



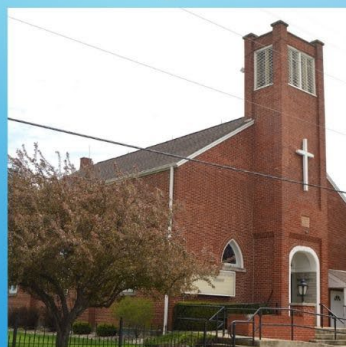
63rd Annual Meeting
Theme: "Joys & Challenges of Ministry Today"
Saturday, April 25, 2026
Via Hybrid (ZOOM or In-Person)



Co-Hosting Churches



St. John's UCC, Tiffin



St. John's UCC, Fostoria



Zion UCC, Bettsville

Trinity UCC
131 E. Perry St.
Tiffin, Ohio 44883

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63rd Annual Meeting
April 25, 2026
Proposed Agenda
Northwest Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference
Trinity UCC, Tiffin, OH.
THEME: "Joys & Challenges of Church Ministry 2026"
2 Timothy 4:1-5

8:00 am Registration & Breakfast
9:00 am Call to Order – Declaration of Quorum (Sanctuary)
Welcome-Moderator, Peggy George
Announcements-Dr. Don Giesmann
Opening Worship- Rev. Don Giesmann, Bridge Interim Association Minister
Rev. Karsten Snitker, Pastor Trinity UCC, Tiffin & Rev. Audra Ferguson, St.
John's UCC, Tiffin
(Special offering-Marshallese Church, Celina)

Adoption of Agenda

Approval of 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

Greetings & Special Guests

Dr. Brent Sleasman, President of Winebrenner Seminary, Findlay

Rev. Randon Jello-Pastor of Marshallese, Celina

Rev. Ed Karges-Pastor, St. Paul's UCC, St. Mary's

Rev. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference

Rev. Fred Coulter-W.I.S.E./Safe Church

Stephanie Johnson-NAMI-W.I.S.E./Mental Health

Beth Long Higgins-United Church Homes

Darla Metz-Pastor Republic UCC & St. Jacob's UCC, Republic/United Church Homes

Jay Scott-Pastor of Emanuel UCC, Upper Sandusky

Ed Heilman-Pastor Park Congregational, Toledo

New to the Association & Members in Discernment

Nominations and Election

Financial Reports – 2025 Final Budget & 2026 Proposed Budget

Recognition – Anniversaries, OCWM Awards

Reception & Appreciation for reports -Teams, Committees, and Association Minister

*Break

11:15 am Keynote Address –Dr. Brent Sleasman, President & CEO of Winebrenner
Seminary, Findlay, OH.
"1 King, 1 Kingdom, & 1 Kingdom Mission"

12:15 pm Break for Lunch in the Fellowship Hall

1:15 pm Breakout rooms (One person per workshop)

Pastor Jay Scott-Where's the Restroom?

Is your church REALLY ready for visitors? Pastor Jay Scott will lead a hands-on experience that will show you how to review your church property and building for making it as easy as possible for visitors.

Dr. Fred Coulter-W.I.S.E. Workshop-Mental Health First Aid

Mental Health First Aid - An introduction to Mental Health by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health) <https://namiohio.org/resources/about-mental-illness/mental-health-first-aid/> Mental Health First Aid is a groundbreaking public education program that helps the public identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders.

Dr. Fred Coulter- W.I.S.E. Workshop-Safe Church

Safe Church - A workshop on introducing an assessment tool, <https://www.praesidiumib.com/kys/>. The Presidium Assessment tool was built on the foundation of The Presidium Safety Equation®, which establishes standards for abuse prevention in eight critical operations. Completing a self-assessment through this Tool will help you identify potential gaps in your abuse prevention practices in each of the eight operations of the Safety Equation. Your assessment report provides comprehensive data and direct links to relevant resources, helping you build an action plan to close the risk gaps.

Rev. Darla Metz/Rev. Beth Long-Higgins-UCH Sharing Faith Across Generations: How can younger and older learn faith from each other?

In a 2024 report looking at older adults' spiritual needs, one of the findings indicated that older adults today do not feel comfortable talking about their faith in general and particularly with younger generations. We will look at what we mean by "sharing faith" and why connection with younger generations benefits not only those who are younger, but those who are older.

Rev. Ed Heilman-Prayer Workshop

Find our website at contemplatives-in-action.org. While we enjoy many ways to practice spirituality, this workshop will offer one reason to pray based on John 17:21, one way to pray based on Matthew 6:6, and how to follow up according to Micah 6:8. One minute sand timers will be gifted attendees, so the practice can be taken home from the meeting. We will invite interested persons to give contact information, to be invited to the monthly zoom practice. We are not saying silence is the only way, but that it is a good way, and many have found it to be the best way.

Dr. Brent Sleasman-Further Conversation with Dr. Brent Sleasman

Meet & Greet with Q & A with Dr. Brent Sleasman

- 2:15 pm Discussion of Heartland Conference & Indiana/Kentucky Conference Cooperation
David Long-Higgins
Mary Powell-2025 Treasurer's Report/2026 Treasurer's Report/2027 Proposed
- 2:45 pm Spending
- Adjournment Closing Worship & Leadership Installation

OFFICERS

- Ms. Peggy George.....Moderator
- Pastor Jay ScottVice Moderator
- Rev. Darla Metz Secretary
- Mr. Carl DettmerTreasurer

STAFF

- Rev. Don Giesmann..... Bridge Interim Association Minister
- Mrs. Kim NyeOffice Manager/Placement Coordinator
- Mrs. Deb LongBookkeeper

BIOGRAPHIES

Ms. Peggy George – MODERATOR

I have been a member of Bloomville UCC since 1976, serving several years as President of the Consistory. I remain a member even though Bloomville is not my current home. I currently reside in St. Marys, Ohio. I’m not new to the NWOA, having served as Sandusky Valley representative, past Vice-Moderator, and member of the HR Committee.

I have taken Old Testament and New Testament classes in the Lay School.

Due to the retirement of Rev. Jim Brehler in April 2024, I assumed the role of Moderator for the remainder of Jim’s term for 2024. I conducted my first annual meeting on April 27, 2024, at St. Stephen United Church of Christ in Sandusky, Ohio. I led in-person meetings at the NWOA office in Tiffin on May 18 and September 21. The rest of the year Zoom meetings were held on November 9, January 25 and March 15. We are preparing for the 62nd Annual Meeting to be held at Peace Community UCC in Waldo. It has been a pleasure to serve as Moderator, and I look forward to continuing my service on the Association Cabinet.

Pastor Jay Scott - VICE MODERATOR

Pastor Jay Scott is the licensed pastor at Emanuel UCC at Upper Sandusky, (aka “The Mud Church!”) where he has served since August 2014. His upbringing is in the United Methodist Church, and he pastored a Methodist church prior to Emanuel. Jay has a professional background in broadcasting, marketing/public relations, and American Red Cross management and disaster relief. Jay is also a farmer, and lives on the family farm with his wife, Kathy, who is secretary at two Lutheran churches. They have two daughters, and four granddaughters.

Rev. Don Giesmann-Bridge Interim Association Minister

I grew up in the Pittsburgh, PA area. Has been in pastoral ministry for over 50 years including churches and ministries in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Connecticut, and South Carolina. Don became a public-school teacher in secondary education briefly and then went to Gordon-Conwell Seminary for his master’s and then earned a Doctor of Education (EdD) degree. Studies included Princeton, Louisville, and Trinity Seminaries. Two daughters - Carrie who passed away from cancer, and Alison who has directed a women's shelter and works to help with housing needs in Michigan. There are seven grandkids and two great grandkids. Don was ordained a Presbyterian and transferred into the UCC and pastored 3 UCC churches in Indiana, and in Fostoria and Genoa, OH. He also served as Moderator of the UCC Indiana-Kentucky Conference and various other ways of serving, He has written numerous articles, done magazine editing, and done broadcasting. Hobbies include family times,reading, traveling, movies, and pet cat "Stormie". Residence is in Northwood, OH.

Dr. Brent Sleasman-Keynote Speaker

WELCOME OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Dr. Brent Sleasman
President/CEO Winebrenner Theological Seminary in Findlay, OH
Ph. D in Rhetoric from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA
Master of Divinity from Winebrenner Theological Seminary Findlay, OH
Bachelor of Arts (Speech Major, Music Minor) Findlay, OH
Dr. Sleasman has served as a Worship and Youth Director, Church Pastor, and Church Planter Served as Associate Professor in The School of Communication and The Arts at Gannon University Served as Fulltime Instructor, Department of Communication, at West Chester University

BRIEF HISTORY

Trinity UCC, Tiffin, Ohio

Trinity UCC - *"Living and Sharing God's compassion, justice, and peace in the world."*

Trinity UCC (Tiffin, Ohio) was formed from the merger of First Reformed Church and Grace Reformed Church in 1925.

Trinity UCC's ministry passions include missions, worship and music ministry, and fellowship groups. We are a church that likes to serve together, worship and create together, share meals, and support many ministry projects near and far.

St. John's UCC, Tiffin, Ohio

In 2025, we celebrated 190 years! The journey began in 1835 with a group of German Lutherans and Reformers getting together to create a church dedicated to following Christ. The current church building is the 3rd in our history and includes a parsonage attached to it. We have had 32 ministers in our time, with two of them being honored with Pastor Emeritus, The Reverend Ira R. Harkins and The Reverend David M. Culp. Our current minister, The Reverend Audra L. Ferguson has been with us for 5 years.

St. John's UCC, Fostoria, Ohio

St. John's United Church of Christ, Fostoria was originally organized on July 4, 1845, at its current location on St. Rt 587 just outside of Fostoria. It was originally named "The Fruth Congregation"; the first worshippers were German immigrants who settled in Loudon Township around 1833. Rev Adam A Conrad, a member of the Lutheran Synod of Ohio was the first named pastor. On July 4, 1865, the church became a United Lutheran and Reformed Church. The building was erected in 1851 on land donated by John Cramer. The brick church was built in 1878 and remodeled in 1911. In 1937 the remodeled building was partially destroyed by a tornado. It was rebuilt, then expanded in 1969.

St. John's is a vibrant and spirit-filled congregation that participates in community outreach through a Laundry Mat Mission and various other community organizations. We welcome ALL who are searching for a place to worship. You will find traditional hymns accompanied by beautiful organ music, challenging messages that are relevant to today's world, and a welcoming intergenerational congregation.

Zion UCC, Bettsville, Ohio

Zion United Church of Christ has stood at the heart of Bettsville, Ohio, for well over a century. Its cornerstone was set in the fall of 1882, and by May 20, 1883, the doors of the little church first opened to welcome worshippers. Nearly eighty years later, in September of 1962, the congregation celebrated the dedication of a new addition—creating the fellowship hall and Sunday school space that continues to bring people together today. We often call ourselves "the Little Church with a Big Heart." Our Sunday school program springs to life whenever our younger members join us. Zion is also home to the Caring Hands Food Pantry, serving families across our community each week and adopting several families every Christmas. We are blessed with two licensed pastors, a gifted song leader, and an incredible team of lay volunteers who faithfully give their time and talents.

RULES AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Sixty-third Annual Meeting of the Northwest Ohio Association

The rules and operating procedures for this Annual Meeting are intended to increase the meeting's effectiveness and simplicity, and to decrease confusion and uncertainty.

The meeting itself is the total responsibility of all the delegates. Delegates (and visitors with voice) should speak only on the subject at hand, remaining aware that there are others who may wish to speak and limiting the number of times he/she speaks and the length of each speech.

The Annual Meeting Planners and the Association Cabinet suggest the following operating procedures:

1. All proceedings, unless otherwise provided for, are governed by Roberts Rules of Order, as Amended.
2. Every member in good standing of a United Church of Christ has the privilege of the floor, but only official delegates and those granted voice and vote by this Association may make motions or vote. During debate the Moderator shall attempt to alternate between "pro" and "con" speakers.
3. Every motion, except a very simple one, must be submitted in writing to the secretary for in-person attendees or through the chat feature of Zoom for those virtual attendees, at the time it is made.
4. Speakers addressing the meeting shall be limited to three minutes on a first speech and two minutes if they wish to speak a second time to the same matter of business.
5. The bar of the house shall be defined as the pews in the main sanctuary of the church for in-person attendees and the Zoom Meeting Room for virtual attendees. Only official delegates within the bar of the house shall be eligible to vote.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE

NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Copies of the Northwest Ohio Association Constitution and Bylaws
are available by request at the Association office
or by

[CLICKING HERE](#)

2026 REPORT FROM THE BRIDGE INTERIM ASSOCIATION MINISTER Dr. Donald J. Giesmann

Theme: "The Joys and Challenges of Ministry 2026"

(2 Timothy 4:2) "Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not.

Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching."

(Luke 10:27) Love the Lord and Love your neighbor

ENJOYING: I really enjoy ministry with the Association. This ministry is busy and full of blessings. **BLESSINGS:** The Lord is bringing results in our Association churches and countless lives through all of us. **PRAYING:** There has been an increase in prayer, in the VINE newsletter, in our churches, and among individuals. **SEARCH AND CALL:** A year of extensive helping churches find pastors and pastors finding churches. **ORDINATIONS:** Three. Rev. Amy Kinney, Rev. Elyse Cramer, and Rev. Liesl Higgins and more ahead. **INSTALLATIONS:** Increased number and more ahead. **CABINET AND COMMITTEES:** Team work with the Cabinet (our board of directors) work with various Committees who do all kinds of ministry. **LICENSURE:** Thankful for those licensed and their ministries. More licensed ministers to be considered for approval ahead. **CHURCHES:** 67 churches and some 13,000 members. **CONTACTS:** Extensive reaching out to churches to see how our churches and pastors are doing. **TRAINING:** Thankful for meaningful boundary training and periodic support training this year. **STAFF TEAM:** Thankful for the work of Office Manager Kim Nye and Bookkeeper Deb Long, and Janitor Rick Sholl. **REPORTS:** Lists of churches, pastors, organization names updated and maintained. Thank you Kim Nye. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Revisions of the format and articles in the weekly VINE newsletter. We added "Church Idea of the Week", biographies, practical information and more. **OUTREACH:** Encouraging publicity of local church events, advice to churches about publicity, encouraging creation of church programs. **MISSIONS:** Regular promotion of missions, disaster relief, food pantries, new church start through the new Marshallese Church in Celina and other missions. **COOPERATION:** Listening and sharing sessions about the cooperation between the Heartland Conference and the Indiana-Kentucky Conference and the future, Dayton retreat held also. **ECUMENICAL:** Increased sharing and joint resourcing between the Association and the Presbyterians and Disciples of Christ in Ohio. **RETIRED MINISTERS:** Retired ministers' groups regularly meet. We have a large group of retired ministers and spouses. Wonderful people and experience to learn from. **COP:** A high number of Community of Practice groups of pastors. **Transition:** Transition changes with the retirement of Rev. Dan Busch. **FINANCE:** With high inflation, fuel costs, careful watch is maintained and there is increased stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. **LAY SCHOOL:** The Lay School continues with worthwhile classes and committed students. **SUPPLY:** Helping churches who need supply or interim pastors. **BUSYNESS:** With the economy, choices of being involved in sports and community groups, the needs for family times it is more challenging to get nominations and volunteers. **RELATIONSHIPS:** They are key - with the Lord and with each other. **FUTURE PLANNING:** Needs to continue and to expand promoting Association fellowship, friendships, and caring. Need: 1. For expanding the search and call service. 2. For church revitalization programs. 3. For reaching out to all our churches and pastors. I was called to work part-time but mostly minister full-time because I want to serve and save the Association money. I enjoy serving very much. Thanks for all the calls, notes, and encouragement.

Warmly in Christ,
May our Lord continue to bless you and your church,
Dr. Don Giesmann

SUMMARY OF NWOA CABINET ACTIVITY 2025-2026

June 2025

- Financial reports were reviewed. Due to discrepancies in some line items in the audit, the report will be delayed until September so errors can be corrected and the auditor can be present for any questions.
- The Marshallese church was recognized as a congregation in the UCC so the process of the new church start can be moved forward.
- Rev. Busch announced his intent to retire at the end of 2025 and requested November and December be approved for sabbatical with the cabinet accepting his retirement and sabbatical request.

