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NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION

ROLE AND MISSION

“In light of the vision, who are we, and what do we do as we look to the next five to ten years?”

Called by God as the United Church of Christ in Northwest Ohio, we covenant together to embody God’s Gospel in our various settings and communities.

Our role-and-mission is to build and nurture connections between congregations, clergy, other leaders and groupings for the purpose of supporting one another as we:

- ✓ Proclaim God's Word in worship and worshipful ways.
- ✓ Strengthen our witness to the Gospel in the world.
- ✓ Discern God’s will for faithful and effective ministry.
- ✓ Manifest faithful, wise and responsible stewardship of all God’s gifts.
- ✓ Demonstrate care, compassion, forgiveness and accountability to and for one another.

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.

Auglaize Valley Regional Coordinating Team

The Auglaize Valley Regional Coordinating Team seems to be on a sabbatical. We had talked about a couple of events. One was a Choir Festival, and another was a regional mission trip (possibly to Crossroad or to Camp Washington). We seemed to have lost our momentum, however. It is my hope that in the coming year we can energize our team and our region. If anyone has additional ideas or suggestions, you may contact me at 567-356-6163 or email me at Buckland U.C.C. bucucc@ohiolink.net. Respectfully submitted Rev. Adrian Sunday, Convener

Team Members: Rev. Adrian Sunday-Convener, Terri Wies-Haithcock, Jane Myers, Rev. Ed Bray, Rev. Becky Sunday, John Gilberg

Lakeshore Regional Coordinating Team

The Lakeshore Regional Coordinating Team was not able to find a clear message or purpose during the last 12 months. The Team still struggles with its identity and mission while seeking to bring together congregations and clergy in the Lakeshore region. Convener Pastor Ryan Shields has worked within the Association to seek a stronger presence on social media that would lead to more opportunity to work together. It is still our desire to see congregations sharing resources to put on events and programming that could allow the message of Jesus Christ to be proclaimed in our area. Vice Convener Rev. Juli Bertalan continues to pursue ways to welcome new clergy into the Association and making them feel welcomed and a part of the NWOA.

Team Members: Pastor Ryan Shields - convener, Rev. Julia Bertalan, Amy Nottke, Pastor Margaret Mills, Susan Bishop, Rev. Jenny Jackson, Rev. David Borden, Rev. Terry Kohanski

Sandusky Valley Regional Coordinating Team

This past year the Sandusky Valley Coordinating Team met several times. Different events and items were discussed, but nothing was put into action. Three years ago, the coordinating team took on the project of removing the pre-school playground equipment at Fairhaven Community and beautifying the area where the equipment had been. The new addition to the home has slowed the process on this project. We still have a 'loose end' to take care of and then we will be finished with this project. Pat Shatzer, 3rd year committee member

Team Members: Pat Shatzer, Rev. Gale Green, Rev. Jared Ruari, Priscilla Jo Kreis-Isaacs, Rev. Joel Fetter

Church and Ministry Team

Faithful to our vision as a community of communities, the Church and Ministry Team is made up by representatives from all three regions of the Northwest Ohio Association.

The team is charged with overseeing three processes that address ministry and standing: the Discernment process for those moving toward ordained ministry; the credentialing process for those currently engaged in authorized ministry in the Association, and those who desire to join the Association from other Associations and denominations; and pastoral relations providing support for ordained UCC clergy within the NWOA giving them opportunities to strengthen their relationship with themselves and the churches they serve. We know that there will always be challenges, but we seek to be in the forefront of those challenges to make a difference to all churches and ministers.

I'd like to thank our Association Minister, Rev. Dan Busch, as well as support staff Joan Davidson and Carolyn Pennington for their careful and faithful attention to the matters facing our team and to all team members for the time, effort, thought and prayer they offer. We look forward to another year of witness and service, and the beginning of new opportunities such as the Excellence in Ministry Program.

Pastor John P. Paputza
Chair

Pastoral Relations Working Group Church and Ministry Team

The Pastoral Relations Working Group is one part of the Church and Ministry Team. We provide support to authorized UCC pastors within the NWOA and give them opportunities to strengthen their relationship between themselves and the churches they serve.

