

Have you ever wondered what “Basic Support” was in our budget? Here’s an explanation.

Our Church’s Wider Mission

Excerpted from United Church News April 2004. Written by Tina Villa.

1. **What is it?**

Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) is the name we give in the United Church of Christ to everything we do together as a church beyond the local congregation. OCWM funds your UCC Conference (for mission and ministry in your state or region) and the national ministries of the UCC (national and global mission). OCWM has two components:

- **Basic Support** for the funding of core programs; and
- **Special Support** for specific mission opportunities through the four UCC special mission offerings.

2. **What do the UCC Conference and National Ministries do?**

Conferences

- Initiate and coordinate local and regional mission outreach, sometimes bringing congregations together for mission, sometimes initiating mission projects of their own, responding to the particular needs of your area.
- Help local churches find pastors and oversee the training and performance of ministers.
- Many conferences run church camps for youth.
- Provide leadership training and continuing education opportunities for pastors and lay leaders.

The **National Ministries** of the UCC

- Provide resources (curricula, hymnals, evangelism and stewardship manuals, worship materials, Sunday bulletins, etc) for UCC congregations.

- Provide special training in a wide variety of congregational needs for pastors and lay leaders.
- Provide support for starting new churches and funding pastoral leadership for new churches.
- Send missionaries to 85 countries worldwide, participate in refugee resettlement and disaster relief, and advocate for human rights and economic development.
- Participate in interfaith dialogue and provide educational ministries with UCC-related colleges and seminaries.

3. How much of my offering every Sunday goes to OCWM?

It depends on how much your congregation decides to contribute. (DUCC contributed \$9,300.00 for 2004). On average, among the 5,800 congregations in the UCC and 40 Conferences, Conferences use about 2-1/2 cents out of every dollar, and the national ministries receive 2 cents out of every dollar given by UCC members.

4. How much total OCWM money do the National Ministries of the UCC receive?

In 2002, the UCC national ministries received \$17,773.098 in OCWM contributions. This includes \$6,130,241 in receipts from the four UCC special mission offerings (Neighbors in Need, The Christmas Fund, Strengthen the Church, and One Great Hour of Sharing). These contributions for OCWM represent about 2% of total church giving by UCC members.

5. How much money given to OCWM is spent on administration?

For 2003: \$1,354,142 or 8% of the OCWM monies collected.

6. How is giving to OCWM different from giving to other good causes?

OCWM keeps the church strong, even as it engages in mission and outreach to others. The church has a unique and important role to play in our society and the world, today and for future generations.