September 2025

- Financials were reviewed and the auditor's report was received by Rev. Busch. The Cabinet requested he allows them to see and review the report. No significant findings in the audit with only suggestions for improvement. Discussion was held regarding changing banking institutions due to excessive costs for fees.
- The parking lot was sealed.

October 2025 – Special Meeting

- A retirement gift was discussed as well as a motion made to move funds to an amount equal to the expenses to cover Rev. Busch's retirement end of service celebration.
- The cabinet approved paying Rev. Busch through the end of the year from the General Fund and paying the Bridge Minister out of the operating reserve fund.

November 2025

- Dian Ewald as resigned from her office as Treasurer due to illness in her family. The Cabinet approved Mary Powell as temporary treasurer up to the time of the 2026 annual meeting.
- Jay Scott announced Don Giessman has been called as the Bridge Minister until a designated minister can be called.
- The Cabinet will be requesting an IT committee and Building Committee be formed to review technology needs for the Association and evaluate the best usage of the building.
- A motion was approved by the Cabinet that the Association Minister and staff as well as volunteers do not accept honorariums or gifts, and the line item in the ledger called discretionary fund be eliminated in the next fiscal year.

January 2026

- Financial reports were reviewed by Mary Powell, temporary treasurer. Direct Deposits for the Marshallese church will now be done electronically. End of year reports cannot be done until all monies have been received.
- Discussion was held regarding the search for an Association Minister.

March 2026

- The upcoming budget has been prepared but must have the Finance Committee approve it to take to the annual meeting.
- Annual Meeting needs were discussed
- Kim Nye's Medical insurance offset of \$3,000 was approved for the year.

**The Minutes of the 62nd Annual Meeting of the
Northwest Ohio Association of the United Church
of Christ
April 26, 2025**

Call to Order

Moderator Peggy George called the 62nd Northwest Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ Annual Meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance both in person and by Zoom. George also thanked everyone who helped plan and organize the meeting and thanked the members of Peace Community UCC in Waldo for hosting the meeting. George declared a quorum to be present, allowing business to be conducted.

Words of Welcome from Peace Community

Dick Axeline, Chair of Peace Community UCC Consistory and Rev. Joel Fetter welcomed all to Peace Community UCC.

Adoption of the Agenda

Moderator George reviewed who was eligible to vote, described the process for participation, and asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was offered by Kristine Rettig, St. John's Holgate seconded by Mary Powell, St. John's UCC, Tiffin and motion carried.

Opening Worship

The opening worship with Holy Communion was led by Rev. Dan Busch and Rev. Joel Fetter. The offering for the day is designated for New church start in Celina, Ohio.

Appointments

David Weinger was appointed to be the Parliamentarian for the meeting and Rev. Darla Metz, Cabinet Secretary will take minutes.

Adoption of Standing Rules

The Standing Rules for the meeting were accepted on a motion by Adam Shanaman, Buckland UCC, seconded by Brad McKibben, Trinity UCC Upper Sandusky. The motion carried.

Adoption of Minutes of the 61st Annual Meeting

The minutes from the 61st annual meeting were offered for approval. Barb Osborn, Zion UCC, Bettsville made a motion to approve the minutes. Chris Buckingham-Taylor, First UCC Galion, OH.

Motion carried.

Introduction of Guests, and the Granting of Voice to Guests

Rev. Dan Busch introduced the following guests: Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, keynote speaker; Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Heartland

Churches. David Weininger of Trinity UCC, McCutchenville, moved to grant voice to the guests listed, seconded by Bob Rettig of St. John's UCC, Holgate. The motion carried.

Recognition of Persons New to the Association, and Members in Discernment

Rev. Joel Fetter, Chair of the Church and Ministry Team, introduced those new to the Association. David Weininger, Chair of the Discernment Working Group, introduced those who are now Members in Discernment.

Greetings and Comments

Remarks were heard from the following: Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ shared video greetings. Heartland Conference Rev. Char Burch, Sabbatical Supply Conference Minister, Ms. Jill Frey, Executive Director of Outdoor Ministries, Rev. Jon Komperda, Point Place Disaster Recovery, Joe Kirk, Vice Moderator of Heartland Conference and Amaria Macintosh, Associate Director of Ohio Council of Churches shared greetings and comments.

Constitution and By-law Update/Revisions Vote

Moderator Peggy George reported that the Cabinet appointed a Constitutional Revision Committee this year to review NWOA's constitution. Revisions and updates for adoption at the 2024 Annual Meeting were reported back to the Cabinet. The Cabinet made a motion to adopt the revisions to the Constitution. Since the motion comes from the Cabinet, there was no need for a second. Members of the Revision Committee presented the changes. (See attached.) Discussion was held. A motion was made to adopt the constitutional changes and a vote was held. Motion carried.

Nominations and Elections

Rev. Kathryn Helleman, representing the Nominating Committee, presented the nominations as outlined in the Annual Meeting book. There were no additional nominations offered from the floor. The Nominating Committee moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for the nominees, all of whom were unopposed. No second was required. The motion carried.

Financial Report for 2024, and 2025

Treasurer Dian Ewald presented the financial reports, which were also published in the Annual Meeting book. She noted that the audit of 2023 records have been completed since the printing of the Annual Meeting booklet.

Ewald moved on behalf of the Cabinet to accept the 2023 financial report and audit reports. No second was required. The motion carried.

Ewald reviewed the 2024 budget and moved on behalf of the Cabinet to adopt the revised 2024 budget. No second was required. The motion carried.

Ewald moved on behalf of the Cabinet to adopt the 2025 Mission Spending Plan. No second was required. Motion carried.

Recognitions of Anniversaries of Churches and Ministries

Attention was drawn to the Annual Meeting book and the list of churches and ministries listed for special recognition.

Special recognition was also given to churches who achieved "5 for 5" status by contributing to all five of the UCC special offerings during the past year, as well as those churches that maintained or increased their giving to the "Our Churches Wider Mission" offering.

Ministry Team Annual Reports

George directed the meeting's attention to the annual reports of the eight ministry teams of the Association. Mark Bishop of St. Paul UCC, Wapakoneta moved to approve the receiving of all of the reports, seconded by Bob Rettig of St. John's UCC, Holgate. The motion carried.

Other Business None

Presented Keynote

Address

Rev. James Pennington, Back Bay Mission delivered the keynote address.

Revision to Previous Constitution Change

Jay Scott made the motion that we add the words 'and savior' to the constitution changes where it reads 'made known to us in Jesus our brother and savior.' Motion came from the committee and does not need a second. Discussion was held. It was found that any changes to the constitution must be brought to the entire body for review prior to the meeting. The constitution will stand as approved this morning. Motion withdrawn.

Closing Celebration, Announcements, Amenities, Leadership Installation

Rev. Busch gave recognition to the newly elected officers and ministry team members, then led the Annual Meeting in a closing worship. Rev. Busch led the Annual Meeting in a rite of installation to their respective positions.

Moderator George entertained a motion by Joel Fetter of Peace Community UCC, Waldo, to adopt the following resolution:

"Be it resolved that the Northwest Ohio Association gathered in person at St. Stephen's United Church of Christ, Sandusky, Ohio, and through Zoom on April 27, 2024, gives thanks to God for this day celebrating '**Power of Love.**' Be it further resolved that we are witnesses to a resurrection faith that affirms and proclaims that we remember that we are a community of faith as resurrection people. Together in Christ's love, we collaborate to reconcile and restore all God's creation. Empowered by the Holy Spirit we are called to connect, equip, and support our faith communities to grow as faithful disciples and responsible stewards, following Jesus' call to extravagantly love all God's children and creation. Answering God's call to build a just world for all, we commit in our shared life to: live the love, unity, and compassion of Jesus; collaborate to mutually share resources; communicate with openness and transparency; empower generous and responsible stewardship; and honor God's diverse gifts among us in all settings. Be it further resolved that Northwest Ohio Association expresses gratitude and appreciation to all who have organized, guided, inspired, encouraged, and resourced our 61st Annual Meeting, remembering that we acknowledge God's **Power of Love**, through Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit, call us to be people of faith, hope, and love.

The motion was seconded by Brandon Stewart of Monroeville UCC, Monroeville and carried.

George then extended another round of thanks to those who planned and hosted the Annual Meeting and announced that the 62nd Annual Meeting would be held on April 26, 2025, at Peace Community UCC, Waldo, Ohio.

A motion to adjourn was offered by Jay Scott of Emmanuel UCC, Upper Sandusky, and seconded by Daryl Hamm of St. Paul UCC, Oak Harbor. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Darla Metz Cabinet

Secretary

Northwest Ohio Association

REGISTRAR'S REPORT**TRANSFERRED INTO THE NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION**

Rev. Elizabeth Anne Smith-Penn Central Conference/Northern Assoc.

Nov. 18, 2025

TRANSFERRED OUT OF THE NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION

Rev. Dr. Ken Daniel-Central Atlantic Conference/Chesapeake Association

May 29, 2025

Rev. Rebecca (Becky) Erb Strang-Wisconsin Conference of the UCC

March 19, 2026

Patty Welch-Vermont Conference/Addison Association

July 31, 2025

Rev. Dan Busch-Central Association/Pennsylvania Keystone Conference

March 24, 2026

DEATHS

Rev. Jeff King

January 21, 2025

Rev. Michael Harrison Smith

August 16, 2025

Rev. Dr. Diane Christopherson

November 26, 2025

Rev. David Culp

November 27, 2025

Rev. George Spink

January 28, 2026

INSTALLATIONS

Liesl Higgins

March 1, 2026

Peg Faulmann

March 22, 2026

Beth McKibben-Nee

April 19, 2026

RETIRED

Lenore Kure

January 19, 2025

Mary Wood

March 16, 2025

Mark Bishop

May 4, 2025

R. Scott Johnson

June 29, 2025

Doug Williamson

August 10, 2025

SUMMARY STATEMENT

84 Total ordained ministers with full standing in the Northwest Ohio Association

67 Local Churches in the Northwest Ohio Association

34 Local churches served by UCC ordained ministers

7 Local churches served by ordained ministers of another denomination

13 Local churches served by Licensed Lay Ministers

5 Local churches served by Licensed/Students in Discernment (In-care)

1 Local church served by Licensed/Commissioned Minister

4 Local churches served by UCC Lay Ministers

5 Local churches served by Lay Minister of another denomination

0 Local churches served by a UCC Pastor holding standing in another Conference/Association

13,314 Total Church Membership

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES IN 2026

55 th Anniversary	Rev. Kenneth Christiansen	May 16, 1971
50 th Anniversary	Rev. Patrick McKinney	May 30, 1976
35 th Anniversary	Rev. Jerald Fenske	January 13, 1991
30 th Anniversary	Rev. Chris Buckingham-Taylor Rev. Lenore Kure Rev. Bradley Smith Rev. Elizabeth Anne Smith	May 5, 1996 August 25, 1996 November 10, 1996 January 28, 1996
25 th Anniversary	Rev. Diane Thomas	June 10, 2001
20 th Anniversary	Rev. Pam Easterday Rev. Andrea Mericle Rev. Adrian Sunday	May 31, 2006 October 19, 2006 October 22, 2006
15 th Anniversary	Rev. Peg Faulmann Rev. Darryl Hamm Rev. Kathryn Helleman	June 26, 2011 November 6, 2011 October 9, 2011
5 th Anniversary	Rev. Dawn Balduf Rev. Philip Balla	October 3, 2021 October 2, 2021

LICENSED MINISTER ANNIVERSARIES IN 2026

5 th Anniversary	Ron Jesse	December 7, 2021
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**CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES
IN 2026**

195 years	Republic UCC, Republic	1831
175 years	First UCC, Shelby St. Paul's UCC, Ada	1851 1851
165 years	Emmanuel UCC, Bluffton	1861
120 years	Trinity UCC, McCutchenville	1906

TREASURER'S REPORT

NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION

Greetings from the Northwest Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ. As you read through the financial reports keep in mind the 2026 Annual Meeting theme "Joys & Challenges of Ministry Today". Keep in mind once again 2025 and 2026 have been a time of changes and challenges not only in the Northwest Ohio Association but in the whole denomination. In saying that, I would like to thank Dian Ewald and Deb Long for their exceptional work in keeping our financial reports and accounts in such immaculate order, making my transition to Interim Treasurer much easier.

Please review the enclosed NWOA Financial Budget Worksheets in the pink section of your annual report.

December 2025 NWOA Balance Sheet Assets and Liabilities balance at year end.

Income and Expense Statement Detail Jan-Dec 2025 is accurate.

The NWOA Budget Worksheet proposed by the Finance Committee and approved by The Cabinet, for benefit of the annual meeting supports a stealthy financial position for 2026-2027 from a result of sound operating judgement and sufficient operating reserves. The wise planning and patient reinvesting in the fund's portfolio are rewarding.

A couple of things to think about are:

1. The OCWM Giving Goal for 2025 was \$250,000 and the actual fell short by \$34,010.01. The OCWM Giving Goal for 2026 was also approved for \$250,000. The 2027 proposed budget for OCWM is \$225,000. The Income on the "Proposed Budget Worksheet" (provided in the pink section) represents the downward trend we are experiencing in the income portfolio.
2. As the Association moves forward in its search for a Designated Association Minister, we must all keep in mind this position will affect the budget.,

Once again, I want to thank the Association Staff for all their hard work, patience and dedication during this time of transition.

Mary Powell, Interim Treasurer

The Northwest Ohio Association, UCC 5 For 5 Churches

Following are the churches for 2025 that made the goal for the 5 for 5 churches. To be recognized for this, the church needs to give to **OCWM, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need,** and the **Christmas Fund.**

Zion (Fireside) United Church of Christ,	Bellevue
First Congregational Church & Society UCC,	Berlin Heights
Zion United Church of Christ,	Bettsville
Bloomville United Church of Christ,	Bloomville
St. John's (Baseline) United Church of Christ,	Bloomville
St. John's United Church of Christ,	Bluffton
Buckland United Church of Christ,	Buckland
The St. John United Church of Christ,	Defiance
Trinity United Church of Christ,	Elliston
First United Church of Christ,	Fremont
First United Church of Christ,	Galion
St. John's United Church of Christ,	Genoa
St. John's United Church of Christ,	Holgate
First United Church of Christ,	Marblehead
First United Church of Christ,	Marion
Trinity United Church of Christ,	McCutchenville
St. John's United Church of Christ,	Milan
St. Paul United Church of Christ,	New Bremen
St. Paul United Church of Christ,	Oak Harbor
Republic United Church of Christ,	Republic
St. Jacob's United Church of Christ,	Republic
St. Paul's United Church of Christ,	St. Marys
First Congregational United Church of Christ,	Sandusky
St. Stephen United Church of Christ,	Sandusky
First United Church of Christ,	Shelby
Steuben Congregational United Church of Christ,	Steuben
Sycamore United Church of Christ,	Sycamore
Sylvania United Church of Christ,	Sylvania
St. John's United Church of Christ,	Tiffin
Trinity United Church of Christ,	Upper Sandusky
Congregational United Church of Christ,	Wauseon

OCWM - 2025

Congratulations and Thank You!

The following churches met their OCWM Goals by giving the same as the previous year, meeting their suggested goal, or exceeding their giving from the year before.

Berkey Congregational Christian, Berkey*

St. Paul's UCC, Bellevue
 Zion (Fireside) UCC, Bellevue
 Zion UCC, Bettsville
 Bloomville UCC, Bloomville
 College Hill UCC, Bloomville

Emmanuel UCC, Bluffton*

St. John's UCC, Bluffton
 Buckland UCC, Buckland
 The St. John UCC, Defiance
 St. John's UCC, Elmore
 First UCC, Galion

St. John's UCC, Genoa*

Haskins Community Church, Haskins
 St. John's UCC, Holgate

Faith Christian Church, Lima*

First UCC, Marblehead*

St. John's UCC, Mansfield

St. Peter's UCC, Millbury*

Congregational Community UCC, Monroeville*

Republic UCC, Republic
 St. Jacob's UCC, Republic
 First Congregational UCC, Sandusky
 First UCC, Shelby
 Steuben Congregational UCC, Steuben
 Sycamore UCC, Sycamore
 Park Congregational Church, Toledo
 Emanuel UCC, Upper Sandusky
 Trinity UCC, Upper Sandusky
 Congregational UCC, Wauseon

*** Denotes Churches giving a 10% increase**

Heartland Conference of UCC
 NWOA-Balance Sheet
 Fund: Northwest Ohio Association
 December 2025

Note: The Report Option to include Open Transactions is selected.

