

Rejoice!

November 8, 2017

Dear Friends in Christ:

At our recent Annual Meeting in Lansing, we rejoiced in the announcing of the *Friends of the Conference* annual appeal!

Friends of the Conference is an invitation to individuals to support the mission of the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ. It is not Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), which is support of the wider church offered by local churches to the Conference, National Setting and Global Partners of the United Church of Christ.

Contributions to *Friends of the Conference* make possible:

- ❖ A new worshipping community in Traverse City;
- ❖ A unique collaboration with Trinity UCC in Chicago to empower a ministry in Benton Harbor;
- ❖ The ability to be a philanthropic organization that supports clergy with coaching, churches with innovative projects, and congregations with emergency needs;
- ❖ The building of networks and relationships between kindred spirits in Christ in Michigan;
- ❖ A unified voice of advocacy on behalf – and with – those at the margins;
- ❖ Securing denominational resources to meet the needs of most local churches;
- ❖ Youth participation in the Great Lakes Regional Youth Event in July, 2018

There are a lot of requests for your time and money – especially at this time of the year. We want to assure you that your contributions to *Friends of the Conference* are directed to areas over and above what OCWM is able to do, and that enhance and enrich our covenantal life. Thank you in advance for helping the Michigan Conference continue providing the best wider-church connections possible.

There is an envelope enclosed with this letter for making your contribution. If you prefer to pay by credit card, please go to our website www.michucc.org and scroll down to the “Donate” button.

Wishing you all the best in this season of thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Ralph Brown, Andy DeBraber, David Wheeler

Ethan Wheeler, Jean Winther

The Compassionate Generosity Mission Area Team

P.S. In these challenging times, our joint witness to justice and love, community and compassion throughout the state is as important as ever. Your gift will ensure we continue to bear Christ's light throughout our great state!

Rejoice in God always; again I will say, Rejoice! ~ *Philippians 4:4*

Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ
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