

OFFICE OF GENERAL MINISTRIES



THE REV. JOHN H. THOMAS
GENERAL MINISTER AND
PRESIDENT

The work of the Office of General Ministries includes the nitty-gritty essentials of the national setting, including common services, human resources, financial services, affirmative action and diversity initiatives, research, archives, communications, financial development, and Conference and ecumenical relations.

In April 2008, General Minister and President John H. Thomas, speaking from the pulpit at Trinity UCC in Chicago, called for a churchwide Sacred Conversation on Race, which OGM staff — in cooperation with Justice and Witness Ministries — helped to launch and promote across the denomination. While continuing to grow in its application and scope, the effort has initiated in-depth conversations on race in many local churches, Associations, Conferences, gathered assemblies, and in the national offices.

Conference relations and Ecumenical relations staff to the General Minister and President have provided leadership in the reestablishment of the National Council of Churches' vitality and stability, and in beginning the work of revising the structures and work of UCC Conferences in a time of significant stress and change.

Despite the fact that 2008 was an “off year” for General Synod, much of the advance work for General Synod 2009 took place in 2008, reminding us that the work of producing an effective, uplifting Synod experience every two years is an on-going commitment of church officers and staff.

The Proclamation, Identity and Communication Ministry launched the Tell Our Story campaign in 2008, with church members offering generous financial support to purchase two full-page UCC advertisements in *The New York Times* and *USA Today*. PIC also provided technical assistance and video services for National Youth Event in July. The website ministry spent much of the year building and testing myUCC, a new social networking community, launched in early 2009.

The Stillspeaking Ministry continues to inspire and encourage local churches to engage the media to tell the UCC's story. New 60-second radio spots aired nationally on Sirius Satellite Radio, and customizable versions were promoted to local churches for use in local markets. “Media with a Mission” grants were distributed to at least 30 churches — or regionalized clusters of churches — to provide financial support for TV and radio advertising. Newly

designed banners, t-shirts and other products are equipping local churches with UCC-branded items to promote their congregations.

The Financial Development Ministry continued to cultivate greater support for ministries across every setting of the church. The UCC's capacity for promoting and receiving online gifts has never been stronger, and the UCC continues to utilize new technologies to harness enthusiasm and support for our ministries. Despite the 2008 economic downturn, the Financial Development Ministry reminded each of us that giving to the church is an essential act of faithfulness and that our gifts position the UCC to be more responsive, especially during uncertain times.

The Office of General Ministries continues to work behind the scenes to reinforce the essential work of our Covenanted Ministries.



JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES



M. LINDA JARAMILLO
EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Justice and Witness Ministries continues its commitment to ministries of justice and peace that call for personal involvement at every level of the church. One critical way this involvement is actualized across the church is through our collective financial support for Our Church's Wider Mission and the Neighbors in Need special mission offering.

Early in 2008, JWM staff focused on setting priorities for programming, policy and advocacy needs during 2008 election cycle, including the presidential race. The result was nicely embodied in JWM's *Our Faith, Our Vote* campaign, designed to help our churches and members discover ways in which they, as institutions and individuals, can get involved in the political process. The staff's strategizing equipped us to focus intentionally on issues that most needed to be kept on the front burner during the campaign — climate change, immigration, the war in Iraq, health care, poverty and fair trade.

Due to popular demand, JWM, partnering with Wider Church Ministries, began the process to revive a highly respected ecumenical resource, the *Public Policy Briefing Book*. The publication contains tips for congregational advocacy and issue-by-issue coverage of domestic and international concerns likely to be acted on during this two-year session of Congress. The 2009-2010 Briefing Book is available online at <ucc.org/justice> and in print form.

We are in the second year of a three-year strategic plan called *Framing the Future*, which JWM's Board of Directors has endorsed. The plan includes new vision and mission statements and guiding principles for JWM's work. Moreover, the board approved the development of a curriculum which would help to train and increase justice leaders within our communities. This program, *Justice LED* (Leaders Engaging and Developing), was initiated in 2007, produced in 2008 and will be implemented in the coming year.