Accounts

REPORTS PENDING AUDIT

Assets		
Current Assets		
NWOA-Petty Cash		
131111 - NWOA-Petty Cash	\$150.00	
Total NWOA-Petty Cash	\$150.00	
NWOA-Banks-Checking/Savings		
131121 - NWOA-Checking-Old Fort Banking-	\$24,676.96	
Total NWOA-Banks-Checking/Savings	\$24,676.96	
NWOA-Investments		
131141 - NWOA-United Church Funds	\$266,351.08	
131151 - NWOA-Cornerstone Fund	\$10,442.25	
Total NWOA-Investments	\$276,793.33	
Total Current Assets		\$301,620.29
Other Current Assets		
NWOA-Prepayments		
134311 - NWOA-Prepaid Ins./Life/Disab. Ins	\$96.93	
134325 - NWOA-Prepaid Ins.-Medical/Dental	\$21.48	
134331 - NWOA-Prepaid Annuity	\$50.00	
134361 - NWOA-Prepaid Ins.-Group Life	\$1,276.75	
134371 - NWOA-Prepaid Ins.-Prop/Lia. Ins.	\$2,658.13	
134382 - NWOA-Prepaid Copier Interest	\$854.73	
Total NWOA-Prepayments	\$4,958.02	
Total Other Current Assets		\$4,958.02
Property Plant & Equipment		
NWOA-Land		
137711 - NWOA-Land-Association Facility	\$52,067.06	
137712 - NWOA-Land Improvements	\$3,911.00	
Total NWOA-Land	\$55,978.06	
NWOA-Buildings		
137731 - NWOA-Buildings-Assoc. Office	\$29,350.00	
137732 - NWOA-Building Improvements	\$121,326.51	
Total NWOA-Buildings	\$150,676.51	
NWOA-Furn./Fix./Office Equip.		
137741 - NWOA-Furn/Fix/Office Equip.	\$49,141.00	
Total NWOA-Furn./Fix./Office Equip.	\$49,141.00	
Total Property Plant & Equipment		\$255,795.57
Accumulated Depreciation		
NWOA-Acc.Dep-Church Properties		
137822 - NWOA-Accum. Amort. Land Improve.	(\$5,357.23)	
Total NWOA-Acc.Dep-Church Properties	(\$5,357.23)	
NWOA-Accum. Dep.-Buildings		
137831 - NWOA-Accum. Dep.-Buildings	(\$22,900.00)	
137832 - NWOA-Accum. Dep. Building Improve.	(\$97,064.40)	
Total NWOA-Accum. Dep.-Buildings	(\$119,964.40)	
NWOA-Acc.Dep.-Furn/Fix/Off. Eq		
137841 - NWOA-Acc.Dep.-Furn/Fix/Off. Eq	(\$42,661.71)	
Total NWOA-Acc.Dep.-Furn/Fix/Off. Eq	(\$42,661.71)	
Total Accumulated Depreciation		(\$167,983.34)
Total Assets		\$394,390.54
Liabilities, Fund Principal-Gen Oper Fund, & Restricted Funds		
Liabilities		

Heartland Conference of UCC
 NWOA-Balance Sheet
 Fund: Northwest Ohio Association
 December 2025

Note: The Report Option to include Open Transactions is selected.

Accounts

Current Liabilities

NWOA-Employee W/H

232211 - NWOA-Social Security Withholdings	\$1,409.46
232212 - NWOA-Medicare Withholdings	(\$1,672.36)
232213 - NWOA-Federal Tax Withholdings	(\$165.56)
232221 - NWOA-State Tax Withholdings	(\$71.10)
232231 - NWOA-City Tax Withholdings	(\$70.24)
232241 - NWOA-School Tax Withholding	(\$3.66)
232261 - NWOA-Pension Withholdings	\$4,350.00
Total NWOA-Employee W/H	\$3,776.54

NWOA-Other Accrued Payables

233271 - NWOA-Employer Medical Ins. Payable	(\$100.00)
233412 - NWOA-Accrued Vacation Payable	\$5,459.14
233413 - NWOA-Accrued Severance Payable	\$55,825.99
233414 - NWOA-Accrued Real Estate Tax Payabl	\$3,315.84
233415 - NWOA-Workers Compensation Payable	(\$30.27)
233422 - NWOA-Capital Lease Payable-Lg Term	\$5,351.60
Total NWOA-Other Accrued Payables	\$69,822.30

Total Current Liabilities

\$73,598.84

Total Liabilities

\$73,598.84

Fund Principal-Gen Oper Fund

NWOA-Unrestricted Net Assets

239990 - NWOA-Unrestricted Net Assets	(\$136,438.05)
239991 - Invested Capital Assets	\$112,863.02
239992 - NWOA-Comprehensive Income	\$34,007.62
239993 - NWOA-Adjustments to Net Assets	(\$14,365.47)
Total NWOA-Unrestricted Net Assets	(\$3,932.88)
YTD Change in Net Assets	(\$25,585.63)

Total Fund Principal-Gen Oper Fund and YTD Change in Net Assets

(\$29,518.51)

Restricted Funds

Total Temporarily Restricted	\$161,196.98
Total Permanently Restricted	\$189,113.23

Total Restricted Funds

\$350,310.21

Total Liabilities, Fund Principal-Gen Oper Fund, & Restricted Funds

\$394,390.54

**Heartland Conference of UCC
NWOA-Income & Expense Statement-Detail
Fund: Northwest Ohio Association
January to December 2025**

Note: The Report Option to include Open Transactions is selected.

Accounts	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Budget/Actual (This Year)	Annual Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (Last Year)	% of Annual Budget Used (This Year)
Revenue General Operating Fund						
NWOA-GOF Revenue						
NWOA-Gifts & Contributions						
431111 - NWOA-OCWM-Basic Support	\$215,989.99	\$250,000.00	(\$34,010.01)	\$250,000.00	\$235,136.90	86.40 %
431121 - NWOA-OCWM-Assoc. Only G	\$44,302.75	\$45,000.00	(\$697.25)	\$45,000.00	\$41,179.52	98.45 %
431131 - NWOA-OCWM-Special Basic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
431171 - NWOA-OCWM-Previous Year	\$4,811.36	\$7,000.00	(\$2,188.64)	\$7,000.00	\$2,130.00	68.73 %
Total NWOA-Gifts & Contributions	\$265,104.10	\$302,000.00	(\$36,895.90)	\$302,000.00	\$278,446.42	87.78 %
NWOA-Other Receipts						
432201 - NWOA-Annual Meeting Incom	\$1,995.00	\$1,500.00	\$495.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,335.00	133.00 %
432202 - NWOA-VANCO Receipts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
432203 - NWOA-Parking Space Donatic	\$1,224.00	\$1,225.00	(\$1.00)	\$1,225.00	\$1,224.00	99.92 %
432211 - NWOA-Funds Released fromF	\$0.00	\$14,606.00	(\$14,606.00)	\$14,606.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
432221 - NWOA-Directed Gifts To Asso	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
432281 - NWOA-Income-Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$300.00	(\$300.00)	\$300.00	\$5.00	0.00 %
Total NWOA-Other Receipts	\$3,219.00	\$17,631.00	(\$14,412.00)	\$17,631.00	\$3,564.00	18.26 %
NWOA-Interest/Dividends						
433301 - NWOA-Interest Checking/Savi	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
433321 - NWOA-Interest Cornerstone S	\$487.22	\$0.00	\$487.22	\$0.00	\$544.49	0.00 %
433322 - NWOA-Interest-Fifth Third Bar	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
433331 - NWOA-Interest-UC Foundatio	\$1,570.93	\$0.00	\$1,570.93	\$0.00	\$1,750.43	0.00 %
433341 - NWOA-Interest Income Other	\$0.00	\$4,284.00	(\$4,284.00)	\$4,284.00	\$544.49	0.00 %
433380 - NWOA-Unrealized Gains (Los	\$7,299.63	\$0.00	\$7,299.63	\$0.00	\$5,074.74	0.00 %
433381 - NWOA-Comprehensive Incom	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,893.60	0.00 %
Total NWOA-Interest/Dividends	\$9,357.78	\$4,284.00	\$5,073.78	\$4,284.00	\$10,807.75	218.44 %
Total NWOA-GOF Revenue	\$277,680.88	\$323,915.00	(\$46,234.12)	\$323,915.00	\$292,818.17	85.73 %
Total Revenue General Operating Fund	\$277,680.88	\$323,915.00	(\$46,234.12)	\$323,915.00	\$292,818.17	85.73 %

Expense General Operating Fund

NWOA-Gen. Oper. Fund Expenses						
NWOA-Pymnts OH Conf./Nat'l UCC	\$83,904.52	\$95,000.00	\$11,095.48	\$95,000.00	\$90,405.84	88.32 %
NWOA-Salaries & Wages	\$131,499.83	\$131,129.00	(\$370.83)	\$131,129.00	\$152,137.71	100.28 %
NWOA-Contractual Labor	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
NWOA-Payroll Taxes	\$2,949.69	\$4,000.00	\$1,050.31	\$4,000.00	\$4,711.86	73.74 %
NWOA-Employee Benefits	\$26,085.03	\$27,710.00	\$1,624.97	\$27,710.00	\$32,978.53	94.14 %
NWOA-Other Personnel Costs	\$219.65	\$1,300.00	\$1,080.35	\$1,300.00	\$300.00	16.90 %
NWOA-Staff Travel Expenses	\$7,060.69	\$8,550.00	\$1,489.31	\$8,550.00	\$5,000.91	82.58 %
NWOA-Repairs & Maintenance	\$8,179.15	\$5,900.00	(\$2,279.15)	\$5,900.00	\$6,327.97	138.63 %
NWOA-Rental/Leased Equipment	\$1,770.70	\$2,000.00	\$229.30	\$2,000.00	\$36.33	88.54 %
NWOA-Rent/Lease Facility	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
NWOA-Utilities	\$5,278.46	\$4,450.00	(\$828.46)	\$4,450.00	\$4,031.38	118.62 %
NWOA-Insurance	\$9,955.09	\$9,922.00	(\$33.09)	\$9,922.00	\$9,095.20	100.33 %
NWOA-Outside Professional Serv	\$4,123.51	\$4,250.00	\$126.49	\$4,250.00	\$6,850.48	97.02 %
NWOA-Communication Expense	\$5,078.65	\$4,750.00	(\$328.65)	\$4,750.00	\$4,837.59	106.92 %
NWOA-Purchases Expense	\$2,681.51	\$6,830.00	\$4,148.49	\$6,830.00	\$3,354.66	39.26 %
NWOA-Team/Program Expenses						
NWOA-Program Expenses	\$7,313.43	\$9,700.00	\$2,386.57	\$9,700.00	\$5,211.29	75.40 %
Total NWOA-Team/Program Expenses	\$7,313.43	\$9,700.00	\$2,386.57	\$9,700.00	\$5,211.29	75.40 %
NWOA-Support Allocations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
NWOA-General Expenses	\$3,329.78	\$3,924.00	\$594.22	\$3,924.00	\$3,223.79	84.86 %
NWOA-Interest Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$366.26	0.00 %
NWOA-Depreciation Expense	\$3,836.82	\$4,500.00	\$663.18	\$4,500.00	\$8,974.40	85.26 %
Total NWOA-Gen. Oper. Fund Expenses	\$303,266.51	\$323,915.00	\$20,648.49	\$323,915.00	\$337,844.20	93.63 %
Total Expense General Operating Fund	\$303,266.51	\$323,915.00	\$20,648.49	\$323,915.00	\$337,844.20	93.63 %
Net Total	(\$25,585.63)	\$0.00	(\$25,585.63)	\$0.00	(\$45,026.03)	0.00 %

Heartland Conference of UCC
 NWOA- FUND REPORT
 Fund: Northwest Ohio Association
 January to December 2025
 Note: The Report Option to include Open Transactions is selected.

Accounts	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expenses	Credit Adjustments	Debit Adjustments	Ending Balance
Temporarily Restricted						
NWOA-Temporary Restricted						
NWOA-Administrative Operating						
NWOA-Association Cabinet Funds						
831104 - NWOA-Special Assoc. Mtgs/Misc.	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120.00
831105 - NWOA-Identity Items	\$8.00	\$33.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41.00
831106 - NWOA-Discretionary Fund	\$7,056.17	\$3,242.01	\$6,686.73	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,611.45
831107 - NWOA-General Synod Delegates	\$4,187.00	\$0.00	\$342.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,844.50
831131 - NWOA-Capital Needs Fund	\$5,383.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,383.62
831133 - NWOA-Operating Fund Reserves	\$32,056.06	\$9,000.00	\$4,974.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$36,081.18
831136 - NWOA-Sabbatical Leave Fund	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
831137 - NWOA-Severance Pay Fund	\$3,965.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,965.10
831144 - NWOA-Youth Ministries	\$4,730.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,730.40
831151 - NWOA-Legal & Counseling Reserve	\$1,990.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,990.00
831171 - NWOA-Other Special Events	\$952.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$952.27
Total NWOA-Association Cabinet Funds	\$70,448.62	\$12,275.01	\$12,004.11	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$68,719.52
NWOA-Teams/Committees						
NWOA-Church Development						
832190 - NWOA-Excellence in Ministry	\$5,146.76	\$5,475.00	\$7,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,421.76
832191 - NWOA-Covenant Fd/Ch. Growth/Renewal	\$32,408.11	\$175.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$32,583.48
Total NWOA-Church Development	\$37,554.87	\$5,650.37	\$7,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$36,005.24
NWOA-Church & Ministry						
832201 - NWOA-Conflict Response Reserve	\$2,041.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,041.89
832204 - NWOA-Pastoral Misconduct Team	\$246.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$246.71
832211 - NWOA-Lay School Scholarship/Reserve	\$4,104.07	\$1,885.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,189.07
832218 - NWOA-Periodic Review Fund	\$1,090.26	\$150.00	\$20.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,220.09
832219 - NWOA-Boundary Training	\$860.47	\$390.00	\$454.83	\$500.00	\$120.00	\$1,175.64
832225 - NWOA-Church Professional Retreat Fd	\$2,794.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,794.65
832227 - NWOA-Retired Clergy Luncheon Fd	\$1,772.23	\$2,000.00	\$2,295.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,477.23
832231 - NWOA-Ministrial Aid Fund	\$10,148.83	\$0.00	\$1,355.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,793.83
832233 - NWOA-Student In Care Emergency Fd	\$1,503.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,503.49
Total NWOA-Church & Ministry	\$24,562.60	\$4,425.00	\$5,925.00	\$500.00	\$120.00	\$23,442.60
Total NWOA-Teams/Committees	\$62,117.47	\$10,075.37	\$13,125.00	\$500.00	\$120.00	\$59,447.84
Total NWOA-Administrative Operating	\$132,566.09	\$22,350.38	\$25,129.11	\$500.00	\$2,120.00	\$128,167.36
NWOA-Special Offerings Funds						
834110 - NWOA-One Great Hour Sharing-Nat'l	\$2,603.00	\$20,057.46	\$19,473.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,187.19
834120 - NWOA-Neighbors In Need-Nat'l	\$5,744.00	\$14,271.22	\$13,624.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,390.39
834130 - NWOA-Strengthen The Church-Nat'l	\$1,108.00	\$13,012.00	\$13,135.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$984.65
834140 - NWOA-Christmas Fund-Nat'l	\$14,238.57	\$21,105.35	\$23,736.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,607.64
Total NWOA-Special Offerings Funds	\$23,693.57	\$68,446.03	\$69,969.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,169.87

Heartland Conference of UCC
 NWOA- FUND REPORT
 Fund: Northwest Ohio Association
 January to December 2025
 Note: The Report Option to include Open Transactions is selected.

