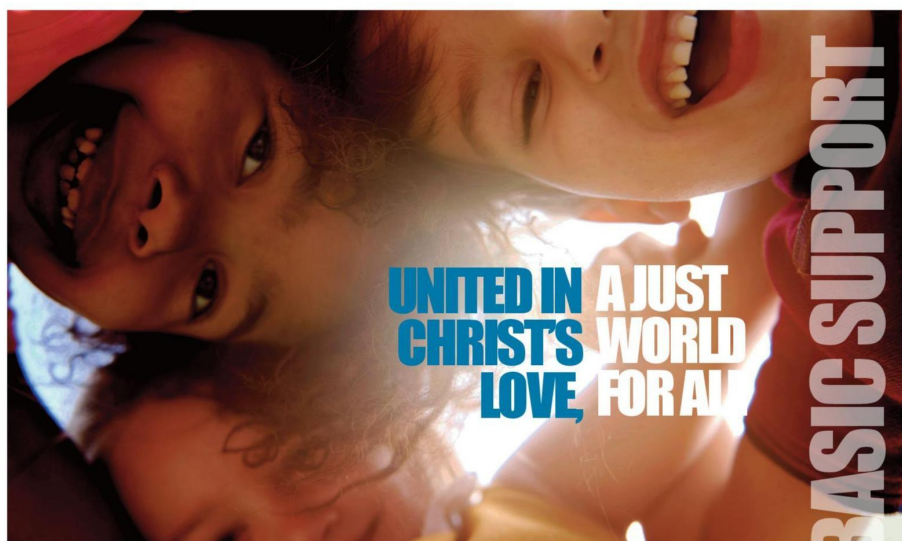




The Michigan Conference UCC can support and strengthen the faithful ministry of congregations because of gifts to OCWM Basic Support. As local churches navigate their own discernment, the conference is evermore committed to the health and strength of our congregations here in Michigan.

Rev. Dr. Lawrence Richardson, Associate Conference Minister, helps congregations think more deeply about vitality. “Recently I worked with a congregation asking questions about their future. We talked about some things they hope to leave behind for future generations. Whenever I ask these questions, churches often get stuck talking about the building and programs. But during this church visit, 8-year old Emma spoke up and said she hopes the church leaves behind, ‘How to get closer to God.’”

Congregational vitality involves feeding people’s souls. Congregations at every size – big, small, in-between – can engage people in ministry and mission that draws them closer to God.

The Michigan Conference helps leaders figure out where they get



“stuck” – perennial church conflict, need to find new leadership, moving past a scarcity mindset about money, learning how to engage all-ages in faith formation. Regardless of what gets a congregation stuck, the Michigan Conference helps move leaders toward vitality in their ministry.

Often this means navigating change. Instead of seeing change as something to be resisted, we can see it as the movement of God in our Dr. Richardson said at the recent annual meeting, “If your church is changing, that's because the Spirit is moving among you.”

The support of OCWM Basic Support by our congregation is essential in this journey of transformation and growth. Our Basic Support gift to the conference funds vital programs that fortify congregational leadership, invigorate local ministry, and foster deeper spiritual connections.



OCWM Basic Support, funds the wider mission and ministry of the United Church of Christ. 90% of OCWM Basic Support remains in Michigan to strengthen congregations. 10% supports the ministry of the United Church of Christ beyond Michigan.

Learn more at www.michucc.org.