For the week of August 16 - August 22, 2020

UCF Awards Over $100K to Conferences for Clergy Support

Illinois South Conference is a Recipient

United Church Funds (UCF) today announced that Brown Endowment grants of over $100,000 have been awarded so far this year to 13 United Church of Christ (UCC) conferences. These grants will allow these conferences to implement support programs and leadership development for authorized ministers who are addressing and responding to the crisis and trauma caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and protests for racial justice.

Charles Buck, UCF President & CEO, said, “From the grant proposals we have received, it’s clear that churches and pastors are not excluded from the disruption and stress caused by the pandemic and recent racial upheaval. They need long-term support to continue leading their congregations in a healthy and sustainable way. United Church Funds is pleased that the Brown Endowment Fund that we administer is helping churches and faith leaders recover from the impact of COVID-19, and elevating churches’ role in addressing systemic racism.”

The UCC conferences receiving grants are Central Atlantic, Florida, Illinois South, Indiana-Kentucky, Kansas-Oklahoma, Missouri Mid-South, Northern California Nevada, New York, Penn Northeast, Penn West, South Central, Southern and Southwest.

The Rev. Shana Johnson, Illinois South Conference Minister, said, “We've been looking for ways to provide as much ongoing support as possible to our clergy and chaplains. The COVID-19 pandemic and the racism upheaval are not one incident but an ongoing event that compounds and complicates the grief and trauma. We are planning to use the Brown Endowment grant to implement a long-term trauma debriefing process to help with the burnout and to further equip our chaplains and pastors with the resiliency skills needed to continue to serve in a new normal.” Read the entire article.

Prepare Now to Vote in November

We are fast approaching the final stretch of the 2020 election season. The United Church of Christ's Our Faith Our Vote Campaign is here with resources and opportunities to help you get active in your congregation and community with nonpartisan election engagement.

One of the most important components of Our Faith Our Vote Campaign is voter registration and voter empowerment. This year, to keep ourselves and others safe, we need to be creative with how we register and interact with voters. That's where our Civic Action Center comes in. This tool in the Our Faith Our Vote campaign allows individuals to check their registration status and get registered (in 39 states and the District of Columbia) ALL ONLINE! It even tells you when and where to vote in upcoming elections, local and federal. Check it out yourself, then send it to a friend, or maybe two! Make sure you and those you love are registered and have their voices heard in November.

For Illinois Residents

You must be registered to vote. You can register in several different places including public libraries, city and village offices, and through the efforts some organizations such as the League of Women Voters (not just for women, of course!)
You can check to see if you are registered to vote [here](#), and if not, register to vote online [here](#).

To learn more about registering including requirements, deadlines, etc., consult this [document](#).

There are several ways to vote in the election:
- **Vote in person at your polling place on Election Day** (Tuesday, November 3, 2020.) To find your polling place, go [here](#).
- **Vote in person by early voting** (October 19-November 2.) You can learn about places to vote early by selecting the 2020 General Election and your Election Authority at this [website](#). However, as of this writing, the places for early voting are not yet posted.
- **Vote by mail** (do not use this option if you plan to vote in person). Due to concerns over COVID 19, many people may elect this option. To vote by mail, you must apply to get a mail-in ballot. For those who apply to vote by mail, ballots will begin being mailed on September 24. There are three ways to apply:
  - in person at your election authority by November 2 (see below) OR
  - by mail by returning the application you may get in the mail. By late July, 2020, applications are to be mailed to every voter who voted in any election since November, 2018, plus voters who have registered for the first time or updated their registrations since the March, 2020, primary election OR
  - apply online [here](#).

All mailed or online applications for ballots must be received by your Election Authority by October 29, 2020.

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**OPEN YOUR DOORS**

We recognize and appreciate that outreach ministries may extend beyond a weekly service. Our churches embrace ministry in many forms: food distribution programs, providing shelter for those in need, and so much more. All of this good work is such a wonderfully expansive view of ministry. However, opening your doors beyond weekly worship opens your congregation to additional risk.

