

Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy:

A Shared Campaign between the Penn West Conference and the
United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance

United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, Inc.



The Background

The Mission of the **Penn West Conference (PWC)** of the **United Church of Christ** is “engaging in covenantal relationships; sharing God’s love with all.”

In support of that mission, the Conference’s **Mission Grants Program (MGP)** enables congregations to reach out to their communities in new and visible ways, nurture and develop leaders and youth for church growth and vitality, and to fund operational and program expenses that might otherwise go unaddressed.



The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ (PBUCC), one of the PWC's covenantal partners, provides financial programs and benefits for those who serve the church.

The United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA), the charitable arm of the Pension Boards, provides direct support to ministers and lay church employees in need and funds leadership initiatives to promote sustainable ministry in the UCC.



The Pension Boards
United Church of Christ, Inc.



The Challenge

The PWC's Mission Grants Program and the programs of UCBMA echo each other in commitment to meeting challenges facing the church today.

The Mission Grants Program hopes to encourage each of our ministries to “never grow weary doing good” (Galatians 6:9) by funding in three areas: (1) Reaching Out to strengthen congregations' relationships and visibility through service (2) Strengthening the Church to support church growth and development in PWC and (3) Operational Support.

But for both organizations, needs are outpacing resources.



The Solution



We are embarking on a shared campaign to raise funds for use within the Conference: *Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy*.

Together, we aim to raise a total of \$500,000 over the next 5 years.

- \$450,000 to expand the base of available funds in the Mission Grants Program for which local churches might apply
- \$50,000 mission tithe to UCBMA to care for PWC retired ministers and the development of clergy and church leaders for our future

Mission Grants Program

Over the last three years, 32 churches in Penn West have received grants totaling \$96,000 through the MGP, and the impact on those congregations, the communities they serve, and the ministries of hopeful faithfulness they embody has been transformational. Listed below are some of the 2018 Mission Grants Awardees:

St. Paul's Community Church in Chicora - \$1,500 grant for Guatemala Mission Trip.

Paradise Community United Church of Christ in Reynoldsville - \$1,000 grant toward Roof Replacement and \$1,500 grant for Living Water – the Tinaca Project for Moving Mountains Mission.

Emmanuel Reformed United Church of Christ in Export - \$1,500 grant for a Spiritual Direction and Leadership Program for their Pastor.

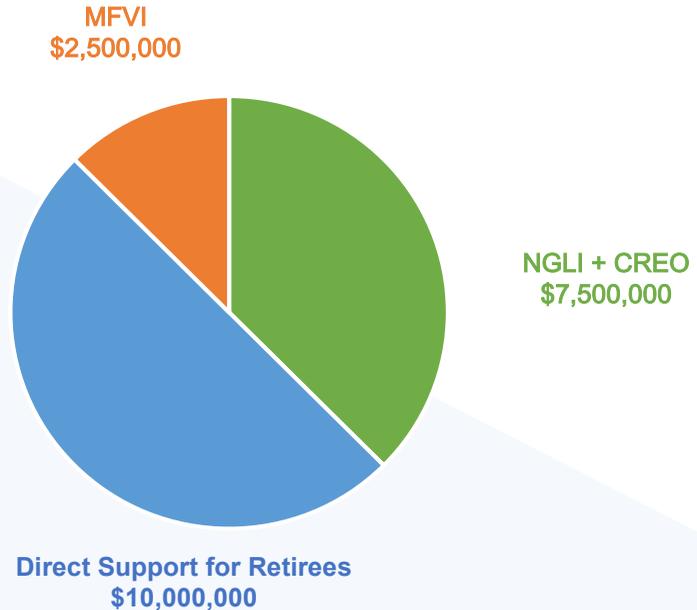
Jerusalem United Church of Christ in Rimersburg - \$1,500 grant for their Blessing Kids Project.



Sharon Curtis, Marsha Kepple, and Maxine Tack of St. Paul's Community Church in Chicora with David Ackerman, Conference Minister.

Generations of Service: Faith and Finance in Action

Generations of Service: Faith and Finance in Action– A Campaign for the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance is a \$20,000,000 capital funds campaign to provide for the financial needs of retired United Church of Christ (UCC) ministers and lay employees and support UCBMA leadership programs to sustain healthy and effective ministers now and into the future.



UCBMA Programs

Last year UCBMA distributed more than \$4,000,000 to assist, sustain and build up those who serve our United Church of Christ.

Retired and active UCC ministers and lay church employees in need received direct assistance and leadership initiatives for the future of the United Church of Christ were funded: Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI)—equips and empowers younger UCC pastors to build vital congregations; CREDO—provides time and resources to mid-career pastors toward greater spiritual, vocational, financial, and physical and mental health wellness in their lives and ministries; The Ministers' Financial Vitality Initiative (MFVI)—strengthens financial management skills so that clergy may move toward a more secure future; The Annuitant Visitor Program—160 visitors call annually on 6,000 retirees and their spouses to check in and offer appreciation for their faithful service to the church.



How to Make a Gift

You can help strengthen our congregations in Penn West Conference and support generations of leaders throughout the United Church of Christ by making your gift to the Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy campaign. Please give generously.

To make a gift to the Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy campaign, please send a check payable to:

Penn West Conference, 312 South Maple Avenue, Suite PWC, Greensburg PA 15601. Please include "Caring Campaign" in the memo.



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