Two Periodic Support Consultation meetings were held in the fall. Both meetings were offered on Saturdays at the Association Office. One was offered primarily with retirees in mind, and was in the form of a panel discussion. The other was more of a traditional approach. Both meetings were well attended and had good participation.

Our annual luncheon for the retired ministers and their spouses in thanks and honor of their many years of service was held in October at Fairhaven Community in Upper Sandusky. Thanks to the Church & Ministry Team for all the help and support they provided to the Pastoral Relations Team throughout this past year.

Pastoral Relations Working Group: Susan Bishop (chair), Doug Ricci, Rev. Joel Fetter, Pastor John Paputza

Credentialing Working Group
Church and Ministry Team

The Credentialing Working Group meets monthly to review issues related to the standing of authorized ministers in the NWOA, this includes ordained, commissioned, licensed pastors as well as those seeking Privilege of Call or Dual Standing. The working group considered and granted requests for transfer of standing which are listed in the Registrar's Report (#16 blue pages), processed several requests for status as licensed ministers and conducted one Situational Support Consultation.

Granted status as a Licensed Minister in Northwest Ohio Association...

+*Pat Danner	Tiffin, Second UCC
Dave Ferguson	Toledo, Memorial UCC
Tom Kagy	Bloomville, Bloomville UCC
Bill Kerr	Wauseon, Wauseon Congregational
Margaret Mills	Elmore, St. John's UCC
+*John Paputza	Castalia, Congregational UCC
James Robinson	Shelby, First UCC
Jay Scott	Upper Sandusky, Emanuel UCC
Ryan Shields	Genoa, St. John's UCC

* Also Certified Lay Minister

+ Granted Licensure for the duration of their call.

Ecclesiastical Endorsement with the UCC Professional Chaplains

Rev. Robert Bottoms	Bellevue
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Ecclesiastical Endorsement with the UCC Professional Chaplains – Supervisory Level ACPE

Rev. Faith Proietti	Mansfield
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Ecclesiastical Endorsement with the UCC Professional Chaplains

Rev. Becky King	Sycamore
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Credentialing Working Group: Donna Overholt (chair), Rev. Becky Sunday, Rev. Jerald Fenske and Tom Yingling

Discernment (Formerly In-Care) Working Group
Church and Ministry Team

The Discernment Working Group guides and supports persons in the Northwest Ohio Association who feel the call to authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ. We continue to endeavor to be faithful to NWOA's Role and Mission by assisting these men and women in: discernment regarding their call, guidance through the application process, and presentation of appropriate candidates to the Church and Ministry Team for approval when they have completed the requirements for ordination. We also engage in "stewardship" as we coordinate and offer financial assistance to eligible students. "Proclamation and Witness" is addressed as we help prepare pastors and teachers to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The process of discerning a call to authorized ministry is one that requires prayer and perseverance on the part of those called, as well as support and guidance from those in the surrounding faith community. The Discernment Working Group is constantly living into this process more fully, striving to provide guidance and encouragement to those who are answering God's call, while also shepherding them through the requirements leading to authorized ministry. The members of the working group approach their task with a sense of openness to God's leading, respecting the unique process of call that each Member in Discernment experiences.

The Discernment Working Group aims to develop a relationship with each Member in Discernment and annually meets with them. They also meet regularly with their advisors, who are appointed to provide encouragement, counsel and support. We thank these persons who have given of their time and wisdom to this important task!

We currently have five Members in Discernment who are at various stages in the process. Our Members in Discernment work diligently as they balance the demands of school, family, employment, and church involvement.

Your prayers, encouragement, support, and affirmation of these people are vital to our ministry together as one body, united in Christ.

Members in Discernment

<u>Person In Discernment</u>	<u>Advisor</u>	<u>Home Church</u>	<u>Seminary/School</u>
Michael Ebersole Michael was received as a member in discernment in October 2014.	In transition	Calvary UCC, Crestline	United Theological, Dayton
Rebecca Mularski Rebecca was received as a member in discernment in January, 2013.	Becky Sunday	First UCC, Galion	Eden, St. Louis
Dawn Balduf Dawn was received as a member in discernment in April 2015.	Margaret Mills	St. John's UCC, Genoa	Winebrenner Theological
James Robinson James was received as a member in discernment in April 2015 and serves as Pastor at First UCC, Shelby	Brad McKibben	First UCC, Shelby	
Phillip Balla Phillip was received as a member in discernment June 2016	Jan Bechtel	Memorial UCC, Toledo	Harvard Divinity School
Katherine Jackson Katherine was received as a member in discernment August 2016		St. Paul UCC, New Bremen	Lancaster Theological