Any time church facilities are being used by groups not directly affiliated with the church, leases or Facility Use Agreements are needed. Common features of such agreements are:

- **Terms of indemnity** (assures the tenant is responsible for things that happen because of their activity, and they will defend the church and make it whole for any claims).
- **Proof of insurance** (financial means to back up indemnification).
- **A requirement that the church (and officers) be named as additional insureds.**
- **Instructions on the use of property and facility** (security, hours of automatic on/off for lights and HVAC, etc.) and what to do if a problem arises when the group is on-site.
- **Limits on accessible areas if the group is only using a portion of the church, or if specific areas are off-limits.**
- **Warnings about any hazardous conditions on the premises.**
- **Depending on the situation, you may determine you need to provide additional supervision, and if so, it should be stipulated.**
- **If alcohol is served there will be additional requirements (obtaining a liquor license, liquor liability insurance and acknowledgment by the group that no one under the age of 21 will be served).**

### A Facility Use Application

Can begin the process and can be as simple as name, dates, and purpose. Your church will want to ensure that the proposed use of the facility is in keeping with the goals of the church's community outreach and ministry. From this information, you can develop the agreement. We strongly encourage you to require indemnification language in the agreement along with proof of insurance. Please work with a local attorney to draft a template for your use. If the group does not have insurance, we recommend a Tenants Users Liability Insurance Program (TULIP). This coverage allows a third party to obtain low-cost insurance for the use of your facility while protecting the user and the church. **This coverage is available through Insurance Board.** If your church does not want to require users to obtain a

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**Retired Pastor**
- Rev. Russell and Doris Miller, Metropolis, IL
- Rev. Bill and Patti Causer, Mt. Vernon, IL

**People with Life Concerns**
- Keep all pastors in your prayers as they continue to provide spiritual support and creative services during this unprecedented time.
- Pray for the people of the United States as we work towards equality and civility for us all.
- Pray for the healthcare workers and first responders who have put their lives on the line to protect us.
- Special prayers for the families who are dealing with loved ones who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and are not able to visit them in person for support. Give strength to the sick and to those who are struggling with separation.
- Pray for Rev. Bob Coffey as he deals with some health issues. Rev. Coffey is serving as Pastor for St. Peter's UCC in Lenzburg. Cards may be sent to 6213 Jo Ann Dr, Belleville, IL 62223.

**Inclusivity Statement for DuBois Center and Illinois South Conference of the UCC**

Because we affirm the value of all God's people, the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, ability, national origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or gender identity. To the extent possible, we endeavor to accommodate those with a variety of physical, mental, emotional, medical, or dietary needs.
separate insurance policy, you may choose to pay the premium for the group. As you know, Insurance Board is a program of churches by churches. The risk one church takes affects all of the participants. We all have a role and responsibility to minimize risk and protect the future of our ministries.
Contact Shawn Polzin at 309-660-1818 or Pat Stein at 309-530-4600.

Global Ministries invites you to participate in the third annual Festival of Stories!
Global Ministries is excited to share and celebrate your stories of supporting God’s global mission during the third annual Festival of Stories! Your story of providing resources for Global Ministries through special and creative giving could be an inspiration for others to get involved.
Throughout the month of August, Global Ministries is collecting stories and will share them in September. This year, we would love to hear if you have chosen to raise funds for global partners virtually as many in-person events are not taking place. Partners around the world are responding to the pandemic and new challenges caused by the pandemic, and your creativity and support for the work of global partners is making a difference!
Read a few stories of groups who have gone above-and-beyond to support the work of Global Ministries and global partners. Stories of creative fundraising for the work of Global Ministries and global partners can be found here. Share your story today by sending an email to gifts@dom.disciples.org. Photos and videos of these special efforts are welcome and appreciated as well.