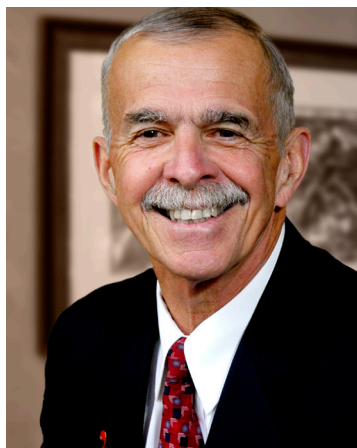
As the nation heard a call from then-presidential candidate Barack Obama to enter into secular conversations on race matters, JWM partnered with other Covenanted Ministries, as well as others across the denomination, to develop a multi-resourced kit, *Sacred Conversation on Race*, to spiritually address race and racism within the denomination and beyond.

Our *Centers for Education and Spiritual Transformation* continue to gain awareness for their uniqueness of ministry. *Centro Romero* in southern California addresses our nation's border and immigration issues. *Franklinton Center at Bricks* in rural eastern North Carolina looks at issues of race and racism. And the *Washington, D.C.*, office on Capitol Hill focuses its work on public policy.

Last but not least, many biblical mandates for justice and peace were lifted up at board meetings, Conference Annual Meetings, through interpretive resources, and the Neighbors in Need offering. Through all its efforts, Justice and Witness Ministries is working to inspire, interpret and involve our congregations and their members in the ongoing commitment to "frame the future" — one that envisions a just, compassionate and peaceful world that honors all of God's creation.



LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES



THE REV. STEPHEN L. STERNER
EXECUTIVE MINISTER

For Local Church Ministries, a highlight of 2008 was the National Youth Event, planned and hosted by LCM, which drew over 3,000 youth and young adults to Knoxville, TN, for a wonderful experience of spiritual deepening. Work by our Worship and Education Team continued on the UCC's new praise songbook at the United Church of Christ Musicians National Network's biennial gathering. More music for worship was offered in 2008 with *The New Century Hymnal* organ accompaniment CD set. We also began development of *Faith Practices: Worship, Learning, and Serving for Vital Congregations*, which will be ready for churches to begin using in September 2010.

The Ministry Issues Pronouncement and resources created around it gave direction to the ministry of our Parish Life and Leadership Team in 2008. The Team also hosted multiple partnership events, including regional seminarian gatherings; annual convocation for UCC History, Theology and Polity teachers; the biennial search-and-call gathering, and more.

Starting new UCC churches and renewing existing congregations was a high priority for our Evangelism ministry in 2008. The second New Church Leadership event was held, bringing together 100 new church planters and introducing a pilot program for redeveloper pastors. The Stillspeaking and Congregational Vitality Ministries worked together to provide God is Still Speaking, Ready, Set, Grow! retreats for congregations

The LCM Board of Directors voted to allocate \$661,500 to support 19 congregations from 16 Conferences, as well as a church development program in the Illinois Conference. Funds for this support come in part from the Strengthen the Church offering, for which receipts topped \$500,000 for the first time in 2008.

LCM's web development continued at a rapid pace in 2008. "Samuel," a sermon-preparation and worship resource page, was expanded this year to include more voices and continued to be the most popular page on ucc.org. The Stillspeaking Daily Devotional, written by the UCC Writer's Group, now reaches 10,000 people. Pilgrim Press staff worked extensively throughout 2008 toward the early 2009 opening of the UCC's online store to augment the customer service provided by UCC Resources.

The Stewardship Team sponsored a timely webinar on church giving in tough economic times in the fall of 2008 and offered web resources from UCC and non-UCC sources on related issues. Monthly Stewardship Messages, brief reflections on money and giving for use in church bulletins and newsletters, were introduced. In addition, focused attention on Our Church's Wider Mission development was begun in five Conferences.



WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES



THE REV. CALLY ROGERS-WITTE
EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Wider Church Ministries touches many by reaching out to the needs of many in the U.S. and worldwide. During 2008 the One Great Hour of Sharing staff hosted a tour of New Orleans and Biloxi to review and assess the rebuilding progress since Katrina. There are many mission groups making the trip to Louisiana each season through Volunteer Ministries. As natural disasters related to weather seem to increase, the commitment by the National Disaster Ministries staff is to be present and supply what is needed for long term solutions. Our UCC Disaster Response Teams and coordinators in each conference are the vital and necessary link to accomplishing this presence as soon as a disaster occurs.

The United Church AIDS Network (UCAN) has re-established its supportive network for addressing HIV/AIDS concerns in the US. Training sessions and resources for local churches have been promoted and distributed. Having been constituted as an independent non-profit entity in 2007, UCAN continues to formulate its organizational structure and seek grant funding for specific projects.

Refugee and Immigration Ministries has experienced a slight widening of the door for sponsored refugees to enter the US. About 50 UCC congregations have been involved in resettling refugees from Iraq, and some Asian and African countries.

WCM continued its international peacemaking efforts by sending delegates and calling government officials to action regarding the systematic slaughter of ethnic and Christian groups in northern Sri Lanka, and the murder of human rights activists, many of whom are clergy, in the Philippines.

The General Synod 26 call for churches and individuals to respond to the tragedy that has killed nearly 400,000 Darfurians while displacing 2.5 million. Others spawned the “Tents of Hope” project. The culmination of this effort was the November 2008 three-day peaceful demonstration on the Washington DC Mall in which many UCC staff and numerous congregations were present.

Wider Church Ministries’ Board and the Common Global Ministries Board sent a resolution to General Synod 27 calling for all levels of the denomination to claim their global mission priority in ministry. In 2008, seven conferences and 20 churches began the assessment and commitment process to receive the Global Ministries designation. Visibility about and advocacy for global issues increased following the national mission fest held in October, and because 300 UCC and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) members were trained in 2008 as Ministries and Mission Interpreters bringing the total in the network to nearly 700.

Today challenges continue to mount, yet hope abounds as relationships with our global partners deepen and grow. The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering met its giving goal enabling greater support of micro-financing projects in Asia and Africa thereby improving the lives of individuals, families and entire communities. Together we are making a better world.



