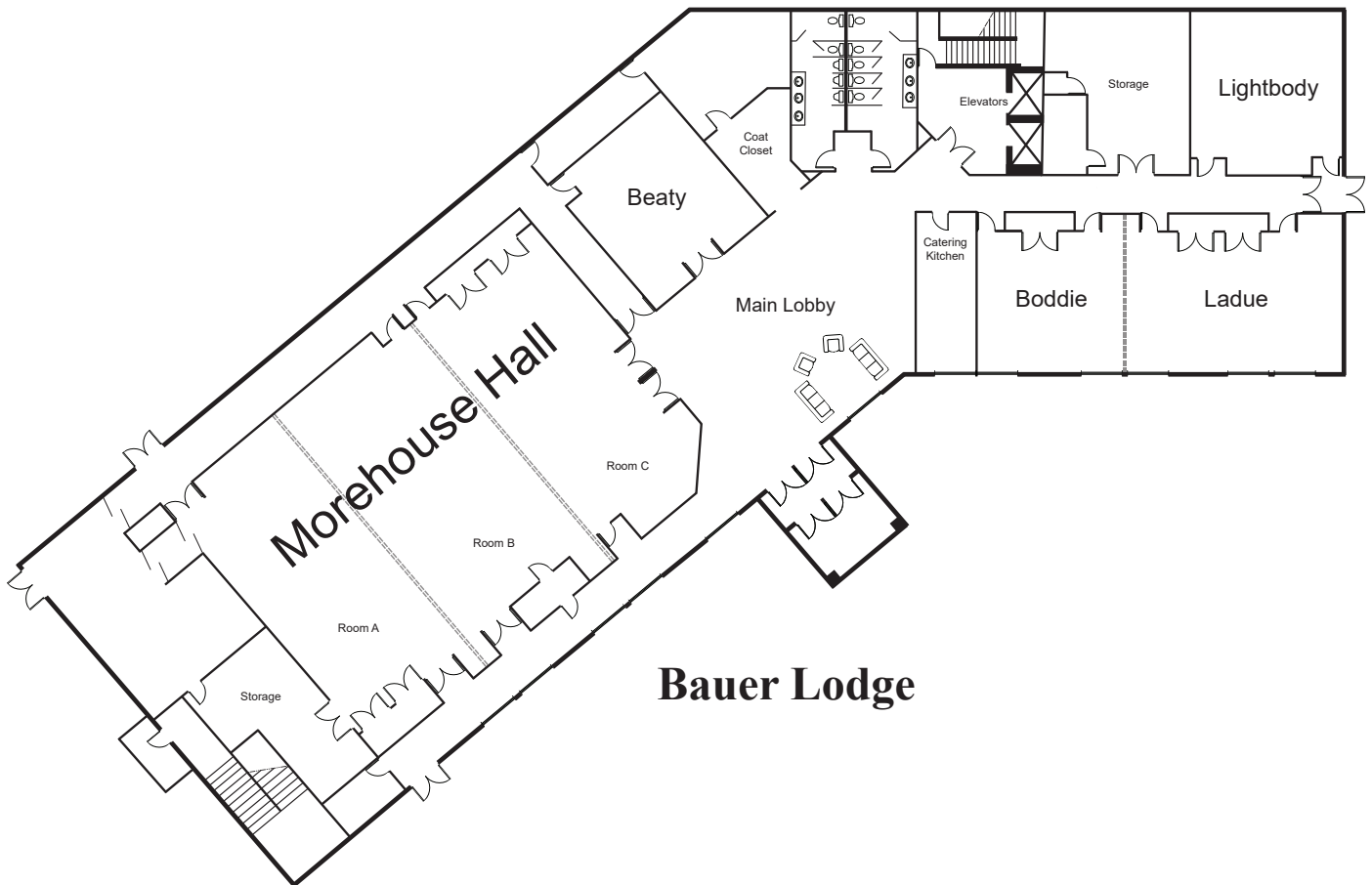
Daycholah Center Map



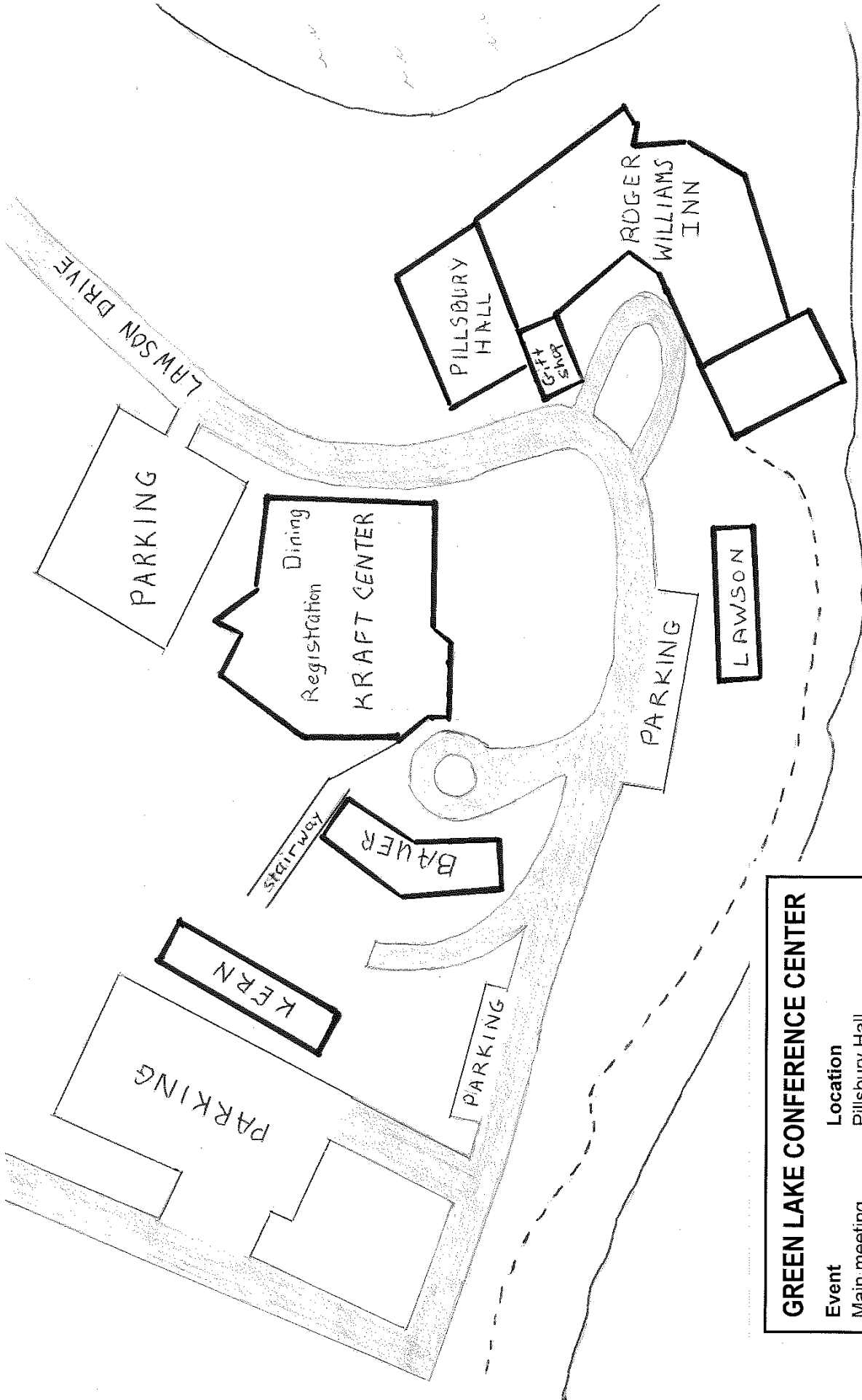
Workshop Meeting Room Locations



Kern Lodge



Bauer Lodge



Green Lake

GREEN LAKE CONFERENCE CENTER	
Event	Location
Main meeting	Pillsbury Hall
Exhibits	Lakeview (below Pillsbury)
Breakout sessions	Bauer and Kern
Workshops	Bauer and Kern
Dining	Kraft Center Dining Room
Walking path	-----