Discernment Working Group: Rev. Darla Metz (chair), Rev. Jeremy Mann, Rev. Jim Brehler, Garland Gates, Jim Huckemeyer

Faith Formation Ministry Team

The Faith Formation Team began the year with review and discussion of its role and mission in the Northwest Ohio Association. We then reviewed last year's focus on small group ministry, which included a clergy survey and workshops at the 2016 NWOA Annual Gathering. After discussing several options, the team decided to highlight the Eleven Guiding Principles found on the UCC website, under the tab "About Us/What We Believe." Team members will choose one or more principles and will write an article for The Vine expanding on these thoughts, and offering suggestions on how we can apply these principles in various ministry settings. Several open positions remain unfilled on this committee due to the relocation of many team members.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Jennifer Jackson, Team Chair

Team members: Rev. Jennifer Jackson (chair), Rev. Jan Bechtel (sec.), Mr. Dave Ferguson, Mr. Michael Porter.

Stewardship and Caring Ministry Team

The Stewardship and Caring Team has started off with a purposeful, busy year, given the challenges of needing to cancel one of our quarterly meetings. The team's early goals included a modest change in job description to take on the task of presenting certificates to local churches in gratitude for the giving to OCWM and the 5 for 5 campaigns, which will happen after the annual meeting in local congregations. The committee made a commitment to post regular insights in the Vine on the theme of Stewardship and have met that goal. The team made sure video resources on Stewardship were added to the NWOA website so that all churches could access them and will be adding more in the future. The team supported the Stewardship Event, initiated by the Lay School Board, and led by Margaret Mills in October. Over 40 people in attendance showed a real need for Stewardship awareness. The Stewardship team is planning another event for the fall of this year with the dates being announced soon.

In the works is the intention to begin the roll out of a program designed to work closely with 5 volunteer churches willing to work faithfully on a year round stewardship program. Each church will receive basic training and a coach to see them through the process. It is hoped that after the original trial program is tested that it can be offered to more churches in the Association. Further, the team, in taking aim at fulfilling the other half of their mandate, "Caring", is looking at models like Stephen Ministry and Called to Care that might be done collaboratively at an Association wide level.

I am grateful for a fine committee that takes responsibility and accountability seriously, willingly taking on tasks so that our work can be efficiently managed for the greater good of the Association.

In Christ's Service, Rev. Dave Plant, SCT Chair.

Team members: Rev. David Plant (chair), Rev. Steve Voelker, Sharon Fiely, Donna Dorsch, Rev. Janice Burns-Watson, Rev. Adrian Sunday, Rev. David Borden, Allison Fordyce

Witness and Proclamation Ministry Team

In 2016-2017, The Witness and Proclamation Ministry Team gathered via technology means, making it sometimes more efficient, sometimes not. Thanks to all the association staff that helped us and supported us! We submitted green tips to the Vine, established a new mission statement, organized forums for the annual association meeting focusing on the drug epidemic in our state, and provided opportunities to educate churches on solar energy projects in the exhibit hall at the annual meeting.

Role and Mission of the Witness and Proclamation Ministry Team

We are the prophetic voice of the association to speak to issues that require just peace and intentional prayer as well as action and education. We seek to build awareness of justice and peace, in our association, for reaching the larger church and the world. We are responsible for growing new and established ecumenical connections through intentional work. For example, we stand with Grace Community, Nu-Vizion Church, Back Bay, and El Salvador, Crossroads, United Church Homes, CUE seminaries. We will seek to bring awareness to issues in our communities, such as drug epidemics, human trafficking, racial strife, and bullying.

We witness and develop interfaith relationships by providing educational opportunities and open discussions with a diversity of religious and spiritual understandings.

We will proclaim through the association using written articles, association gatherings, and special hosted events.