Webinars Presented by UCC

**Thursdays for the Soul: Building Bridges of Faith Across Political Divides** - Tues, August 18 at 2:30 pm CDT
In a time when our nation is becoming increasingly more socially, politically, and spiritually divided, what does our faith require of us? Click here to register.

**Tuesdays for Nurture: Supporting Your Pastor so They Can Support You** - Tues, August 25 at 2:30 pm CDT
Tuesdays for Nurture is a Tuesday webinars series which we faithfully focus on education for the people of God. Topics from faith-filled politics, to interviews of key leaders, to “how to’s” in congregational life, to the impacts of current realities on the life of the church will be featured. Each webinar will include clear suggestions on what YOU can do to change the church, and the world, towards the world God imagines for us. Click here to register.

**Thursdays for the Soul: Sacred Boundaries** - Thurs, August 27 at 2:30 pm CDT
Thursdays for the Soul: A webinar series to care for the whole church. Topics are wide ranging and are focused on the spirituality and care of people. Prayer, worship, music, psalm readings, or compassionate teaching are included. This will be a predictable time of gathering for something to feed your spirit, offered by Faith Education, Innovation, and Formation and Justice and Local Church Ministries of the national setting, United Church of Christ. Click here to register.

**Annual Meeting - October 24, 2020** - Because of the COVID-19 requirements for keeping people safe, the Annual Meeting for Illinois South Conference will be held virtually using a zoom platform. This universally new experience is still in the planning stages, so please wait patiently for updates. More information is coming soon.

In the meantime when choosing the delegates for your church, consider asking church members who have a computer (with video capability) and email to serve in this capacity. Or you may consider having an annual meeting “watch party” at your church where your delegates can come together as a private group to experience annual meeting in a smaller, safer venue with technology provided by your church.

**CONTACT US - YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK**
During the shelter in place order, all Conference staff will be working remotely, but they are available to help you. Keep these contacts handy.
For the work of Conference teams and committees or search and call inquiries, contact Christy Pursell at cpursell@iscucc.org. For financial matters (in terms of your church’s giving to the Conference or OCWM), contact Debbie Kesner at dkesner@iscucc.org. For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact Lynnette Schuepbach at lschuepbach@iscucc.org. For registration for upcoming events or for information about cancelled camp sessions, contact Julie Riechmann at 618-357-1809 or jriechmann@iscucc.org. For DuBois Center, contact Shirley Asmussen at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@duboiscenter.org. To speak with the Conference Minister, contact Rev. Shana Johnson at sjohnson@iscucc.org or 618-882-8247.
A GIFT to the COMMUNITY; a GIFT to CAMP
Since 2017, Zion UCC in Addieville has been extending a hand of welcome and encouraging young people to make new friends, grow in their faith, and experience the joy of DuBois Center. Each spring, the church sends an “Every Door Direct” mailing to their community through the postal service inviting families to give their kids the gift of camp. The church pays for all but a small portion of the camp fee for everyone who applies. Over the years, this has been a great way to support DuBois Center with new campers and good PR, while spreading the word about Zion's family-friendly ministry. This year, with no summer camp, there were no campers to support. Instead, church leaders decided to allocate the $5000 that would have typically paid for summer camp fees to support DuBois Center directly. Their gift will help to ensure the Center's viability during these challenging times. A SPECIAL THANKS to Zion UCC in Addieville!

SIXTY SECONDS of SOLITUDE
Today’s edition of 60 Seconds of Solitude features amazing skies and reflections at DuBois Center. The video is a series of photographs taken by Aaron Fuchs and other camp friends. Summer is drawing to a close; teachers and students are heading back to their classrooms - wherever they might be. It seems an appropriate time to reflect on the vastness of God's love, and to consider how we might reflect that love back to others. These are anxious times, but God is with walking with us. Try to sit back, relax your shoulders and breathe deeply. If you need a focus point for your quiet time, try Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” Remember to look to the skies and all of God's creation for guidance and inspiration. Additional solitude postings can be found on our website and Facebook page.

