

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST GREENAWALDS

Mental Health Ministry Team

WAYS OF WORK Updated April 2026

- I. **Our team consists** of individuals interested in helping, educating, and breaking the stigma and stereotypes for mental health challenges such as, but not limited to, mental illnesses, brain disorders, addictions, and trauma.
- II. **Meetings** shall occur at least eight (8) times each year to work on our goals. We meet on the **4th Thursday of the month.**
- III. **The Purpose and goals of our Team** are to:
 - a. Educate ourselves so that we can educate others
 - b. Now that we are a W.I.S.E congregation, we will help the church to become an ONA (Open and Affirming) church in the United Church of Christ.
 - c. Break the silence of mental illness and addiction so that we can begin to heal from the shame, guilt, stigma and stereotypes.
 - d. Promote healthy coping mechanisms and good mental health.
 - e. Develop a mental health 1st aid for our congregation.
 - f. These goals are accomplished by maintaining the suggestion box in the narthex, providing pertinent mental health articles for the Echoes every other month and leading worship on Mental Health Sunday.
- IV. **There is no set number of people** on the Team. People are free to come and go as their lives allow without the feeling of obligation. They are not elected.
- V. The Ministry Teams shall be approved by Council, and on recommendation of the Pastor appoint chairpersons or coordinators.
- VI. **A record of our Meetings** shall be recorded and available for the congregation in the Ministry Team notebook in the narthex. Coordinator shall also provide a monthly report to Consistory.
- VII. **An Annual Report** shall be made available in writing for publication to be approved by the congregation.
- VIII. **Our annual budget is \$100 for 2026**
- IX. **We make decisions regarding the use of our budget in the following ways:**
 - Anytime something is planned, the team must first determine if it is an **EVENT** or a **FUNDRAISER**. The difference is that a fundraiser will give 10% of the

actual proceeds after expenses are paid to the mission recipient for the current year chosen by the OMG Team. An EVENT does not need to give to the mission recipient BUT it is strongly encouraged that all events that generate profits give a portion of its earnings to the church's Operating Fund. After expenses are paid, after the mission recipient is paid (if a FUNDRAISER), after the operation fund donation is paid, THEN what remains will be income for that Ministry Team.

- A *Free Will Offering* container is placed at all events/fundraisers that do not require tickets.
- Seed money for the event/fundraiser will come from the Team's budget if available, otherwise members may decide to front the expenses and be reimbursed, if possible. For reimbursement, a receipt must be turned into the Ministry Team Coordinator or designated responsible person for organizational purposes.
- Monies collected at said Event/Fundraiser will be dealt with in the following ways:
 - The Ministry Team Coordinator, or designated responsible person from the team, will collect the funds and receipts, keeping an accurate account of income versus expenses.

FYI

*****The mission of United Church of Christ Greenawalds is to:**

- *Be a community that sustains continuous change and transformation as we grow in the likeness of Christ and the image of God.*
- *Proclaim the good News of Jesus Christ in word and action through worship, education, study and fellowship.*
- *Continually push ourselves to be open to people of all backgrounds, cultures and ethnicities. Exhibit care, love, understanding and hospitality to everyone.*
- *Establish ourselves as a known presence in the community.*