Respectfully submitted, Katy Smith, Team Chair

Team Members: Katy Smith (chair), Renee Caskie, Rev. Terry Kohanski, Rev. Darrin Harvey, Eldonna Shelton, Pastor James Robinson, David Rice, Ruth Whitten, John Gilberg, Dawn Balduf

Excellence in Ministry Program

*Dedicated to strengthening and sustaining excellent pastoral leaders
for a lifetime of creative and effective service to the church*

Pastoral Excellence Network

Beginning our third year, there were a number of leadership changes within our Facilitator team when some of our pastors accepted new calls. We offer our thanks to Catherine Costello, Jon Komperda and Robin LaBolt.

Assuring continuity in leadership, in August 2016 we invited Rich Plant, Eastern and Western Reserve Associations Associate for Leadership Vitality and Development, to lead a NWOA retreat day that included Facilitator Orientation and Training. Communities of Practice were also re-organized for the 2016-2017 year.

The facilitators are Casey Cain, Ken Daniel, Ed Heilman, Becky King, Margaret Mills, David Orr, David Plant, Gary Proietti, and Becky Erb Strang. Catherine Lawrence continued as facilitator of the facilitators.

Our Excellence in Ministry teams essentially remained unchanged, organized by regions: Auglaize (2), Lakeshore (3) and Sandusky (2). We continue to have one affinity group that consists of pastors new to ministry, and they have co-facilitators: Ken Daniel and Becky King. Each group in collaboration with its facilitator meets monthly, sets their agenda and defines their meeting format. The facilitators meet quarterly for mutual support and share the program's progress, joys and challenges.

The Excellence in Ministry focus continues to be grounded in the facilitator's resource guidelines:

- *Dedicated to strengthening and sustaining excellent pastoral leaders for a lifetime of creative and effective service to the church;*
- *Our mission is to work with congregations and church-related institutions to help new pastors get the best possible start in ministry and to encourage experienced pastors to sustain their vitality by participating in communities of ongoing support and learning;*
- *Our aim is to help the church surround every pastor with opportunities for support and learning*
- *Together we seek to expand the body of wisdom about what constitutes pastoral excellence as we lean forward into a church whose future we cannot yet fully see or imagine.*

Looking toward our future with continued congregational and clergy support, in 2017, we will design and present a survey to the members of our communities of practice to evaluate the effectiveness of this program. We will then, use the responses in preparation of our 2017-2018 year. As churches in our association call new pastors, we look forward to their presence within our communities offering peer learning and support.

El Salvador Coordinating Team

EL SALVADOR – OUR GLOBAL PARTNER

2017, a time to renew the covenant agreement between El Sinodo Luterano Salvadoreño, (The Lutheran Synod of El Salvador) and our Northwest Ohio Association. The renewal document, written in Spanish, was initially signed by Rev. Daniel Busch and Bishop Medardo Gomez on Sunday, February 12, 2017 at a special service of the Lutheran Church in El Salvador. The signing in English will take place at our NWOA meeting this April 29th in St. Paul UCC, New Bremen, Ohio between Rev. Busch and Bishop Gomez. This renewal will be for another five years as recommended by Global Ministries. Bishop Gomez and his wife, the Rev. Abelina Gomez will be our guests at our 2017 meeting.

Your El Salvador Coordinating Team continues to meet four times a year to plan for future trips and how best to strengthen our partnership with The Lutheran Church of El Salvador. As this partnership has developed over the past years, the interest in this relationship is gaining more interest in churches and persons in NWOA as time goes by. Our coordinating team is always open to anyone interested in this vital mission of NWOA. The present team members are Rev Daniel Busch (known as Bishop in El Salvador), Revs. Adrian and Becky Sunday, Rev. Darrin Harvey, Rev. Frank and Jo Isaacs, Rev. Kurt Schaller Blaufuss, Ms. Gail Puckrin, Ms. Sharon Fiely, Dr. Alan Mikesell, and John and Joyce Gilberg.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to every church and person who has supported the people of the Lutheran Church of El Salvador. One example of their thanks was conveyed to us by Pastor Rafael of the Iglesia de Apostles de Cristo who was granted a gift of \$250 on our 2016 trip. This money was for his ladies' group from money collected at the association office. They used the money to purchase a mixer and some baking supplies so they could start a small bakery for baking bread and rolls to sell. The ladies are very thankful for this gift of money so that they could get their bakery started and now it is self-sustaining. Other gifts of money, being used by the church's soup kitchen, clinic, school and for the building of their new church, are also very much appreciated. The gifts of clothing, medical supplies, soccer balls and many other items are always accepted with gratitude and big hugs.