Accounts	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expenses	Credit Adjustments	Debit Adjustments	Ending Balance
NWOA-Direct/Pass Through Funds						
835112 - NWOA-Crossroad	\$0.00	\$5,959.49	\$5,959.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
835113 - NWOA-Back Bay Mission	\$0.00	\$4,439.64	\$4,439.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
835122 - NWOA-United Church Homes	\$0.00	\$2,176.85	\$2,176.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
835124 - NWOA-Hope Homes	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
835125 - NWOA-Seeds May Grow Fund	\$150.00	\$125.00	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
835128 - NWOA-Every Member Share	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
835130 - NWOA-Parkvue Community	\$0.00	\$461.50	\$461.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
835145 - NWOA-Grace Community Center	\$0.00	\$3,871.24	\$3,871.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
835201 - NWOA-CUE-Chicago/United/Eden Fd	\$0.00	\$23,485.41	\$23,485.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
835205 - NWOA-Defiance College	\$0.00	\$340.71	\$340.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
835206 - NWOA-Heidelberg University	\$0.00	\$590.71	\$590.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
835332 - NWOA-Camp Programs	\$196.20	\$642.49	\$659.51	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$179.18
835348 - NWOA-Templd Hills Campership Fd	\$39.83	\$18.37	\$58.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
835389 - NWOA-Other Directed Gifts	\$308.00	\$2,187.00	\$2,279.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$216.00
835391 - NWOA-Online CrCard - SONKA	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$8,780.00	\$9,810.00	\$230.00	\$1,300.00
Total NWOA-Direct/Pass Through Funds	\$1,244.03	\$44,373.41	\$53,427.26	\$9,810.00	\$230.00	\$1,770.18
NWOA-Disaster Relief Funds						
836119 - NWOA-Disaster Relief National	\$0.00	\$9,236.50	\$9,236.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
836120 - NWOA-Disaster Gifts-Ohio Conf	\$225.00	\$250.00	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
836130 - NWOA-Disaster Gifts-Local-Assoc.	\$2,865.76	\$2,180.40	\$2,458.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,588.16
836143 - NWOA-El Salvador	\$1,281.89	\$14,908.00	\$14,175.71	\$500.00	\$869.29	\$1,644.89
836146 - NWOA-Marshallese	\$0.00	\$8,943.50	\$7,011.27	\$2,869.29	\$0.00	\$4,801.52
836210 - NWOA-CWS-Missions Undesignated	\$0.00	\$1,534.90	\$1,504.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00
836211 - NWOA-CWS-Blankets	\$0.00	\$8,822.86	\$8,822.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
836212 - NWOA-CWS-CROP	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total NWOA-Disaster Relief Funds	\$4,372.65	\$46,001.16	\$43,784.24	\$3,369.29	\$869.29	\$9,089.57
Total NWOA-Temporary Restricted	\$161,876.34	\$181,170.98	\$192,310.34	\$13,679.29	\$3,219.29	\$161,196.98
Total Temporarily Restricted	\$161,876.34	\$181,170.98	\$192,310.34	\$13,679.29	\$3,219.29	\$161,196.98
Permanently Restricted						
NWOA-Permanent Restricted						
932281 - NWOA-Moyer Memorial Principal Fd	\$36,454.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,758.80	\$0.00	\$40,213.13
932283 - NWOA-Blum Scholarship Principal Fd	\$13,725.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,437.19	\$0.00	\$15,162.49
932285 - NWOA-Kohler Scholarship Principal	\$20,279.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,123.71	\$0.00	\$22,403.49
932287 - NWOA-Pfeiffer Scholarship Principal	\$7,425.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$777.71	\$0.00	\$8,203.66
932291 - NWOA-Bormuth Scholarship Principal	\$22,314.51	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,336.58	\$0.00	\$24,651.09
932293 - NWOA-Salem Scholarship Principal	\$71,040.39	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,438.98	\$0.00	\$78,479.37
Total NWOA-Permanent Restricted	\$171,240.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,872.97	\$0.00	\$189,113.23
Total Permanently Restricted	\$171,240.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,872.97	\$0.00	\$189,113.23

Northwest Ohio Association UCC Budget Worksheet

INCOME	2025 Budget 62%/38%	2025 Year End Figures	2026 Budget 62%/38%	2027 Prop Budget 62%/38%
OCWM	285,000	250,000	250,000	225,000
OCWM SPECIAL	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
ANNUAL MEETING INCOME	1,500	1,500	2,000	2,000
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	1,525	1,525	1,525	1,525
INTEREST INCOME	3,725	4,284	4,284	4,000
UNREALIZED GAIN (2019 PPP)	0	0	0	0
OCWM PRIOR YEAR	7,006	7,000	5,000	10,000
OPERATING FUND RESERVE	12,200	14,606	6,667	10,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$355,956	\$323,915	\$314,476	\$297,525
EXPENSES				
OCWM Basic to the Conference	\$108,300	\$83,904	\$95,000	\$89,300
SALARIES				
Association Minister	74,896	69,123	60,000	65,000
Housing Allowance	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Salary Soc Sec Reimb (7.65%)	6,648	6,205	5,508	5,500
Support staff	63,493	43,202	44,450	43,421
Part-time hourly support staff	1,716	599	599	599
TOTAL SALARIES	\$158,753	\$131,129	\$122,557	\$126,520
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES				
Staff Benefits	45,037	29,255	31,990	30,725
Staff Travel/Business Expense	5,550	7,061	8,550	6,300
Repair & Maintenance	5,400	8,179	5,900	5,350
Rents Equipment/Facility	2,000	1,771	2,000	2,000
Prop/Liability Insurance	8,000	9,955	9,500	10,000
Professional Services	4,250	4,124	4,350	4,400
Utilities	4,450	5,278	4,450	5,600
Communications	4,750	5,079	5,600	5,900
Purchase Expenses	6,715	2,682	6,530	5,600
Program Expenses	9,400	7,313	9,700	8,950
General Expenses	3,774	3,330	3,849	3,900
Depreciation	4,500	3,837	4,500	3,500
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	\$103,826	\$87,864	\$96,919	\$92,225
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$370,879	\$302,897	\$314,476	\$308,045
NWOA NET OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(14,923)	21,018	0	(10,520)

Our Church's Wider Mission... In The Northwest Ohio Association

The Northwest Ohio Association is a community of local churches and pastors working together and supporting one another to strengthen the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ. Our strength is in our connections. Below are some examples of how our churches are impacted by our connections as an Association.

1. What are some ways we support local churches?

- Provide individuals available to assist churches in areas such as stewardship, conflict, Christian education, youth ministry, pastoral misconduct, church revitalization
- Resource and support search processes for new local church pastoral leadership
- Make grants for revitalization through the Covenant Fund
- Refer those interested in resources to the National Church Resource Center online store
- Process and direct financial gifts to local and global missions

We also support leadership development through the NWOA Lay School of Religion (a five-year program of classes) and various workshops and information for lay leaders.

2. In what ways do we support pastors and authorized ministers?

- Provide Special Events such as Church Professional Retreat, Retired Ministers' Luncheon, Periodic Support Consultations, Boundary Training
- Encourage networking within Regions
- Provide assistance in seeking new settings for ministry
- Offer pastoral care
- Encourage "Situational Support Consultations" to address difficulties
- Provide emergency financial assistance

We also encourage individuals who are seeking a call to ordained ministry through guidance in the Discernment Process, making scholarship grants, and supporting our seminaries through CUE.

3. We also celebrate and strengthen our ministry together through the following ways:

youth events; leadership for confirmation and other summer camps; joint mission projects, Association meetings, installations, connections to the mission and ministries of the Heartland Conference, UCC Covenanted Ministries, and ecumenical settings.

4. How do churches and individuals know about these ministries and missions?

The Association has E-News "The Vine" which is a group email to all NWOA churches, to all authorized ministers and all volunteers on NWOA teams and committees along with those interested in the Association news. The Association website www.nwoa.org has resources and events of the Association. The Heartland Conference has E-News "The Connections" which is available at <https://heartlanducc.org>.

The work of the Northwest Ohio Association is funded by giving to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and directed gifts to the Association. 62% of OCWM Basic Support remains within the Association to support our work.

Frequently Asked Questions About Our Church's Wider Mission and CUE

Q. How are Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) funds used?

Our goal is faithful service to Jesus Christ through the use of our resources. In 2025, the OCWM financial goal is \$285,000. With income from other sources (directed giving, interest, etc.) it is anticipated that the income will be \$355,956. Of the OCWM financial goal, \$182,400 is budgeted to remain in the Association where it will be used to help churches find pastors, provide education/resources for laity and clergy, support churches seeking to be involved in church revitalization, connect churches with one another and the wider church. \$102,600 is budgeted to be sent to the Heartland Conference. The Conference will retain 65% of this to support summer camps and retreat opportunities; youth, education, and spirituality resources; our connections with ecumenical partners and the wider ministries of the UCC. The other 35% is sent to the national ministries of the UCC which provide local and overseas mission work, written and video resources in all areas of local church life, the pension program, health and property insurance, programs in justice and witness, programs for youth, women and men's groups.

Q. Who makes the decision about allocation of OCWM funds?

Lay and clergy delegates who attend the Annual Meetings of the Northwest Ohio Association, the Heartland Conference and the General Synod of the United Church of Christ make decisions about the allocations of their respective funds.

Q. Can we designate our OCWM funding?

The Association encourages its churches to support unified OCWM funding with support being distributed to the Association, Conference and National Ministries of the United Church of Christ. However, a congregation does have the right to designate its OCWM support to the Association, Conference or certain ministries of the National UCC.

Q. How do we communicate our OCWM goal to the Association?

Please indicate your goal on the Goal Sheet and forward it to the Association Office.

Q. Are we obligated to meet the OCWM goal we adopt?

Congregations are asked to do their best to meet or exceed their goal. Churches that anticipate a significant shortfall are asked to communicate that information to the Association.

Q. What is CUE?

CUE is the way in which we help to fund the three UCC seminaries in our region: Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri; Chicago Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois; and United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, Minnesota.

Q. How is our congregation's goal for CUE calculated?

The recommendation is that each church give the equivalent of 2% of their local operating expenses reported for the previous year.

Q. How much of OCWM that stays in the Association is used for administration?

Of every dollar, 87 cents is used to support our work with churches seeking pastors, churches having difficulties, church revitalization, celebrations, pastoral care and support, communications with churches, pastors, Heartland Conference, national ministries and ecumenical ministries. It supports the work of our Ministry Teams, Committees, and Lay School of Religion. 13 cents is used for administration which includes maintaining the building (where many of our Ministry Teams/Committees meet) and maintaining records of pastors, churches, programs etc...

ORDINATION BIOGRAPHIES

Amy Kinney

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My name is Amy Kinney, and I have been happily married to my husband Rusty for nearly 38 years. Together, we are proud parents of three wonderful sons: Joshua, who runs a local cleaning business with his wife Alexandra; Thomas, the lead pastor at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Terry, MS, alongside his wife Mary Hannah; and Jacob, who lives in Findlay with his partner Emma. Our family has grown to include six delightful grandchildren: Edison, 8; Henry, 6; Dean, 4; Helen, 2; Kylio, 8 months; and Mary Maddox, 7 months, all of whom bring immense joy to our lives. My professional journey spans 20 years in healthcare and 15 years in higher education before I felt a calling to ministry. I served as a licensed pastor at Union UCC in Bascom for four years and have been with St. John's UCC-Fostoria for nearly five years. I hold a Bachelor's in Healthcare Management and a Master's in Leadership from South University, as well as a Master of Practical Theology from Winebrenner Theological Seminary. In addition to my ministry work, I have been the Executive Director of First Step Domestic Violence Shelter in Fostoria for three years, driven by a deep passion for supporting those in need and advocating for individuals facing oppression.

As a member of the Northwest Ohio Association, I have held the position of chair for the Lay School of Religion for nearly three years and previously served on the Faith Formation Committee. My involvement with the United Church of Christ spans a decade, and I have roots in the Disciples of Christ tradition. I also have community involvement serving on the board of the Rotary Club of Fostoria and serving the Seneca County Council on Homelessness.

One of my greatest passions is working with my Certified Therapy Dog, Gracie, a yellow lab who regularly accompanies me to both work and church. Gracie has a remarkable ability to make friends wherever we go, bringing immense joy to my life. Beyond my time with Gracie, I also enjoy reading, walking, and cherishing moments with my family. I love to travel any chance I get and especially enjoy our yearly road trips to Mississippi to see our children/grandchildren.

Elyse Cramer

My name is Elyse Cramer, and I have been married to my husband Matthew for nearly 6 years. Together, we are proud parents of two wonderful sons: Myles (3yr) and Quinn (1yr). My professional journey started with almost ten years working as a counselor in various setting before being called to ministry. I served as a licensed pastor at St. John's UCC - Tiffin for over two year and have been with Trinity UCC-McCutchenville for nearly 7 years. I hold a Bachelor's in psychology and sociology and a Master's in Marriage and Family Counseling, as well as a Master of Divinity from Winebrenner Theological Seminary. In addition to my ministry work, I have been counselor at First Step Domestic Violence Shelter in Fostoria for almost two years.

As a member of the Northwest Ohio Association, I have previously served on the Faith Formation Committee. I have been with United Church of Christ my entire life. I was baptized at Sycamore UCC and confirmed at Trinity UCC, McCutchenville.

Liesl Higgins

Liesl E. Higgins lives in Bellevue, Ohio with Dan, her husband of 31 years. Dan is a Marriage and Family Therapist and owns Cornerstone Counseling. They are the parents of three amazing children. Joshua (age 23) lives in Chicago and works as an actor and the Site Director for a Tech Education company. Matthew (age 21) is a junior at Ohio Wesleyan University and is majoring in English literature, Pre-Law and Spanish, with a minor in Politics & Government. He is spending spring semester studying in Pamplona, Spain. Andrew (age 15) is a freshman at Bellevue High School. He plays percussion in the band, is on the basketball team, and is an active Eagle Scout. Our family also includes our neighbor and "adopted Aunt," Sandra Whitely.

Liesl graduated from Heidelberg College with a double major in Music Performance (flute) and English. Following graduation, she raised a family while volunteering at church and her children's school. When the Covid pandemic shut down the world, God's call in her life became loud and clear. Liesl graduated with a Master's in Divinity from Bethany Theological Seminary (Church of the Brethren) in Richmond, Indiana. In November 2025, she happily accepted the call to be the pastor at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Sandusky, Ohio. She also serves on the NWOA Church and Ministry Committee.

When she's not wrestling with getting a sermon written, Liesl enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, and music. She loves the color blue, an embarrassing amount of creamer in her coffee, and Jane Austen novels. Liesl would appreciate your prayers as she acclimates to ministry.

INSTALLATIONS

Liesl Higgins-March 1, 2026 at First Congregational UCC, Sandusky

Peg Faulmann-March 22, 2026 at Calvin UUC, Toledo

Beth McKibben-Nee-April 19, 2026 at First UCC-Congregational, Marblehead

NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION

(Incorporated 1963)

Offices: 416 Wentz Street, Tiffin, Ohio

419-447-8323; office@nwoa.org; web page: www.nwoa.org

Heartland Conference – United Church of Christ

CABINET

“KEEPER OF THE VISION”

*Moderator

*Vice-Moderator

*Secretary

*Treasurer

*Past Moderator

*Association Minister (ex officio)

3 at-large members

4 members representing each Team

1 member from each Cabinet appointed committee

(Officers and at-large members are elected at Annual Meetings)

*Executive Committee

TEAMS/COMMITTEE

(elected at Association Annual Meetings)

CHURCH AND MINISTRY TEAM	FAITH FORMATION TEAM	WITNESS AND PROCLAMATION TEAM	STEWARDSHIP AND GENEROSITY TEAM	NOMINATING COMMITTEE
12 members 1 member on Cabinet C&M appoints two Committees: *Conflict Response Team *Misconduct Response Team	9 members 1 member on Cabinet (IN-ACTIVE AT THIS TIME)	9 members 1 member on Cabinet	9 members 1 member on Cabinet	At least 9 members.

STANDING COMMITTEES

(appointed by Cabinet)

(Cabinet can appoint temporary committees as needed.)