CONFERENCE	FINAL	UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OCWM - BASIC SUPPORT 2008 / 2007 COMPARISON BY CONFERENCE												
		2008					2007					CHANGE	CHANGE	
		REPORTED NATIONAL	% of Total	CONFERENCE	% of Total	TOTAL	NATIONAL	% of Total	CONFERENCE	% of Total	TOTAL	GAIN/LOSS NATIONAL	GAIN/LOSS CONFERENCE	TOTAL
CAL NEV NORTH		165,907	20.0%	663,628	80.0%	829,535	173,080	20.0%	692,321	80.0%	865,401	-7,173	-28,693	-35,866
CAL NEV SOUTH	Note 5	217,338	40.0%	326,007	60.0%	543,345	206,959	40.0%	310,439	60.0%	517,398	10,379	15,568	25,947
CALVIN SYNOD	Note 1,3	500	100.0%		0.0%	500	600	Note 3		Note 3	600	-100	N/A	-100
CENTRAL ATLANTIC	Note 4	415,705	35.0%	771,657	65.0%	1,187,361	415,799	35.0%	773,768	65.0%	1,189,567	-95	-2,111	-2,206
CENTRAL PACIFIC	Note 7	71,722	24.3%	223,382	75.7%	295,104	83,894	23.0%	252,065	75.0%	335,959	-12,172	-28,683	-40,855
CONNECTICUT	Note 4	1,299,790	63.0%	763,369	37.0%	2,063,159	1,372,921	63.0%	806,717	37.0%	2,179,638	-73,131	-43,348	-116,478
FLORIDA		130,255	19.6%	533,107	80.4%	663,362	192,699	25.6%	560,573	74.4%	753,273	-62,445	-27,466	-89,910
HAWAII		115,186	41.2%	164,569	58.8%	279,755	107,244	38.2%	173,234	61.8%	280,478	7,942	-8,665	-723
ILLINOIS	Note 4	566,475	29.0%	1,386,886	71.0%	1,953,361	560,682	29.0%	1,375,644	71.0%	1,936,326	5,793	11,242	17,035
ILLINOIS SOUTH		154,142	30.0%	359,665	70.0%	513,807	164,847	30.0%	384,644	70.0%	549,492	-10,705	-24,979	-35,684
INDIANA-KENTUCKY		160,162	19.1%	678,775	80.9%	838,938	169,764	19.4%	705,961	80.6%	875,726	-9,602	-27,186	-36,788
IOWA	Note 2,5,7	352,459	31.8%	757,337	68.2%	1,109,796	269,349	36.0%	477,921	64.0%	747,270	83,110	279,415	362,526
KANSAS-OKLAHOMA	Note 5	71,638	16.3%	368,250	83.7%	439,888	71,202	25.5%	208,022	74.5%	279,225	436	160,227	160,664
MAINE		168,000	31.4%	367,057	68.6%	535,057	161,032	27.8%	418,575	72.2%	579,607	6,968	-15,518	-44,550
MASSACHUSETTS	Note 5	1,176,134	60.0%	784,089	40.0%	1,960,223	1,215,626	60.0%	811,588	40.0%	2,027,214	-39,492	-27,499	-66,991
MICHIGAN	Note 7	219,009	31.0%	487,037	69.0%	706,046	232,188	31.0%	516,808	69.0%	748,996	-13,179	-29,771	-42,950
MINNESOTA		286,159	34.8%	537,319	65.2%	823,478	283,469	34.8%	532,269	65.2%	815,737	2,691	5,050	7,741
MISSOURI MID S	Note 5	220,860	25.0%	662,580	75.0%	883,439	220,282	25.0%	660,845	75.0%	881,127	578	1,734	2,312
MONTANA N WYOMING		37,439	20.0%	149,754	80.0%	187,193	36,418	20.0%	145,670	80.0%	182,088	1,021	4,084	5,105