Those traveling on our most recent trip to El Salvador from February 8th to the 16th were, Rev. Daniel Busch, Rev. Adrian Sunday, Rev. Kurt Schaller Blaufuss, Gail Puckrin, Sharon Fiely, Dr. Alan Mikesell, Ernest Hollenbacher (Lay Lutheran person from Wapakoneta, OH) and John and Joyce Gilberg. This again was another successful and inspirational trip. Many new friendships were made and existing friendships were renewed and strengthened.

We cannot do all the good that the world needs. But, the world needs all the good that we can do! Jance Stayfield

Gracias, John Gilberg, Coordinating Team Chair

Team Members: John & Joyce Gilberg, Rev. Frank and Jo (Kries) Isaacs, Dr. Alan Mikesell, Sharon Fiely, Rev. Adrian & Rev. Becky Sunday, Rev. Darrin Harvey, Gail Puckrin, Rev. Kurt Schaller Blaufuss, Rev. Daniel Busch

Lay School Board

Lay School of Religion Program General Description and Overview

Influenced by the rich heritage of parent denominations, churches of the United Church of Christ have affirmed the significant role of well-trained and broadly informed leadership. This is not only true with regard to a historic attitude about well-trained clergy, but it is also a sure conviction regarding lay leadership in the church.

For many years, through the Lay School of Religion Program, the Northwest Ohio Association has thoughtfully and carefully provided opportunities for self-motivated and committed lay people to become better and more broadly informed in subjects related to the Christian faith and doctrine, and to help them develop their particular skills for the ministry of the laity within their churches.

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. However if you plan to graduate from the Lay School Program, you must complete the ten course and related workshop curricula. Courses offered include: Preaching, Faith Formation, History and Polity of the UCC, Liturgy and Worship, Exploring the Old Testament 1: Creation, Covenant, and Kings, Exploring the Old Testament 2: Prophets and Poets, Promises and Penalties, New Testament I (The Gospels), New Testament II (Paul, the Letters and Revelation), Pastoral Care, and Theology. Workshops in Stewardship will be held each Spring and four consecutive workshops in Evangelism will be held each Fall. The NRSV Study Bible from Harper Collins (2006) is the preferred Bible for all classes. The Steuben Congregational United Church of Christ will serve as a teaching church, under supervision of the Church and Ministry Team of the Northwest Ohio Association.

The Lay School of Religion Program is sponsored by the Cabinet of Northwest Ohio Association. The Dean of the Lay School of Religion Program manages and administers the school under the oversight of the Association staff, and with the counsel of the Lay School Board. The Lay School Board is composed of representation of the Church and Ministry Team, Faith Formation Team and at-large members. The Lay School Board meets regularly with the Dean and the Association staff to review the progress of the Lay School Program, of the students, and to establish policy for the Lay School Program. Cumulative student records of attendance, participation and course completion are kept in the NWOA office. Students may request copies of their records at any time.

The long range desire is that more churches in the Northwest Ohio Association may view the Lay School of Religion Program as an opportunity for lay leaders to enroll for stimulating quality education and training that will enhance their resourcefulness as partners in the ministry of their local churches.

Regular attendance is expected at all class sessions. When circumstances make it impossible to attend, the instructor or the Dean must be notified. Any student pursuing graduation absent for more than three class sessions in any given term will be required to repeat the course or arrange for a supervised independent study at the discretion of the instructor and Dean. Upon successful completion of all required courses including all class assignments and the exit interview, students will receive a Certificate of Graduation. Any student wishing to take the classes for personal enrichment, must still pay the fee, purchase and read the book, and be ready for discussion.

Should a Lay School Program student desire to pursue Authorized Ministry as described in the United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry, they should contact the Church and Ministry Team of the Northwest Ohio Association.

Team Members: Susan Bishop (chair), Rev. Diane Carter, Pastor Tom Kagy, Rev. Marian Plant, Becky Wickham, Garland Gates, Rev. Jan Bechtel, Rev. Bob Bottoms, Rev. Daniel Busch

Women's Board

The Northwest Ohio Association is blessed with a vital network of hundreds of women involved in women's organizations. We all benefit from their leadership in local churches and from their commitment of Christ's mission.