Human Resource Committee	Finance and Budget Committee	Lay School Board	Community of Practice Leadership	Marshallese Committee	Annual Meeting Planning Committee
		*Organizes Lay School			

NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION

COVENANT

Together in Christ's love, we collaborate to reconcile and restore all God's creation.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit we are called to connect, equip, and support our faith communities to grow as faithful disciples and responsible stewards, following Jesus' call to extravagantly love all God's children and creation.

Answering God's call to build a just world for all, we commit in our shared life to:

- ✓ Live the love, unity, and compassion of Jesus;
- ✓ Collaborate to mutually share resources;
- ✓ Communicate with openness and transparency;
- ✓ Empower generous and responsible stewardship;
- ✓ Honor God's diverse gifts among us in all settings.

KEY RESULT AREAS and GOALS

"In what key areas of our Association's life must we achieve results in order for our role-and-mission to be accomplished?"

- Proclamation:** To proclaim the Gospel, worshipping God in communion with Jesus Christ and each other; so that nourished and strengthened by the Word, we participate together in Christ's ministry - living the Gospel each day.
- Public Witness:** To demonstrate and facilitate a deliberate, informed, and continuing Christian presence in the world. To confront and engage the sin and evil of this world with the power of faith, hope and love.
- Discernment:** To cultivate communities that discern the will of God, embrace a renewed vision of obedience to Christ and provide all generations with the language, the knowledge, and the tools to nurture communities of faith.
- Stewardship:** To encourage communities to be thankful for and generous with the many gifts entrusted to us by God for God's mission. We accept God's sacred call for the faithful, wise, responsible and just use of these gifts.
- Caring:** To strengthen the Body of Christ by demonstrating care for leaders and congregations and by holding each other accountable to God and to the responsibility with which each has been charged. To follow the example of Christ through a ministry of presence and forgiveness in times of conflict, peace, sadness or joy.

VISION

“What we perceive that God is calling the Northwest Ohio Association to become.”

We, the Northwest Ohio Association, are a faith-filled community of congregations, pastors, lay leaders, and believers of all ages. We are a community of communities within **the** United Church of Christ, who covenant with each other embodying God’s promises and hopes.

We are a community of communities: We proclaim and celebrate the Biblical story, through praise and worship. We inspire one another to act boldly, responsibly, and faithfully. Flowing from the same living water as our scriptural ancestors, we demonstrate God’s promises and compassion to others, as Jesus taught us through his own acts of mercy, healing, and justice. Though we are a people who may sometimes fall short of God’s mark, we are conscious of our inadequacies. We hold one another accountable for our actions, encourage each other to get back on the path, and forgive one another as God forgives us.

We are a community of communities: We are agents of transformation—beacons of hope in a secular society of turbulent waters. Together and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are forged, tempered, and made stronger by acts of justice and liberation. We actively seek to spread the Gospel, including to those at the boundaries, those who are hurting, the forgotten, the lost, and those shunned by society—we offer room at our tables of hospitality.

We are a community of communities: We give each other courage to confront the evil that assaults us and leads us astray from God’s love and God’s ways. We are shaped and reshaped for mission as we prayerfully discern God’s will. As a community that is inclusive and accessible to all, we nurture and encourage each other’s leadership in Christ’s church. Recognizing God’s love for all, we listen to each other, and seek to enable each other to be all that God intends.

We are the Body of Christ: a community of communities that freely shares of itself with others—a community that will shatter the complacency of this earth and bring God’s intended peace and justice to all.

Church and Ministry Team

The Church and Ministry Team is composed of 12 members. Of these 12 individuals, 7 are laity and 5 are ordained ministers. Members serve three-year terms. As specified by the Constitution of the NWOA, the Church and Ministry Team “shall act on behalf of the Association as an ecclesiastical council.” The Team fulfills its responsibilities in several ways: (1) the Team reviews issues related to the standing of authorized ministers, (2) maintains connections with and supports the authorized ministers of the NWOA, and (3) provides guidance and support of those UCC members who have sensed a call to serve as ordained ministers.

Much of the work of the Team is done by its three working groups – the Credentialing Working Group, the Pastoral Relations Working Group, and the Discernment Working Group. More complete information about the responsibilities and activities of these working groups may be found in the following pages.

The past year has seen a change in leadership with the retirement of Association Minister Rev. Dan Busch who admirably served in this position for 20 years. Dan is now living in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania and is in the process of having his ministerial standing transferred to the Central Association of the Keystone Conference of Pennsylvania. In November, Rev. Don Giesmann was installed as the Bridge Association Minister by the NWOA Cabinet. Even in the face of a very steep learning curve, Don has done an outstanding job in assuming the reins of the position, and the change in leadership has gone very, very smoothly.

Rev. Joel Fetter, a former chair of the Church and Ministry Team, once described the work of the Team as one of maintaining connections among the various bodies of the NWOA and that these “connections are meant to remind us that we are all in covenant with each other. None of the various bodies speak for one another, but we speak to one another to help make the body of Christ as strong as it can be.” Rev. Fetter’s words accurately and profoundly describe the spirit with which Church and Ministry Team members approach their work.

Respectfully submitted, David Weininger, Chair
Trinity United Church of Christ, McCutchenville

Northwest Ohio Association Church and Ministry 2025 Pastoral Relations Report

The Pastoral Relations sub-committee of Church and Ministry seeks to keep connection with the authorized ministers of the Association. Authorized ministers are required to participate in a monthly Community of Practice Group or attend a Periodic Support Training every 2 years to remain in good standing. We hosted the yearly Retired Ministers Luncheon at Parkvue Community Healthcare this past October.

The Periodic Support Trainings were held in March and in October. They were led by Rev. Mark Bishop and were held at the Association Office in a hybrid format.

Thank you to all who offer support of our Authorized Ministers.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Wendy Schindler-Chasney,
Pastoral Relations Chair of NWOA Church and Ministry Team.

Credentialing Working Group

The Credentialing Team meets to review issues related to the standing of Authorized Ministers in the Northwest Ohio Association. This includes ordained, commissioned, and licensed Pastors and those seeking the Privilege of Call, Dual Standing, and Transfer of Standing. The team is also involved with those who seek an exemption from Boundary Training. We will receive and read all the necessary correspondence from the applicant and support churches. We also interview applicants before they come before the whole Church and Ministry Team. The team also schedules Boundary Training for authorized ministers. This past year the following credentialing and training were:

Boundary Training

Domestic Violence and the Responsibility of Reporting Suspected Abuse – October 2025

Financial Exploitation of Older Adults and the Responsibility of Reporting Suspected Abuse –

February 2026

All authorized ministers required to take Boundary Training were present

Granted status as a Licensed Minister in Northwest Ohio Association

All current licensed ministers were approved for renewal. No new licensure requests came before the working group.

Transfer of Standing

Elizabeth Smith requested a transfer of standing from Penn Central to Northwest Ohio. Transfer was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Darla Metz

Credentialing Working Group Chair

Discernment Working Group

Church and Ministry Committee

Discernment Working Group: David Weininger (chair), Rev. Rhonda Hainer, Terry Rettig, and Bob Rine.

A Member in Discernment (MiD) is a UCC member who has sensed a call to serve as an ordained minister in our denomination. An individual who senses this call must first be supported by their home church and apply to the Church and Ministry Committee to be admitted to the Discernment Process.

“The Discernment Process is a time of interactive and caring discernment of call.” (Discernment Manual - 2020 Revision). This is a formalized process with course requirements and protocols that must be completed by the MiD. The Discernment Working Group works with the MiD to provide support and encouragement during this process. Each MiD is assigned an advisor who provides support, advice, and guidance. In addition, the Discernment Working Group interviews each MiD annually. This review is primarily a conversation in which the MiD shares where they are on the path of discernment. In nearly every case, the Discernment Advisor attends these reviews.

The Discernment Working Group acts on behalf of the Church and Ministry Committee and ultimately on behalf of the whole of the UCC. Following successful completion of the required courses and protocols, the Discernment Working Group presents the MiD to the Church and Ministry Committee for approval of ordination pending a call to a congregation.

One project that has occupied our time this year is a review of and possible edits to the 2020 Discernment Manual. This document contains information about the discernment process from the initial application to become a Member in Discernment to the final approval for ordination. The working group’s work on the 2020 document should be completed later this year.

There are currently six Members in Discernment (MiD) – see the table in the sequel. Last year at this time there were ten MiDs. While this may seem to be bad news, it is anything but. The reason for this drop in numbers is that four of last year’s MiDs were approved for ordination pending a call. And, as of this writing three of those

individuals have received a call. They are: Elyse Cramer, called by Trinity U.C.C – McCutchenville; Amy Kinney, called by St. John’s U.C.C. – Fostoria; and Liesl Higgins, called by First Congregational U.C.C. – Sandusky. The fourth MiD to be approved for ordination pending a call is Anthony Spearhart. Anthony’s profile is in circulation, and several churches are in communication with Anthony. What a milestone in the lives of these individuals! They are a wonderful and dedicated group, and we are fortunate to have them serving in our Association. I thank the local churches, pastors, and advisors that support our MiDs. Members of the Discernment Working Group continue to be impressed with the dedication and talents of these who have heeded God’s call to ministry. What a blessing they are to our Association.

With Gratitude,
Dave Weininger

Members in Discernment

Name	Advisor	Home Church	Seminary/School
Jennifer Frische	Becky Strang	St. Paul UCC, Wapakoneta	Lexington Theological
Kristen Leverton	Andrea Mericle	Park Place UCC, Toledo (in process)	Chicago Theological
Noah McCarn	Karsten Snitker	Zion UCC, Fireside	Eden Theological
Elizabeth McKibben-Nee	Darla Metz	Trinity UCC, Tiffin	Methodist Theological School in Ohio
James Robinson	Ken Daniel	First UCC, Shelby	Pathways Theological
Adam Shanaman	Jeremy Mann	St. Paul’s UCC, Bellevue	Chicago Theological
Anthony Spearhart	Mark Bishop	St. Paul’s UCC, Wapakoneta	Pathways Theological

Faith Formation Ministry Team-In-Active at this time

Stewardship and Generosity Ministry Team

Our Focus is:

“to promote, generate, and keep fresh innovative ideas on what stewardship and generosity really are. In this aspect, ‘time, talent, and treasure’ are key.” “We also want to generate enthusiasm and responsibility when considering Stewardship and Generosity.”

We continue to provide write-ups on the Special Offering to help explain their purpose, encourage participation, and show how we are making a difference in the world. These are published in the Vine every quarter.

We also created mission-oriented videos showcasing the different ways to promote and encourage stewardship through our time, talents, and treasure. We have been looking into ways to share them with all the other churches and hear back from them as well.

We’d like to thank our president, Mike Fonner for all of his hard work over the years. He has decided it is time to try new things and will be leaving the committee after many committed years of work.

As always, we are looking to discern new ways to encourage other people and churches to engage our community and show the love of Christ by being His hands and feet.

Respectfully Submitted,
Audra Ferguson

Witness and Proclamation Ministry Team

April 2025 –April 2026

Annual Report 2025–2026

The Witness & Proclamation Ministry Team (W&PMT) met regularly via Zoom throughout the year in May, September, November, January, and March. Organizing leadership was the first order of business at the May meeting.

Leadership Team:

- **Chair:** Fred Coulter
- **Vice Chair:** Chris Buckingham-Taylor
- **Representative to the NWOA Council:** Jeff McCarn
- **Secretary:** Karsten Snitker

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Coulter, Chair

W.I.S.E.

Implementation of the WISE Resolution

Our primary focus this year has been the implementation of the **WISE Resolution**, passed by the NWOA at the 2025 Annual Meeting. Key accomplishments include:

- **Educational Outreach:** Published articles in *The Vine* providing congregations with access to mental health materials from the UCC national and Heartland Conference websites.
- **Literature Reviews:** Submitted a summary of Rev. Sarah Griffin Lund's book, *Blessed are the Crazy*, with further summaries of her work forthcoming.
- **Congregational Engagement:** In October 2025, Fred Coulter led a discussion at **St. John's UCC, Genoa**, regarding the practical implementation of the WISE resolution, including partnering with local NAMI chapters.
- **Community Partnership:** In January 2026, Stephenie Johnson (Program Director at NAMI of Northwest Ohio) presented on mental health issues to members of St. John's UCC, Kathleen Gielser, and Fred Coulter.
- **Annual Meeting Workshops:** W&PMT members have volunteered to lead two workshops at the **April 2026 NWOA Annual Meeting:**
 1. Safe Church Training
 2. NAMI Resources for Congregations

Additional Advocacy

Beyond our mental health initiatives, the team continues to champion social justice. John Mummert

contributed a significant article to *The Vine* regarding the fair treatment of immigrants, keeping our commitment to radical hospitality at the forefront.

Looking Ahead

While much has been achieved, there is always more to be done. The W&PMT looks forward to the upcoming Annual Meeting in April 2026 and to another year of collaborative service and proclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Coulter, Chair

Marshallese JRD UCC

Established on June 17, 2026, with the Northwest Ohio Association. Rev. Randon Jello serves as pastor. UCC Marshallese is the largest denomination among the Marshallese & on the islands. Many are descendants of Pacific Islanders displaced after U.S. nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands during the 1940's & 1950's. The islands are being affected by climate change is causing rising sea levels. Programs provide language classes, cultural celebrations, events for the wider community, & intercultural understanding. Preserving the spiritual & cultural heritage of the Marshallese.

Community of Practice Program

...strive to excel in gifts that build up the church.

- 1 Corinthians 14:12

“Just going through the motions”- We have all met pastors who may have begun their ministries with energy and enthusiasm but, over the years, have grown weary of the burden and stagnant through isolation. This is a perennial hazard for ministers who do not find regular contact with colleagues.

Community of Practice groups, offered by the Northwest Ohio Association, offer opportunities for personal support and professional growth. Collegial support, the exchange of ideas and resources, and the encouragement that comes from a common purpose help participants avoid, isolation, loneliness, and discouragement in ministry. One pastor recently wrote:

It's a commitment to schedule the time to meet every month, but it's a commitment that is well worth your while.

Trained facilitators give leadership to each group. This year Diane Carter and Jay Scott accepted facilitator positions, filling vacancies left by Becky Erb Strang and Joel Fetter. Continuing facilitators are Wendy Schindler Chasney, Tom Kagy, Darla Metz, Margaret Mills, and David Orr.

The commitment of these leaders makes the program possible.

Seven groups currently include 40 members and leaders. Among these are a group for those newer to ministry, a group that meets exclusively by Zoom, groups that meet in person, and some hybrid groups. A high percentage of the Association's active ministers, along with a few retirees, are involved in the program. Groups, generally meet, in person or by Zoom, for at least two hours each month from September through May.

Congregations can show their commitment to the personal and professional well-being of their pastors by encouraging them to participate in a Community of Practice group. The Association encourages churches to include participation in a Community of Practice group in their call agreements and to set aside funds for the annual fee.

Information and an enrollment form may be found at: www.nwoa.org/ministries. New members are always welcome.

Rev. David Orr
COP Facilitator Coordinator

Lay School Board

The aim of the Lay School of Religion Program has been to maintain quality instruction, to create an atmosphere for Christian fellowship and dialogue, and to encourage growth in faith and understanding so as to enhance the local church's efforts to develop deeper and stronger faith communities for nurture, witness, mission and leadership. All persons are welcome to enroll in the Lay School of Religion Program for personal enrichment.

The Lay School offers classes three times each year, typically on Tuesday evenings twice a month for six to eight sessions. Anyone may enroll in classes for personal enrichment. However, to graduate from the program students must complete all ten offered classes plus approved workshops in the areas of Stewardship and Evangelism. Here is the current schedule, subject to change. Instructors TBA.

Spring 2026	New Testament II	Jan-April
Summer 2026	Pastoral Care	May-Aug
Fall 2026	UCC History & Polity	Sept-Dec
Spring 2027	Faith Formation	Jan-April
Summer 2027	Preaching	May-Aug
Fall 2027	Liturgy & Worship	Sept-Dec
Spring 2028	Theo/Ethx/Morals	Jan-April

This year has been highly productive for the Lay School of Religion. A significant adjustment to the academic calendar now permits three classes annually, thereby reducing the time required for graduation. Additionally, the board is in process of reviewing course objectives, minor adjustments have been completed for some. A new non-payment policy and an incomplete grade policy have also been discussed and ratified. Ongoing conversations are taking place regarding the necessity of in-person instruction for certain classes.