NEBRASKA	Note 1,3	111,293	100.0%		0.0%	111,293	107,366	25.0%	322,100	75.0%	429,466	3,926	-322,100	-318,173
NEW HAMPSHIRE		355,962	45.0%	434,734	55.0%	790,696	356,623	45.0%	435,872	55.0%	792,495	-661	-1,138	-1,799
NEW YORK		87,436	11.0%	704,840	89.0%	792,276	106,225	12.5%	745,122	87.5%	851,347	-18,789	-40,282	-59,071
NORTHERN PLAINS	Note 4	12,334	13.6%	78,525	86.4%	90,859	12,974	13.0%	86,827	87.0%	99,801	-640	-8,302	-8,943
OHIO	Note 7	417,044	19.4%	1,731,483	80.6%	2,148,527	425,400	19.3%	1,778,378	80.7%	2,203,778	-8,357	-46,895	-55,251
PACIFIC NW	Note 4	165,812	30.1%	385,793	69.9%	551,605	179,727	29.7%	425,453	70.3%	605,181	-13,915	-39,661	-53,576
PENN CENTRAL		297,841	27.0%	807,052	73.0%	1,104,893	330,000	32.9%	671,867	67.1%	1,001,867	-32,159	135,186	103,026
PENN NE	Note 7	65,090	10.4%	559,748	89.6%	624,838	78,584	12.3%	558,625	87.7%	637,208	-13,494	1,123	-12,370
PENNSYLVANIA SE	Note 5	100,000	8.5%	1,071,601	91.5%	1,171,601	306,144	24.7%	934,125	75.3%	1,240,269	-206,144	137,476	-68,668
PENN WEST		44,393	14.8%	254,749	85.2%	299,142	41,222	14.7%	239,529	85.3%	280,751	3,171	15,221	18,391
RHODE ISLAND		113,000	36.2%	199,241	63.8%	312,241	111,000	35.7%	199,817	64.3%	310,817	2,000	-576	1,424
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	Note 5	138,311	30.0%	323,018	70.0%	461,329	149,691	30.0%	349,279	70.0%	498,970	-11,380	-26,261	-37,641
SOUTH CENTRAL		51,819	20.0%	207,275	80.0%	259,094	44,849	17.3%	213,845	82.7%	258,694	6,970	-6,570	400
SOUTH DAKOTA	Note 1,3	0		0		0	36,000	12.8%	244,383	87.2%	280,383	-36,000	-244,383	-280,383
SOUTHEAST		27,325	9.8%	252,000	90.2%	279,325	29,176	11.0%	236,063	89.0%	265,240	-1,852	15,937	14,085
SOUTHERN		0		479,694		479,694	45,000	9.6%	425,528	90.4%	470,528	-45,000	54,166	9,166
SOUTHWEST		99,166	25.0%	297,498	75.0%	396,664	103,735	25.0%	311,205	0.0%	414,939	-4,569	-13,707	-18,276
VERMONT		224,722	45.0%	274,660	55.0%	499,382	223,182	45.0%	272,778	55.0%	495,959	1,540	1,883	3,423
WISCONSIN	Note 6	480,000	22.5%	1,657,061	77.5%	2,137,061	505,000	22.5%	1,738,215	77.5%	2,243,215	-25,000	-81,154	-106,154
Note 5:		289,474	100.0%		0.0%	289,474	380,626	100.0%	0	0.0%	380,626	-91,153		-91,153
MISC		171,790	100.0%		0.0%	171,790	130,393	100.0%	0	0.0%	130,393	41,397	N/A	41,397
TOTAL		9,081,689	31.1%	19,703,441	68.9%	28,785,130	9,640,973	31.3%	19,996,075	68.7%	29,637,048	-559,284	-292,634	-851,918