VOLUNTEERS: Making a Difference
Despite the postponement of our summer program, there is always work to be done at DuBois Center and volunteers are a key part of the equation. Last week alone, our beekeepers visited the hives, a small group from St. Paul's in Freeburg worked on the Deer Run cabins, our tree-cutting wizard took care of two dead ones, horse volunteers checked on the herd, and teams from two churches checked out potential projects. At the last meeting of the ISC Property Committee, the need for power-washing and a new power-washer were discussed. Dave Hoffman, property committee member, agreed to price one. He not only did just that, but then he and Sue, his spouse and family accountant, picked up the tab. Dave brought the new power-washer to camp, oriented staff and ended up spending a couple hours "testing" it out as he cleaned the lakeside porch of Oak Lodge. THANKS to Dave & Sue and all our volunteers and donors! We couldn't do it without you!

DOGGIE DAY CARE for HORSES?!
Doggie Day Care is a familiar concept for many. Thanks to volunteer Sharon Schafer, we have a similar but enhanced version for our horses. During a typical season, summer staff work with our herd six days a week. The horses come into the barn daily and are assessed and fed. During a COVID year with limited staff, this amount of attention is just not possible. A couple of our horses were looking too skinny. They were tested for worms, medication was prescribed, and their diets enhanced. To be most effective, treatment and extra feed was needed daily, sometimes twice a day. Sharon and her husband volunteered to care for the horses at their home and provide the extra TLC needed. Classy (left) and Thunder (right) returned to camp last week - healthy and happy. In their place Apache and Sunny headed to "the spa" for their tune-up. Thanks so much to all our equestrian volunteers for the hard work, and especially to Sharon for this extra TLC!

DuBois Center is your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work. When you or your congregation gives to OCWM, you are directly supporting the work of DuBois, a Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thank you for your ongoing support of OCWM!
The Cornerstone Fund Presents a Free Webinar - "A Capital Campaign in COVID-19?!!"
Is this even possible?! Join them on Monday, August 31 at 1 pm for a FREE, one-hour webinar to discuss this question. Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ (Chicago) and Rev. Michael W. Caine of Old First UCC (Philadelphia) will be featured as well as Rev. Kent Siladi, the National Setting's new Director of Philanthropy, and Jill White, a Regional Mission Interpreter with the UCC Church Building & Loan Fund. Maria C. Coyne, the Cornerstone Fund's President & CEO, will serve as moderator. Both local church leaders and thought leaders in faith-based giving will sit down to discuss how to-even in the face of a pandemic-continue to focus on the capital needs of a congregation and how the definition of capital is expanding, from technology infrastructure to HVAC systems and air filtration, to building modifications and more. The webinar is FREE, but registration is REQUIRED.

Hoyleton Golf Classic
Hoyleton Youth and Family continues moving forward and adapting to the changes they face. Mark your calendars for Friday, October 2, 2020 for the Hoyleton Golf Classic at Tamarack. Info will be coming soon, and you can find out more at www.Hoyleton.org. There are sponsorship opportunities, foursomes and, of course, single golfers! The event is always a good time, and they will follow the state of Illinois and CDC guidelines to stay safe and be well.

Back to School Drive
During the month of July, the Back to School Drive will be collecting school supplies for nearly 500 youth! The support from their UCC partners has been outstanding over the years, and they are hopeful you will continue to partner this year. Please reach out to make accommodations that will meet your needs. Due to COVID19 restrictions, they have also added an Amazon Wish List (https://a.co/gUdQyoW) to make it easier for shopping and delivery as well as drop off locations for supply donations at three Auffenberg locations. Please see this flyer for more information or contact the Development Department at Hoyleton by calling 618-688-7094 or emailing adrobisch@hoyleton.org.