Class enrollment has been strong, and we pray that churches will continue encouraging growth and development of lay leadership.

Respectfully submitted, Rev Amy Kinney, Team Chair

Board Members: Rev Amy Kinney (Team Chair) Pastor Terri Wies-Haithcock, Regena Mummert, , Rev Darla Metz, Rev. Bob Bottoms (Lay School Dean), Tammy Vajen

RETIRED AUTHORIZED MINISTERS WITH STANDING IN NWOA

Aune, David C. – 2395 Touby Road, Mansfield, OH 44903	419-512-5689
Bast, Elaine – 2911 Port Clinton Road, Fremont, OH 43420	440-823-1222
Bechtel, Janice L. – 809 Washington Ave., Defiance, OH 43512	419-956-8868
Bishop, Mark – 14396 Township Road 178, Bellevue, OH 44811	419-217-0143
Bock, John – 19080 W. Orchard Drive, Elmore, OH 43416	419-862-2505
Borden, David – 4373 Shady Lane Drive, Bucyrus, OH 44820	419-562-1178
Bottoms, Robert – 601 Castalia Street, Bellevue, OH 44811	419-483-5849
Christiansen, Kenneth – 953 Winstonian Way Street, Jacksonville, FL 32221	419-980-6493
Corbin, Donald B. -1951 N. James Road, Graytown, OH 43432	419-862-2807
Coulter, Fred – 809 Washington Ave., Defiance, OH 43512	419-260-7076
Cox, Kay Mooney – 2327 County Road 241, Fremont, OH 43420	419-333-0433
Degener, Joycelyn - 2021 Holloway Road, Holland, OH 43528	419-867-8093
Dorsch, Louis (Rick) – 169 Harvest Lane, Tiffin, OH 44883	419-455-0462
DuVernay, Keith- 2384 Falling Star Ln, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	419-348-5371
Faulmann, Peg-3319 Maplewood Dr., Toledo, OH 43614	419-776-2002
Garner, James – PO Box 772, 402 Lincoln Street, Elmore, OH 43416	419-862-0145
Garrison, Jená – 222 Emerald Circle, Dundee, MI 48131	419-902-4236
Gebhart, Gale – 324 W. Sugar Street, Cridersville, OH 45806	419-645-4476
Giesmann, Donald – 4118 Frey Rd., Northwood, OH 43619	419-341-8288
Green, Gale – 739 Harrison Ave., Akron, OH 44314	740-262-0175
Hainer, Rhonda-163 Southmoor Shores, St. Marys, OH 45885	563-210-3508
Huber, Judith – 6365 Bentley Road, Bluffton, OH 45817	419-358-7709
Isaacs, Frank C. – 2531 Kreis Road, Marion, OH 43302	740-389-3626
Johnson, Daniel – 165 St. Francis Ave., Tiffin, OH 44883	567-220-6892
Johnson, R. Scott-15603 SR 309, Kenton, OH 43326	571-420-8758
Kure, Lenore-101 Hunters Way, Sandusky, OH 44870	419-366-8729
McKinney, Patrick – 475 Treesong Road, Marengo, OH 43334	513-515-2537
Moyer, Paul - 150 W. Daisy Lane, Holland, OH 43528	419-654-6777
Norwine, David – 1320 Hammock Shade Drive, Lakeland, FL 33809	419-276-2849
Orr, Jr., David – 4828 Kitamat Trail, Lima, OH 45805	419-966-2781
Paputza, John -6213 Bogart Road W, Castalia, OH 44824	419-684-7152
Peters, Lowell – 8475 W. Bier Road, Oak Harbor, OH 43449	419-707-3470
Plant, David – 321 Maywinn Drive, Defiance, OH 43512	419-980-4076
Plant, Marian-321 Maywinn Drive, Defiance, OH 43512	419-782-4580
Proietti, Faith – 1639 Cape Cod Drive., Mansfield, OH 44904	419-989-1861
Rainey, John J.-Community at Parkvue, # 301, 3800 Boardwalk Blvd., Sandusky, OH	419-624-9746
Rettig, Marvin – 6657 E. Harbor Road. Lot 68, Lakeside/Marblehead, OH 43440	419-732-8350
Schroeder, Alfred (Sam) – 2429 William A Diehl Court, Defiance, OH 43512	419-784-6557
Schutjer, Clifford – 3208 Riviera Drive, Norman, OK 73072	602-404-6804
Shelly, Edgar W. – 1416 Julianne Circle, Sandusky, OH 44870	419-626-3332
Smith, Bradley – 310 South Lane Street, Bucyrus, OH 44820	419-562-5689
Stiffler, Martin L. – 307 East Bucyrus Street, Crestline, OH 44827	419-683-1926
Sunday, Adrian -6750 Paul Road, Westerville, OH 43082	567-356-6163
Tangeman, Jeanette – 19595 Shortline Road, Wapakoneta, OH 45895	419-234-7935

Tostrick, John – 07513 NB/NK Road, New Bremen, OH 45869	419-629-3439
Trimble, Steve – 520 Milan Ave. Lot 237, Norwalk, OH 44857	419-681-2387
Wilson, Gary - 687 Twp. Road 2104, Loudonville, OH 44842	419-651-4282
Wise, James – 1103 S. Ridge Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45224	513-829-5007
Wood, Mary-212 W. Garfield Ave., Swanton, OH 43558	419-276-3287

OTHER AUTHORIZED MINISTERS WITH ORDAINED MINISTERIAL STANDING IN NWOA

ASSOCIATION MINISTER

Giesman, Don, Bridge Interim Association Minister 416 Wentz Street, Tiffin, OH 44883	419-447-8323
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CHAPLAINS

Bohland, Adam – ProMedica Monroe Hospital & US Army Reserves
Mericle, Andrea – Parkvue Community, 3800 Boardwalk Blvd, Sandusky, OH 44870
Metz, Darla – United Church Homes, 170 East Center Street, Marion, OH 43302

Rummel, Eric – Blanchard Valley Health System, 1900 S. Main St., Findlay, OH 45840

EDUCATIONAL WORK

Helleman, Kathryn – Winebrenner Theo Seminary 950 N. Main St. Findlay, OH 45840	419-836-4086
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ORDAINED UCC MINISTERS

Rev. David Aune	Mansfield	419-512-5689
Rev. Barry Bordenkircher	Fremont	513-317-8146
Rev. Bob Bottoms	Bellevue	419-483-5849
Rev. Pam Easterday	Tiffin	419-619-6356
Rev. Don Giesmann	Northwood	419-341-8288
Rev. Kathryn Helleman	Millbury	419-346-1510
Rev. Beth Long-Higgins, UCH	Marion	740-361-3354
Rev. David Orr, Jr.	Lima	419-966-2781
Rev. Jeanette Tangeman	Wapakoneta	419-657-2196

GRADUATES OF LAY SCHOOL or PREVIOUSLY CERTIFIED LAY MINISTERS

Mr. Ron Geiser	Bluffton	419-302-4844
Mr. Jim Henry	Mansfield	419-529-3016
Pastor Nancy Smith	Bettsville	513-681-0605
Pastor Barb Osborn	Bettsville	419-772-8402
Br. Pastor Anthony Spearhart	Wapakoneta	419-773-0379

AUTHORIZED MINISTERS NOT HOLDING ORDAINED MINISTERIAL STANDING IN NWOA

LICENSED MINISTERS CALLED TO NWOA CHURCHES

Pastor Ron Jesse	Steuben UCC, Steuben	419-465-2995
Pastor Tom Kagy	Lyme Cong., Bellevue /Bloomville UCC	419-983-2371
Pastor Ed Karges	St. Paul's UCC, Saint Marys	419-394-3811
Pastor Noah McCarn	Zion UCC (Fireside), Bellevue	419-483-6658
Pastor Beth McKibben-Nee	First UCC, Marblehead	419-798-4612
Pastor Margaret Mills	St. John's UCC, Elmore	419-862-3511

Pastor Barb Osborn	Zion UCC, Bettsville	419-986-5673
Pastor James Robinson	First UCC, Shelby	419-347-7777
Pastor Jay Scott	Emanuel UCC, Upper Sandusky	419-294-4144
Pastor Adam Shanaman	Buckland UCC, Buckland	419-657-2251
Pastor Ryan Shields	Trinity UCC, Elliston	419-862-3417
Pastor Nancy Smith	Zion UCC, Bettsville	419-986-5673
Pastor Anthony Spearhart	St. Paul's UCC, Wapakoneta	740-726-2808

MEMBER IN DISCERNMENT (IN-CARE)

Frische, Jennifer-St. Paul UCC, 108 Mechanic St., Wapakoneta, OH. 45895	419-738-2215
Leverton, Kristen-Point Place UCC, 4920 297th St. Toledo, OH. 44811	419-726-7390
McCarn, Noah-Zion Fireside, 13525 ½ E. Twp. Rd. 178, Bellevue, OH. 44811	336-596-6574
McKibben-Nee, Beth-First UCC, 802 Prairie St., Marblehead, OH. 43440-2155	419-798-4612
Robinson, James-First UCC, 23 Church St., Shelby, OH. 44875	419-347-7777
Shanaman, Adam-Buckland UCC, 213 N. Main St., Buckland, OH. 45819	419-657-2251
Spearhart, Anthony-St. Paul UCC, 108 W. Mechanic St., Wapakoneta, OH. 45895	740-726-2808

MINISTERS OF ANOTHER UCC CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION SERVING A NWOA CHURCH

Thomas, Diane – Calvary UCC, 511 Heiser Court, Crestline, OH 44827	419-683-2745
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MINISTERS OF ANOTHER DENOMINATION SERVING A NWOA CHURCH

Bibbee, Robert – Berkey Congl. UCC, 12036 Sylvania Metamora Rd., Berkey, OH	419-829-2102
Crowell, Jimmy – Washington Congl., 3925 W. Central Ave., Toledo, OH 43606	419-536-3789
Darling, Michael – First Reformed UCC, 313 W. Columbus St., Kenton, OH 43326	419-673-2225
Newlin, Ned – Lytton-Zion UCC, 12892 Cty. Rd 5, Delta, OH 43515	419-826-1521
Bomeli, Paul-St. Paul's UCC, 108 West Mechanic St., Wapakoneta, OH. 45895	419-826-1521

LAY MINISTER SERVING A NWOA CHURCH

Caudill, Loyd – Windfall Emanuel UCC, 1781 Biddle Road, Galion, OH 44833	419-462-5464
Wies-Haithcock, Terri - Faith Christian Church, 2680 W. Elm St., Lima, OH 45805	419-222-5093
Smith, Nancy-Zion UCC, 109 State St., Bettsville, OH. 44815	419-986-5673
Osborn, Barb-Zion UCC, 109 State St., Bettsville, OH. 44815	419-986-5673

LAY MINISTERS OF ANOTHER DENOMINATION SERVING A NWOA CHURCH

Cawley, Larry – Peace UCC, Galion (805 Nancy Drive, Marion, OH 43302)	740-382-3388
Kamler, Patrick – Westminster Christian Church UCC, 6845 Faulkner Rd., Harrod, OH 45850	419-648-3987
Nagel, John - St. Paul UCC, PO Box 280, Ada, OH 45810	419-634-5104
Mykytuk, Jeremiah-Congregational UCC, 205 Main St., Castalia, OH. 44824-0248	419-684-7152

LAY MINISTER SERVING A NWOA CHURCH

Caudill, Lloyd-Windfall Emanuel UCC, 1781 Biddle Rd., Galion, OH 44883	419-462-5464
Wies-Haithcock, Terri-Faith Christian Church, 2680 W. Elm St., Lima, OH 45805	419-222-5093

LAY MINISTERS OF ANOTHER DENOMINATION SERVING A NWOA CHURCH

Cawley, Larry-Peace UCC, Galion (805 Nancy Dr., Marion, OH 43302)	740-382-3388
Kamler, Patrick-Westminster Christian Church UCC, 6845 Faulkner Rd. Harrod, OH 45850	419-648-3987
Nagel, John-St. Paul UCC, PO Box 280, Ada, OH 45810	419-634-5104

Heartland Conference Report
Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister – 2025 NWOA Report

Dear Friends in Christ,

What a delight it is to bring you greetings from the 237 other congregations that make up the Heartland Conference and also the ministries of our national and global settings – all joining with you to daily to deepen the experience of God’s love in so many different ways.

The past year has been full indeed. I would remind you that **one of the best ways to get connected to the ministry resources we share across the Conference is by clicking on this QR code**. Further, I would like to **urge you to put this QR code in your bulletins**



every week so that more and more of our local congregations can easily connect to the resources for which they may be looking. This code will take you to a “link-tree” where you can easily find out about our latest network connections. There are 16 networks now ranging from Faith Formation to Harm Reduction to disaster response.

I again want to draw your attention to the STAR Network. This stands for **Small Town and Rural** church network. As many of you know, there are nuances to these settings of ministry that call forth attention to particular needs. Pastor Darla Metz has been partnering with several to organize monthly speakers who help to inspire, connect, equip, and support pastors and congregations in small town and rural church settings. This group meets via zoom, on the second Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. Interested in finding out more? Contact our Conference Network Coordinator, Rev. Karen Bruno, at networks@heartlanducc.org.

Many of you are aware that **Outdoor Ministries is continuing in new forms and in new locations this year!** As many of you likely know, the Conference Board of Directors made the difficult decision in early January of 2024 to sell our one remaining outdoor ministry site, Templed Hills. While the cost of sustaining our site for outdoor ministry was no longer financially sustainable, the mission of forming people in faith in an outdoor setting is still a high priority. I hope you will support people of all ages in these opportunities. You can find out more about these by going to <https://heartlanducc.org/storycon;nues>.

Finally, together with the Indiana Kentucky Conference, we have been gifted with a \$30,000 grant to fund a process of extended exploration about how our various ministry entities can more effectively live out our shared mission. This will be a professionally facilitated process gathering stakeholders in each of our settings of ministry across our shared life over a two year period. There is no pre-conceived idea of where this might lead. There is a deep sense that in this season of great change in the life of the world and in the life of the church, such conversations are necessary for us to be faithful and effective well into the future. As you are invited into these conversations, I hope you will say an enthusiastic “yes!”

Finally, thanks so very much for your gifts to Our Church’s Wider Mission which makes these ministries possible, changing lives in so many important ways for the better. Thanks also to Dan, Joan (now retired – thank you, Joan), Kim, and Deb, for their remarkable gifts of ministry that help to cultivate this covenant we so cherish. Blessings on you all!

Pastor Dave

Heartland Conference Disaster Response Ministries

Greetings from your Heartland Conference Disaster Response Team! Over the 2025 year, our Team has continued to be diligent to its purpose, responsive, and busy. During this past year, we:

continued to foster our partnership with the Ohio Assembly, Disciples of Christ. As such, we now have a total of 22 members on our DRT...11 each from both the Heartland Conference, and the Ohio Assembly responded to a Cleveland apartment fire, whereby there were 130 displaced residents...with 125 personal hygiene kits and 32 period packs

responded to a Canton apartment building explosion, displacing 50 residents...with 50 hygiene kits and 20 period packs

continued to promote, collect, and distribute Church World Service cleanup buckets, personal hygiene kits, and period packs. Our 2025 CWS goal was set at 2,500 units...which seemed a rather lofty goal. When the CWS Day of Sharing semi arrived out our Camp Christian Depot, we loaded approx 2,100 units onto the semi. However, when our Team met in December, I was excited to report that churches continued their faithful response to the need for buckets & kits...smashing our goal of 2,500, to the tune of collecting 2,830 buckets and kits in 2025!!! Thus, our new goal for 2026 is **3,000!**

At our February 2025 meeting, we established 4 goals for the year:

CWS Buckets & Kits – with the above stated goal for 2026 being 3,000 units.