Note 1: Final Reconciliation Form not provided by the Conference

Note 2: Support sent directly to National by churches or individuals.

Note 3: Excluded from retention %, no conference data available.

Note 4: Different amount than Conference reported based on actual cash received and blue form figures

Note 5: Money received from Conferences from one time, special giving as a Property Sale, Will & bequests, etc - This is over and above projected goals; also includes money received too late to count in previous year

Note 6: Wisconsin reported an additional 170,000 in OCWM income in 2006 but the information was received too late - included in national 2007 as reports were already published and audited

Note 7: Different amount than Conference reported - Conference reported through Directed Gifts; National included in OCWM as that is what was directed by donor

WHERE NATIONAL CREDITED GIFT IN 2008 AND CONFERENCE CREDITED IN 2007, NO ADJUSTMENT WAS MADE TO "CONFERENCE RETAINED" AMOUNT OR %

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2008 MISSION SPENDING STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY - Unaudited Statement for the Year Ended December 31, 2008

	<u>EC</u>	<u>OGM</u>	<u>JWM</u>	<u>LCM</u>	<u>WCM</u>	(Note 1) <u>PB</u>	(Note 1) <u>UCF</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent of Totals</u>
MISSION FUNDING									
OCWM - National Basic Support	794,920	2,336,345	1,393,557	2,331,782	1,651,883	573,202		9,081,689	30.73%
OCWM - Special Support	0	0	909,654	195,964	3,048,840			4,154,457	14.06%
Total Return Draw on Investments	0	785,304	1,399,860	3,883,894	2,372,728			8,441,786	28.57%
Trusts & Gifts	394,708	143,193	60,031	502,975	721,943			1,822,852	6.17%
Reimbursements	0	134,459	176	419,216	1,652,732			2,206,582	7.47%
Resource Sales/Fees	5,225	459,583	2,512	1,630,993	4,399			2,102,713	7.12%
Draw on Unrestricted Reserves	109,702	927,005	38,139	136,273	324,915			1,536,033	5.20%
Other	22,615	9,436	3,150	4,657	165,180			205,038	0.69%
TOTALS	<u>1,327,171</u>	<u>4,795,325</u>	<u>3,807,080</u>	<u>9,105,753</u>	<u>9,942,620</u>	<u>573,202</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>29,551,150</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
MISSION SPENDING									
Program Ministries	367,811	855,243	639,154	1,837,745	3,822,331	573,202		8,095,485	27.39%
Staff Ministries		2,390,142	1,857,416	4,075,093	1,739,661			10,062,312	34.05%
Overseas Personnel					2,044,374			2,044,374	6.92%
Retires Overseas Personnel					530,285			530,285	1.79%
Shared Ministries (Common Services)		623,311	485,902	1,158,495	540,619			2,808,327	9.50%
Operating & Support Ministries	140,774	575,735	293,187	667,799	607,648			2,285,143	7.73%
Church House & Other Facilities		247,557	251,565	480,490	173,494			1,153,107	3.90%
Ministry of Governance	421,313	54,805	129,028	139,460	147,232			891,838	3.02%
Grants	397,274	48,533	150,828	746,670	336,976			1,680,281	5.69%
TOTALS	<u>1,327,171</u>	<u>4,795,325</u>	<u>3,807,080</u>	<u>9,105,753</u>	<u>9,942,620</u>	<u>573,202</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>29,551,150</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

(Note 1) Pension Boards is included to report their distributive allocation of NBS. United Church Foundation does not receive NBS.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2009 MISSION SPENDING PLAN**

	(Note 2) EC	OGM	JWM	LCM	WCM	(Note 1) PB	(Note 1) UCF	Total	Percent of Totals
MISSION FUNDING									
OCWM - National Basic Support	926,300	2,186,789	1,268,777	2,119,628	1,475,840	522,666		8,500,000	27.31%
OCWM - Special Support		21,461	821,272	224,682	3,000,000			4,067,415	13.07%
Total Return Draw on Investments		808,517	1,445,396	3,936,517	2,415,448			8,605,878	27.65%
Trusts & Gifts		275,000	134,000	593,500	745,000			1,747,500	5.61%
Reimbursements		176,468	500	546,000	1,161,620			1,884,588	6.05%
Resource Sales/Fees	732,500	655,000	1,700	1,699,050				3,088,250	9.92%
Draw on Unrestricted Reserves		1,219,308	387,617	472,030	1,106,642			3,185,597	10.23%
Other		2,000	4,500	15,500	25,000			47,000	0.15%
TOTALS	<u>1,658,800</u>	<u>5,344,543</u>	<u>4,063,762</u>	<u>9,606,907</u>	<u>9,929,550</u>	<u>522,666</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>31,126,228</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
MISSION SPENDING									
Program Ministries	115,000	1,120,175	723,500	1,864,335	3,692,537	522,666		8,038,213	25.82%
Staff Ministries		2,599,979	2,110,992	4,160,578	1,727,596			10,599,145	34.05%
Overseas Personnel					2,086,021			2,086,021	6.70%
Retires Overseas Personnel					440,000			440,000	1.41%
Shared Ministries (Common Services)		705,907	525,000	1,445,702	700,000			3,376,609	10.85%
Operating & Support Ministries	32,400	627,651	287,435	747,700	628,668			2,323,854	7.47%
Church House & Other Facilities		241,331	251,835	461,796	173,848			1,128,810	3.63%
Ministry of Governance	1,117,500	49,500	135,000	130,000	145,000			1,577,000	5.07%
Grants & Subsidies	393,900		30,000	796,796	335,880			1,556,576	5.00%
TOTALS	<u>1,658,800</u>	<u>5,344,543</u>	<u>4,063,762</u>	<u>9,606,907</u>	<u>9,929,550</u>	<u>522,666</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>31,126,228</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

(Note 1) Pension Boards is included to report their distributive allocation of NBS. United Church Foundation does not receive NBS.

(Note 2) Includes the General Synod budget of \$1,192,500 less \$460,000 from Basic Support