For years, the Northwest Ohio Association Women's Board has nurtured the connectedness of the women of our churches – especially in fellowships, guilds and circles. All of the Program Districts (Defiance, Firelands, Heidelberg, Maumee Bay, Miami Erie, Tempel Hills) have been discontinued, but we still invite the women's organizations of the church to participate in this program.

Beginning in 2013 the collections of Love Gift money was changed to run from January to December of the current year. Each year the Love Gift information is printed in the Annual Meeting Book and at the present time can be viewed on the NWOA Web page. The Northwest Ohio Association will collect these donations until the end of December each year, disbursing as appropriate.

The project for women's fellowship is the Love Gift a second-mile giving project. In the program year of 2016, a goal of \$3,500 was set, \$1,619.00 being collected with each receiving \$161.90. The Women's Board Love Gift money was distributed to the following projects:

Church World Service Disaster Relief
Back Bay Mission – Center for Community Ministry
Crossroad
Richard & Rachel Wolff Fund (Seminary Students)
United Church Homes - Parkvue Community & Fairhaven Community
NWOA Covenant Fund - Church Growth and Renewal
Camp Washington, Washington UCC - Cincinnati, Ohio
NWOA El-Salvador Mission Project
Nu-Vizion United Church of Christ, Toledo, Ohio
The Village Church, Maumee, Ohio

Thank You to each and everyone for your faithful giving this past year.

The Women's Board hopes that participation in the Love Gift offering will add to the meaning of women's programming in your congregation. Let us join together in prayer for women's ministries and programs in all of our churches. Thank you to everyone.

2017 LOVE GIFTS

TOTAL GOAL: \$2,400.00

NWOA CHURCH WORLD SERVICE DISASTER RELIEF

The ecumenical aid organization Church World Service has responded in timely and generous fashion to natural disasters nationwide and worldwide. Communities hit by tornados, earthquakes, hurricanes and other disasters can receive immediate aid. For more information: 800-297-1516. Allocation: \$300.00

RICHARD & RACHEL WOLFF FUND - (SEMINARY STUDENTS)

The purpose of the fund is to provide grants to seminary students of the United Church of Christ who attend one of the theological schools of the United Church of Christ. For more information: 440-284-0080. Allocation: \$300.00

UNITED CHURCH HOMES - FAIRHAVEN/PARKVUE HOMES

This fund is being established for residents at Fairhaven Home in Upper Sandusky and Parkvue Home in Sandusky who have special financial needs. For more information: 800-837-2211. Allocation: \$300.00

NWOA EL – SALVADOR MISSION PROJECT

El – Salvador is a covenant and partnership of the Northwest Ohio Association and Iglesia Luterana Salvadorena. We are to Pray for each other, Listen with open hearts, Learn about each other, Develop friendships, Coordinate resources between our two churches and Celebrate the richness of our diverse traditions. For more information call 419-447-8323. Allocation: \$300.00

CROSSROAD

Crossroad's mission is to free adolescents with serious emotional difficulties from negative effects of abuse and neglect and to help them find new potentials in life. For more information: 260-484-4153. Allocation: \$300.00

BACK BAY MISSION – CENTER FOR COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Mississippi to help support the Center for Community Ministry on the Gulf Coast. This 80 year old agency of the UCC seeks to train future leaders of social ministries. For more information: 228-432-0301. Allocation: \$300.00

CAMP WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON UCC, CINCINNATI, OH

Located in a lower income neighborhood, this is an outreach program that provides meals for the homeless, free food bags and clothes, church work camps that renovate houses, etc. For more information: 513-541-7757. Allocation: \$300.00

NU-VIZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

In 2003, the Northwest Ohio Association began a new church start at the site of First UCC, Toledo. Will and Shelly Stuart responded to the call to help develop this new Christian Community that will reach out to the unchurched folks in the neighborhood. In 2013, the Stuarts were called to new ministry and in 2014 the church moved from the original site to The Grace Community Center, 406 W. Delaware Ave., Toledo. Local Pastors of the area minister to this church. For more information: 419-248-2467. Allocation: \$300.00