In 2025, CWS responded to disasters with:

- 5,400 cleanup buckets
- 6,147 Period Packs
- 71,760 Personal Hygiene Kits
- 39,300 School Kits
- 17,317 Blankets

Emotional & Spiritual Care Response Team – our team has had 4 training sessions, and stands ready “at the call of a local UCC or DOC church pastor”

Long Term Recovery – we continue to work at helping local church groups find mission and/or work sites, based on their skill set, purposes, and desires

Church Preparedness – we continue to focus on identifying and developing resources for local churches to access, assisting their Church Preparedness efforts

As we prepare to meet in 2026, I would anticipate our goals will resemble those of last year. As always, there is much to be done...in most cases, more work than time allows! Our DRT members will continue to lead with passion and dedication.

Lastly, as always is the case, to achieve our goals requires financial support. In 2025, we needed new tires on our Disaster Response pickup, as well as an ABS replacement assembly pump. Our Disaster Response Tool Trailer, as well as our CWS kits trailer will be going in for their annual “check up” in the spring...which will hopefully find only minimal needs. Needless to say, these all require financial support, and are some of the ways your church could support our work. Our DRT are all volunteers, and give of their time and talents to help provide the work & response that our mission calls for. Should your hearts be touched, donations can be sent to the NWOA office, earmarked for the Disaster Response Team, or directly to the Heartland Conference with Disaster Response notations. Should you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me at gehreskb@gmail.com, or any of our DRT members. Blessings to each of you, and the churches in NWOA, as we continue this journey together.

As CWS puts it...“Because you shared so generously, hope showed up when it was needed most. Your compassion brought comfort, care and the promise of a new beginning to neighbors facing a difficult time. Thank you for being part of a community that shows up – again and again – with love.”

Kevin Gehres, Heartland Conference Disaster Response Coordinator
 Pastor Ed Karges, NWOA DRT member (St. Paul’s UCC, St Marys)
 Jim Huckemeyer, NWOA DRT member (St. Paul’s UCC, St Marys)

BACK BAY MISSION

strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, transforming lives



CLIENT-CHOICE FOOD PANTRY

As the only client-choice pantry on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, we invite guests to shop as they would in a grocery store.

Served 4,852 food-insecure Mississippians in 2025.

HOUSING RECOVERY

As a form of homelessness rehabilitation, we restore the homes of local residents who are unable to afford critical repairs. Hundreds of volunteers from all over the country visit Back Bay Mission to help us do this work!



MICAH DAY CENTER

A safe space for those in homelessness. Guests can shower, access mail services, receive a change of clothes, and more to support their journey forward.

318 new and 650 unsheltered folks served in 2025.

HOUSING PROGRAMS

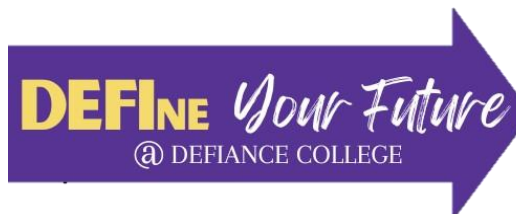
We provide affordable housing opportunities for those facing housing insecurity. Through programs like HOPWA, ESG, and more, we offer stability, case management, and essential services to foster stability.





If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.
~African proverb

For Fall 2025, Defiance College's class was 13% larger than the prior fall. The momentum continues in the recruiting of the class entering for Fall 2026. We continue our *DEFIne Your Future* program.



In 2025, DC expanded the *1850 Promise* program from seven to eleven counties for eligible students in Allen, Defiance, Hancock, Henry, Fulton, Lucas, Putnam, Paulding, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood counties; their DC education can be debt-free if commuting from home.

The year-long 175th Anniversary Campaign: *Strengthening Defiance College* came to its conclusion in March 2026 with a review of the many celebrations that brought many alumni/ae and friends of DC together. You can explore more about the 175th Anniversary—and many other compelling stories—by reading the latest issue of *Defiance College Magazine*, now available on our new digital bookshelf: <https://www.defiance.edu/dc-publications/>. The two fundraising years of 2023-24 and 2024-25 were among the top twelve fundraising years at the college with almost \$7 million raised. Thanks to our many donors who have contributed to our students' success through their generosity.

Jacket Journey, a nationally unique career readiness program, is now in its sixth year. This unique program prepares students for the workplace by teaching them skills that employers desire such as emotional intelligence, critical thinking, social etiquette, and ethical decision-making among many others. Over the past five years, Defiance College has maintained a stellar 96% job and graduate school placement rate.

In 2025, Defiance College also launched an upgraded website to better tell its story and enhance the experience for prospective students, families, alumni/ae, and friends of the College. I invite you to visit us at www.defiance.edu. Our expanded digital outreach has also increased awareness of Defiance College, delivering more than 3.5 million social media impressions in the past eight months alone. We encourage you to follow Defiance College on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/defiancecollege> and stay connected to the many stories shaping our future."

Thus, Defiance College continues to reDEFIne in a rapidly and ever-changing future!



GREETINGS FROM THE GRACE COMMUNITY CENTER - A UCC MISSION!
 2025 has been a year of excellent accomplishment for our agency - along not only familiar paths, but new ones as well.

FAMILIAR...

- For the 31th year, we operated our summer Edu Camp. We enrolled 62 youths ranging from kindergarten to middle school. We employed as our camp staff 10 youth, ranging in age from 14-22, as well as 6 Seniors Citizens, all under the leadership of Jay Shavers. Math and reading skills were tested pre and post camp showing that no one experienced "summer slide," and several campers moved up a grade level or 2. Working with the Kent Branch Library, campers logged over 2000 hours of reading, and 100% of the campers signed a No Violence Pledge.
- For the 10th year in a row, we've planted, tended, and harvested vegetable crops out of our 10,000 square-foot, raised bed garden: over 3,000 pounds of it. 95% of that food has gone to food insecure families. The garden and what we are supplied by the City's food banks (with United Way grant funding) have been distributed to over 2,300 families. Food insecurity remains an issue, as high food prices have kept people coming to our door in large numbers.

NEW...

- With financial help from both Central State University and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation, we have operated an urban farming-oriented program for Jr. and Sr. High Youth called BFF (Building Future Farmers). They visited 4 farms in Ohio and Michigan as well as toured Central State University's Extension program in Wilberforce, Ohio. All this was meant to open their eyes to the career opportunities available to them in the field of agriculture.
- We partnered with the Area Office on Aging to provide vegetables to seniors in a specific Toledo neighborhood. The **Area Office on Aging** research has shown the average life expectancy in that neighborhood to be 62, compared to 82 in neighborhoods close by. AOA identifies the seniors who are eligible to receive this service. Then, a major Toledo Area grower supplies fresh food for 50 Seniors. Grace does the delivery. This also provides the recipients with much needed friendly, compassionate human contact.

SUSTAINING...

UCC support and prayers continue to be a bright light in all that we do at Grace Community Center since our beginning in 1969 out of the lower level of the Grace United Methodist Church on Fulton and Kenilworth, Toledo, Ohio. Romans 8:28 says that God works all things together for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose. Our shared faith is the bedrock foundation which informs all our work!



Insurance Board
 1468 W 9th St* Cleveland, Ohio 44113
www.InsuranceBoard.org
 800-437-8830

The IB here to serve you!

The Insurance Board (IB) has been serving churches for more than 30 years. In 1979 a local church trustee and entrepreneur in northern California believed churches could improve insurance coverage, costs and services if they were to unite and buy as a group. In 1981, a Program was established in California and shortly after that the IB was formed by the UCC Conferences. Today, the Program is available to all UCC churches across the Country. The Program also serves churches and ministries in three ecumenical partners: The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Alliance of Baptists and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

MISSION

To support and protect churches and church ministries by offering superior property and casualty risk and insurance management services.

VALUE

Choosing to be bound together in mutual care and concern we will maintain:

- Integrity
- Excellence
- Exceptional Customer Service
- Open Communication
- Inclusiveness

VISION

Become the insurance program of choice for the denominations we serve.

There are currently 4200 church entities participating in the program, with more than \$16 billion in total insured values, making the IB one of the largest denominational programs in the Country. A primary purpose of the Insurance Board is to help churches manage the risks that are inherent in their operations. We have developed, and continue to develop, risk management resources and programs to assist ALL UCC churches (not just those in the IB Program) in their loss prevention initiatives, resources are on our website at www.InsuranceBoard.org

To find out more about the Program or to get a proposal for your church, please contact Jeff Gisser or John Bouhall CPCU of the Richey-Barrett Insurance Agency at 440.835.4800



2025 IN REVIEW

For 110 years, United Church Homes (UCH) has been committed to transforming the lives of older adults through exceptional housing and compassionate care. Now the 19th largest multisite nonprofit senior living organization in the U.S., UCH serves more than 7,000 residents across 90+ owned and managed communities in 15 states and two tribal lands. With a mission to redefine aging, UCH continues to foster a culture of community, wholeness, and peace.

UCH is proud to serve the following senior living communities in the NWOA association: **The Parkvue Community, The Parkvue Community on Catawba Island, The Villas at Sheridan, Brownstone Terrace, and HardinCrest.**

Grants & Employee Giving received to support these NWOA Communities:

The Parkvue Community: \$33,464

- Giving supported a summer intern, religious supplies, bus repair and Parkvue Pals, an intergenerational program with local high schoolers

The Parkvue Community on Catawba Island: \$12,490

- Giving supported a security system and resident programming

Brownstone Terrace: \$762

- The Marion County Council on Aging awarded a grant for patio chairs

Programs and Education from The Center for Abundant Aging:

The Center, established in 2017, serves as a hub for thought leadership on aging in the 21st century. Through innovative resources, engaging events and meaningful dialogue, The Center explores and redefines what it means to age with purpose, dignity and abundance, fostering a culture that values older adults and their contributions to society.

- Hosted the **10th Annual Symposium** focused on Creativity-- **Ignite Creative Potential: The Aging Superpower**
- Rev. Darla Metz presented "Scams and Financial Exploitation" for the Lunch and Learns at The Parkvue Community and in multiple local settings.
- Launched the on-line monthly Caregiver Support Group with Rev. Darla Metz.

Expanding Reach Through Innovation:

- UCH is participating in the **GUIDE** (Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience) Model through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Aimed to enhance dementia care by comprehensive, person-centered support to individuals living with dementia, their caregivers and reducing hospitalizations.

Looking Ahead to 2026

The Center for Abundant Aging hosts the **Abundant Aging Ministry Network** in cooperation with the Heartland Conference on the third Thursday of each month at noon.

The Center is launching new **Abundant Aging Insight Webinars** in 2026. These are interactive webinars focusing on aging abundantly one question at a time. Visit: unitedchurchhomes.org/blog/bundle/

Leadership Transition: Ken Young, a 20-year veteran of UCH and a diakonal minister through the CHHSM Nollau Leadership Institute, assumed the role of President and CEO in February 2025, ensuring a seamless continuation of UCH's mission and vision.

We are proud to partner with NWOA to support aging ministries and provide innovative solutions for older adults within their communities. ***Together, we remain committed to enhancing the lives of those we serve.***

Ballot
63rd Annual Meeting
Northwest Ohio
Association, UCC
April 25, 2026

<u>NWOA Treasurer/Finance & Budget</u>		<u>__</u> VACANCY	28
<u>__</u> Carl Dettmer	28	<u>__</u> VACANCY	28
<u>__</u> Mary Powell	28		
<u>__</u> VACANCY	28	<u>Stewardship & Generosity</u>	
<u>__</u> VACANCY	28	<u>__</u> Paul Bomeli	28
<u>__</u> VACANCY	28	<u>__</u> Jeremiah Mykytuk	28
<u>__</u> VACANCY	28	<u>__</u> Margaret Mills	28
		<u>__</u> VACANCY	28
<u>Church & Ministry</u>		<u>__</u> VACANCY	28
<u>__</u> Patrick Nee	28	<u>__</u> VACANCY	28
<u>__</u> Liesl Higgins	28	<u>Witness & Proclamation</u>	
<u>__</u> David Voll	28	<u>__</u> Randall Forester	28
		<u>__</u> VACANCY	28
<u>Cabinet/Heartland Conference Rep</u>		<u>__</u> VACANCY	28
<u>__</u> Elaine Bast	28	<u>__</u> VACANCY	28
		<u>Nominating Committee</u>	
<u>NWOA At-Large</u>		<u>__</u> Faith Proietti	28
<u>__</u> Audra Ferguson	28	<u>__</u> James Robinson	28
		<u>__</u> VACANCY	28
<u>Finance & Budget</u>			
<u>__</u> Mary Powel	28		
<u>__</u> VACANCY	28		
<u>__</u> VACANCY	28		

NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION

NWOA CABINET

NWOA MODERATOR-Peggy George

NWOA VICE-MODERATOR- Pastor Jay Scott

NWOA Treasurer

Carl Dettmer

Carl is a native of Napoleon and lives on his family's ancestral farm there, serving as the financial administrator for St. John's in Holgate. He holds a degree in Broadcast

Journalism from Bowling Green State University. After spending a decade in radio, Carl moved on to higher education, responsible for planning and implementing workforce training programs, serving businesses, organizations, and individuals. After working at BGSU for a decade, Carl has worked for Owens Community College near Toledo for 18 years. His relaxation hobbies are endless yard work at his farm on good weather days and revitalizing aging computers on bad ones.

CHURCH & MINISTRY

Patrick Nee

Born in Philadelphia, PA, raised in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Pat was baptized a Catholic, and attended Catholic School through high school. He served in the US Coast Guard and is a lifelong boating enthusiast. Pat has a BFA in Interior Design and taught middle school art. This is where he met wife, Beth McKibben-Nee, and they married around 10 years after first meeting. Pat worked in home improvement, investing in real estate and owning rentals. After becoming a member of the Episcopal Church in Fernandina Beach, FL, and serving in different lay ministry roles, Pat became the Sexton of St. Peter's and worked there until retirement. Pat and Beth moved to Tiffin, OH, in late Summer of 2024 to be closer to Beth's family and so Beth could attend Seminary at MTSO in Delaware, OH. Since moving to Tiffin, Pat has been active in Kiwanis and as a member of Trinity UCC. Beth has been called to serve as Pastor of Marblehead First UCC-Congregational where Pat also attends. Pat is a new member of the NWOA Church and Ministry Team, serving on the Credentialing Committee.

Rev. Liesl Higgins-see page 40

Rev. Dave Voll

Rev. Dave Voll has been in NWOA for over 31 years, having served settled pastorates at St. John's UCC in Archbold, OH (1994-2005) and St. Paul UCC in Oak Harbor, OH (2006-2019). Previously he served Zion UCC in Dyer, IN (1981-1992) and Washington Reformation UCC in Monticello, WI (1992-1994). He is also a trained Interim Minister, a path he has chosen to follow for the remainder of his full-time ministry career. As such, since 2019 he has served Intentional Interim positions at Trinity UCC in Tiffin, OH (25 months), St. John's UCC in Holgate, OH (19 months), First Congregational UCC in Naperville, IL (10 months), and St. Paul UCC in New Bremen (presently). He has been active in NWOA over the years, serving twice on the Church and Ministry Team, as well as a term as Moderator.

Dave and his wife, Janise, have two adult sons and five grandchildren, with all but their granddaughter living in NW Ohio.

HEARTLAND CONFERENCE REP

Elaine Bast

I have a BS in Education, an MA and a PhD all from Bowling Green State University and

an M.Div. from Andover Newton Theological School. I have worked in community development, needs assessment and strategic planning and government work at several places including the University of Southern Maine, the Ohio Hispanic Institute of Opportunity, the Toledo Lucas County Council for Human Services, the Social Security Administration, and the Lorain County Board of Mental Health. I have been involved at various times with NAMI, NAACP, youth mentoring, United Way and People for Peace and Justice. I'm a second career pastor having served churches in Cleveland, Sheffield Lake and Fremont. I'm retired and enjoy gardening, making fused glass and music.

NWOA AT – LARGE MEMBER

Audra Ferguson

Audra was born in Ridgway, Pennsylvania to a single mom and has 2 younger sisters who are twins. She lived in Pennsylvania most of her life and moved to Ohio 5 years ago to become the pastor at St. John's UCC, Tiffin. What surprises her most about this area (other than the lack of mountains with trees) is how incredibly kind the people are. She believes in the radical and healing love of Christ with all of her heart and hopes one day to see a future where everyone has their basic needs met and we live in peace.

FAITH FORMATION TEAM-In-Active at this time.