Deaconess Foundation has many ways to engage with the community, advocate for change and invest in the lives of children. Deaconess is pleased to have supported the Close the Workhouse Campaign with funding through their Responsive Grants program, space as a Center-Based Initiative and our voice as an institutional advocate. We continue to learn from the campaign's leaders (Action St. Louis, ArchCity Defenders and The Bail Project) and its lessons for our community. The most significant lesson this campaign has illuminated is that sustained public education, followed by mobilization and democratic action can generate, allocate and reallocate public resources for the benefit of children and families. With this success in mind, we are affirmed in our commitment to invest in the power of people in communities to advocate, organize and mobilize for change. Their newsletter highlights many ways to engage, advocate and invest in the lives of children. If you would like to see the entire monthly e-newsletter to find out more of the ways you can get involved, click here.

Men and women who serve as family caregivers to loved ones struggling with dementia or Alzheimer’s can be challenged by stress which can cause depression or anxiety. A caregiver who is suffering from the added stress may not be at their best to care for themselves or their loved one. With your help, we can spread the word that St. John's Community Care can support them on their journey that no one should take alone. Here are a few programs you can suggest to friends or neighbors who serve as caregivers.
- On Line - Stress Busting Program
- On Line Support Groups Offered monthly - Family Caregivers Support Group or Alzheimer's Support Group
- On Line - Memory Cafe Group Offered monthly
- In Person - BRAIN WAVE Early Memory Loss Program
- In Person - Savvy Caregiving
St. John's Community Care is currently offering in-person and on-line support and programs for family caregivers at no charge using Zoom. For more information, call Gail Shaw at 618-344-5008.
UCC launches "Recovering Hope," emotional care in COVID-19

Disasters are stressful for survivors and caregivers alike, including the pastors and chaplains to whom survivors turn for spiritual and practical help. The COVID-19 pandemic is no exception. This long-running disaster is taking an enormous emotional toll on millions of people, sparing no one as they and those around them suffer sickness and death, isolation and loss of community and livelihoods.

In response, a multidisciplinary United Church of Christ team is launching "Recovering Hope," which is rolling out resources for emotional and spiritual care to pastors, chaplains and other church leaders, congregants, vulnerable communities and beyond. "Recovering Hope" is offering resources, indexed here in a variety of formats, including virtual workshops, referrals to vetted providers, and other easily accessible resources from the UCC and beyond.

The team is working in close contact with UCC conference ministers and disaster coordinators to complement, not duplicate, the support services they are providing to their pastors, chaplains and churches.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

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<td><strong>Job Opportunity:</strong> Staunton St. Paul UCC is searching for a new director for Exhale, their youth ministry for grades 6-12. Approximately 15-20 hours weekly. Must be familiar with the UCC and theologically progressive. Responsibilities include weekly Exhale meetings, planning and implementing annual mission trip and fundraisers; devotions; service projects; assist with Vacation Bible School and attend worship at least twice monthly. Send resume or contact Pastor Debbie at <a href="mailto:revdjkamins@gmail.com">revdjkamins@gmail.com</a> or 618-635-2386.</td>
<td><strong>New Athens St. John UCC will hold a drive-thru, carry-out Fried Chicken Dinner on Sunday, Aug 16 from 11 am until the food runs out. Menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, corn, slaw and dessert. Adults $12; Children 10 and younger $6.</strong></td>
<td><strong>New Baden Zion UCC will hold a Drive Thru Spaghetti Dinner in the church’s front parking lot on Fri, Aug 28 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Meal includes Spaghetti with a choice of Marinara, Meatball, or Alfredo sauce; dressed salad; breadsticks, and dessert. All meals $9.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Job Opportunity:</strong> St. Peter UCC in Lenzburg is looking for an organist/pianist starting at the 10 am worship service on the first Sunday in September. Contact the office at 618-475-2557 or <a href="mailto:stpeterlzburg@htc.net">stpeterlzburg@htc.net</a>.</td>
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