FINANCE & BUDGET

Mary Powell, I am a member of St. John's UCC in Tiffin. In 2019 I retired after 20 years as the Fiscal Officer of the Tiffin-Seneca Public Library and since that time I have been the church treasurer since 2019. I currently serve on the Christian Education Committee and St. John's and continue as a Sunday School teacher. I also served as the Vice-Moderator, Moderator and Treasurer of the Northwest Ohio Association,

STEWARDSHIP AND CARING MINISTRY TEAM

Paul Bomeli

I was born and raised in Bowling Green, OH., the son of a tenured BGSU PhD Accounting Professor in the college of Business Administration who was also an ordained minister in the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ denomination. My mother was a stay-at-home mother helping to raise five children in all. I attended BGSU and majored in secondary education specializing in history, social sciences, and the humanities. I got married at an early age and unfortunately, subsequently divorced after seven years of the relationship. I do have one grown son, Jason, as a result of my earlier marriage. He is married and he along with his wife Emily, helped to provide me with two glorious granddaughters. They as a family all currently live in Bowling Green, OH.

After working in public education to start my career I then left teaching and made my way into a career in sales. I sold technology platforms to public and private high schools and did athletic coaching and officiating on the side. I embarked upon a career path in ministry and worked bi-vocationally in sales as I was attending seminary in Lexington, Kentucky at LTS. I have been working exclusively in ministry for the past 22 years and love every minute of what God graciously brings my way. My denominational affiliations include both, the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, and also the United Churches of Christ I truly feel blessed to have this inspiring opportunity.

My hobbies and interests include visiting historic sites, travel, model kit making and detailing, reading, cooking, sports, and motorcycling.

Jeremiah Mykytuk

Pastor Jeremiah Mykytuk is blessed to serve Jesus and his church family at the Castalia Congregational United Church of Christ in Castalia, Ohio, the role to which he was called in August 2025. Prior to that calling, Jeremiah spent three years leading an all-volunteer ministry team at The Meadows of Osborne Park. He also served in the field of higher education for more than 15 years. Jeremiah has a BA and an MA in English from Kent State University as well as an MDiv in pastoral studies from Moody Theological Seminary. While Jeremiah strives to share the love of Jesus with everyone he meets, he is especially passionate when it comes to serving elderly and disabled people.

Margaret Mills

Margaret grew up in South Norwalk, CT and attended the United Church of Rowayton. After graduating from Defiance College, Defiance, OH, in 1967, Margaret served as the Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry at Old South Church UCC, in Kirtland, Ohio. In 1977, she was called to be the Associate in Christian Education for the Western Reserve Association, Ohio Conference, UCC where she served in Christian Education and Youth Ministry part time. Over the next 37 years, Margaret became the staff for both Eastern Ohio and Western Reserve Associations in Christian Education and Youth Ministry and in Western Reserve as staff for Stewardship, Church in the World and Church and Ministry. and as the Associate Association Minister during the time WRA's Associate was deployed as a Navy Chaplain. During those years, the two associations began working closely together and are now one association. In 2014, she was called to be the Pastor at St. John's UCC in Elmore as a bridge for 2 months...now 12 years. She is a Commissioned Minister of Christian Education and Youth and a Licensed Pastor at St. John's UCC in Elmore. She has 2 children and 3 grandchildren in Kirtland and Willoughby, Ohio.

WITNESS AND PROCLAMATION TEAM

Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester

The Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester serves as senior pastor of St. John's Evangelical Church in Kenton, OH, a position he has held since February 2015. He has served in ordained ministry for three decades in Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio. He holds an undergraduate degree in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Divinity degree from Yale University, and a Doctor of Ministry Degree specializing in ecclesiology from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Within the United Church of Christ, he has served on the national board of Faithful and Welcoming Churches. He advocates for the inclusion of ECOT believers at every level of denomination. ECOT stands for Evangelicals, Conservatives, Orthodox, and Traditionalists. In this service, he has met with churches, pastors, association and conference ministers, and national staff to advocate for recruiting, support, and inclusion of ECOT members, clergy, and ideas at all levels of our shared life together.

Randall, his wife Kathy, and adult children, Augustin and Angelica, enjoy being part of the community, serving in the local church, and improving the lives of others through mentoring and discipleship. In his free time, Randall officiates soccer all throughout the year and has begun to volunteer with the Civil Air Patrol in Marysville, OH instructing youth in character development.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Faith Proietti

My father was a pioneer-pastor for a new church-start.

I graduated from high school I attended an independent bible school in East Providence, Rhode Island where my parents had attended school and met. It was here that I met my husband, Gary, and we got married in 1974.

Over the next few years, I helped my husband further his education at Northwest College in Kirkland, Washington and Brite Divinity School (Texas Christian University) in Fort Worth, Texas. We then traveled to Lynn, Massachusetts and Hiram, Ohio where he pastored two congregations. During my time at Hiram, I attended Hiram College and received my B.A. Eventually, we moved to Mansfield, Ohio with our three children and he pastored First Christian Church. I then studied at Ashland University where I earned my masters in Pastoral Counseling and the Methodist School in Ohio where I earned my master's in divinity. In 2006 I studied at the Pittsburgh Seminary and earned my Doctor of Ministry with a thesis entitled, *Designing and Developing a Resource for Families Devastated by Suicide*.

Over the last fifty years I have held a variety of church positions. I also worked for OhioHealth Hospital as a hospice chaplain, bereavement coordinator, a staff chaplain and the director of Pastoral Care for Shelby and Mansfield hospitals. I retired from chaplaincy after twenty-six years of service to the Mansfield community.

I am now serving as the interim pastor for two congregations: St. John's United Church of Christ and Hope Lutheran Church that operate in the same building. I am working with both congregations to create joint ministries, such as a clothing shop, pantry, community breakfasts, AA meetings and Christian study groups. We are actively exploring the possibility of becoming a federated congregation.

Pastor James Robinson

Pastor James Robinson has faithfully served the Shelby community through his ministry for over a decade, offering leadership, compassion, and a deep commitment to unity in the body of Christ. He has served as pastor of Shelby First United Church of Christ for 11 years and Shelby First Presbyterian Church for 9 years.

Licensed with the Northwest Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ, Pastor James also serves as a Ruling Elder within the Presbyterian Church (USA). He is currently a Member in Discernment and is pursuing seminary education through Pathways Theological Education.

Beyond the pulpit, Pastor James is deeply invested in the life of the Shelby community. He serves as President of the Shelby Diaper Pantry, supporting families in need, and as Secretary of the Shelby Academic Boosters Club, encouraging educational excellence. He also contributes to the community's cultural and educational life as a member of the Shelby Marvin Memorial Library Board of Trustees.

Pastor James is the proud father of three sons, Aiden (12), Carson (10), and Grayson (8).

At the heart of Pastor James's ministry is a passion for ecumenicalism and social justice. His leadership reflects a belief that the Church is strongest when it works together in love, service, and shared mission.

NWOA Churches and Staff

Ada, St. Paul's UCC

NWOA
Church # 0010

4443 Twp. Rd. 25
P.O. Box 280
Ada, OH. 45810-0280
(419) 634-5104

STAFF

Mr. John Nagel

Pastor

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email: jnagel59@gmail.com

Bellevue, St. Paul's UCC

NWOA
Church # 0480

428 Kilbourne St.
Bellevue, OH. 44811-1698
(419) 483-6490 FAX: (419) 483-0371 spuccsec@gmail.com

www.stpaulsuccbellevue.com

STAFF

Rev. Diane Carter

Pastor

Home Phone:

5743 Young Road, Bellevue, OH. 44811

Cell Phone: (419) 217-4532

Email: PastorDianeCarter@gmail.com

Bellevue, Zion (Fireside) UCC

NWOA
Church # 0485

13525 Township Road 178
Bellevue, OH. 44811-9553
(419) 483-6658 FAX: (419) 483-3207 zionunited@gmail.com

<https://firesideucc.org/>

STAFF

Pastor Noah McCarn

Pastor

Home Phone:

13525 1/2 East Twp. Road 178, Bellevue, OH. 44811

Cell Phone: (336) 596-6574

Email: noah.b.mccarn@gmail.com

Bellevue, Lyme Congregational Church

NWOA
Church # 3470

5451 ST. RT. 113
P.O. Box 103
Bellevue, OH. 44811-0103
(419) 483-8606
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lyme-Congregational/120523651297588?rf=142609462436074>

STAFF

Pastor Thomas Kagy

Pastor

Home Phone: (419) 681-4056

7 Newton St., Norwalk, OH. 44857

Cell Phone: (419) 681-4056

Email: tom_kagy@hotmail.com

NWOA Churches and Staff

Berkey, Berkey Congregational Christian

NWOA
Church # 0530

12036 Sylvania Metamora Rd.
Berkey, OH. 43504
(419) 829-2102

STAFF

Rev. Robert Bibbee Pastor
510 W. Wayne Street, Maumee, OH. 43537

Home Phone:
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Berlin Heights, First Congregational UCC Church & Society

NWOA
Church # 0540

5 E. Main St.
P.O. Box 66
Berlin Heights, OH. 44814-0066
419-588-2102 FAX: (419) 588-4042bh1stcong@gmail.com

www.thebigwhitechurch.com/

STAFF

Rev. David Clark Pastor
58 Kendal Dr., Oberlin, OH. 44074

Home Phone:
Cell Phone:

Bettsville, Zion UCC

NWOA
Church # 0550

109 State St.
P.O. Box 567
Bettsville, OH. 44815-0567
(419) 986-5673
<https://www.zionuccbetts.org/>

STAFF

Pastor Barbara Osborn Supply Pastor
6034 County Road 591, New Riegel, OH. 44853

Pastor Nancy Smith Pastor
855 Rambo Lane, Fremont, OH. 43420-8834

Home Phone:
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Home Phone: (567) 201-9420
Cell Phone: (513) 681-0605
Email: NanLu56@woh.rr.com

Bloomville, College Hill UCC

NWOA
Church # 0580

7632 State Route 4
Bloomville, OH. 44818-9348
(419) 492-0008

STAFF

Rev. Michael Ebersole Pastor
7634 State Route 4, Bloomville, OH. 44818

Home Phone:
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NWOA Churches and Staff

Bloomville, St. John's (Baseline) UCC

NWOA
Church # 0590

5721 E. Cty. Rd. 58
Bloomville, OH. 44818
(419) 284-0009
7632 State Route 4, Bloomville, OH 44818

MAILING ADDRESS

STAFF

Rev. Michael Ebersole Pastor
7634 State Route 4, Bloomville, OH. 44818

Home Phone :
Cell Phone: (419) 689-2120
Email: mle19@outlook.com

Bloomville, Bloomville UCC

NWOA
Church # 0600

31 N. Marion St.
P.O. Box 55
Bloomville, OH. 44818
(419) 983-2371**bloomvilleucc@gmail.com**

<https://www.bloomvilleucc.org/>

STAFF

Pastor Thomas Kagy Pastor
7 Newton St., Norwalk, OH. 44857

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Cell Phone: (419) 681-4056
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Bluffton, Emmanuel UCC

NWOA
Church # 0610

8375 Phillips Rd.
Bluffton, OH. 45817-9544
(419) 358-1561**emmanuelucc8375@gmail.com**

www.emmanueluccbluffton.com

STAFF

Rev. Jeremy Mann Pastor
8300 Phillips Road, Bluffton, OH. 45817

Home Phone:
Cell Phone: (717) 383-0530
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Bluffton, St. John's UCC

NWOA
Church # 0620

223 W College Ave.
Bluffton, OH. 45817-1205
(419) 358-5641**blufftonstjohnsucc@gmail.com**

www.blufftonstjohns.com

STAFF

Rev. Jeremy Mann Pastor
8300 Phillips Road, Bluffton, OH. 45817

Home Phone:
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Email: jmann002@gmail.com

NWOA Churches and Staff

Buckland, Buckland UCC

NWOA
Church # 0720

213 N. Main St.
Buckland, OH. 45819-9719
(419) 657-2251 FAX: (419) 657-2253bucucc@ohiolink.net

www.bucklanducc.org

STAFF

Pastor Adam Shanaman Pastor
211 N. Main Street, Buckland, OH. 45819

Home Phone:
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Bucyrus, St. John's UCC

NWOA
Church # 0730

120 S. Lane St.
Bucyrus, OH. 44820-2312
(419) 562-8271 FAX: (419) 562-8271sjuccebucyrus@gmail.com

STAFF

Mr. Gary Schiefer Supply Pastor
4037 Perrysburg Rd., Nevada, OH. 44849-9617

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Castalia, Congregational UCC

NWOA
Church # 0890

205 Main St.
P.O. Box 248
Castalia, OH. 44824-0248
(419) 684-7152castaliaucc@aol.com

STAFF

Pastor Jeremiah Mykytuk Pastor
324 Ohio St., Huron, OH. 44839

Home Phone:
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Celina, Marshallese JRD UCC

NWOA
Church # 9002

7729 U.S. 127
Celina, OH. 45822
(916) 309-9892heltyjello@aol.com

STAFF

Rev. Randon Jello Pastor
229 S. Mill St. Celina, OH. 45822

Home Phone: (916) 309-9892
Cell Phone: (916) 309-9892
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NWOA Churches and Staff

Crestline, Calvary UCC

NWOA
Church # 1820

511 Heiser Ct.
Crestline, OH. 44827-1361
(419) 683-2745crestlinecalvary@gmail.com

<https://www.crestlinecalvary.com/>

STAFF

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283 Allium Lane, Delaware, OH. 43015

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Defiance, The St. John UCC

NWOA
Church # 2010

950 Webster St.
Defiance, OH. 43512-1682
(419) 782-4176 FAX: (419) 782-2370stjohnuccsecretary@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnUCCDefianceOH/>

STAFF

Rev. David Plant Pastor
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Home Phone: (419) 782-4580
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Delta, Lytton- Zion UCC

NWOA
Church # 3480

12892 County Road 5
Delta, OH. 43515-9204
(419) 825-1384lyttonzion@gmail.com

STAFF

Rev. Ned Newlin Pastor

Home Phone:
Cell Phone:
Email:

Elliston, Trinity UCC

NWOA
Church # 2180

17955 W. Third St.
Elliston, OH. 43432-9776
(419) 862-3417 FAX: (419) 862-3417tucc1862@gmail.com

www.trinityelliston.org

STAFF

Pastor Ryan Shields Pastor
512 State Street, Elmore, OH. 43416

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NWOA Churches and Staff

Elmore, St. John's UCC

NWOA
Church # 2190

448 E. Rice St.
P.O. Box 288
Elmore, OH. 43416-0288
(419) 862-3511 FAX: (419) 862-3511 st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com

STAFF

Pastor Margaret Mills Pastor
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Findlay, First UCC

NWOA
Church # 2330

2100 Greendale Ave.
Findlay, OH. 45840-7161
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STAFF

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Fostoria, St. John's UCC

NWOA
Church # 2420

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STAFF

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Fremont, First UCC

NWOA
Church # 2450

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STAFF

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NWOA Churches and Staff

Galion, Windfall Emanuel UCC

NWOA
Church # 2470

1781 Biddle Rd.
P.O. Box 332
Galion, OH. 44833-9348
(419) 468-2329
dreama@frontier.com

STAFF

Pastor Loyd Caudill Pastor
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Home Phone: (419) 462-5464
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Email: dreama@frontier.com

Galion, First UCC

NWOA
Church # 2480

248 Harding Way W.
Galion, OH. 44833-1735
(419) 468-4380 FAX: (419) 468-5581
office@uccgalion.org
www.uccgalion.org

STAFF

Rev. Robert (Chris) Buckingham-Taylor Pastor
4307 Jenee Drive, Lorain, OH. 44053

Home Phone:
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Galion, Peace UCC

NWOA
Church # 2490

MAILING ADDRESS

4825 Cty. Rd. 31 (Church location)
Galion, OH. 44833
4475 St. Rt. 288, Galion, OH. 44833

STAFF

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805 Nancy Dr., Marion, OH. 43302-8575

Home Phone: (740) 382-3388
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Genoa, St. John's UCC

NWOA
Church # 2550

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www.stjohnsgenoa.org

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Kenton, First Reformed Church

NWOA
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NWOA
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