

# SECTION E

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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.

## Regional Coordinating Teams - None active in 2017

### Church and Ministry Team

From *The New Century Hymnal*, I share these lyrics:

#### God of the Prophets

God of the prophets, bless the prophet's heirs.

Elijah's mantle o'er Elisha cast.

Each age for its own solemn task prepares:

make each one nobler, stronger than the last.

(Denis Wortman, 1884; alt.)

These words well summarize the work of the NWOA Church and Ministry Team. The team and its three working groups have been diligent over the past year. We have ministered to ordained ministers moving into and out of the association. We have reviewed the credentials of licensed ministers. We have recognized and honored retired ministers and their spouses. We have provided support to a growing number of Members in Discernment as they ponder their relationship with God and with the United Church of Christ.

The team has dealt with larger issues as well. These include the Excellence in Ministry program, the Marks of Ministry, and possible revisions to the UCC's *Manual on Ministry*.

I must offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to my "teammates." They have taken their duties and responsibilities most seriously. It is a joy to know and work with them. Many thanks, too, to Rev. Dan Busch and Joan Davidson for their support of and assistance to the team and its working groups. They have made our jobs easier indeed.

Our tasks and responsibilities are made easier with the sure knowledge that when the team gathers, the Holy Spirit is there with us to offer guidance, wisdom, and comfort. For those gifts, we are truly grateful.

Garland John Gates  
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 2017. Both meetings were offered on Saturdays at the Association Office and based on the Marks of Ministry. 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), Rev. Joel Fetter, Mary Ann Ewing, Rev. Jon Komperda

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, Dual Standing or Partners Standing. The working group considered and granted requests for transfer of standing which are listed in the Registrar's Report (pg.17 – blue pages), and processed several requests for status as licensed ministers.

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

Dawn Balduf	Genoa, St. John's UCC
*+Pat Danner	Tiffin, Second UCC
+David Ferguson	Toledo, Memorial UCC
Tom Kagy	Bloomville, Bloomville UCC
+Bill Kerr	Wauseon, Congregational UCC
Amy Kinney	Bascom, Union UCC
Margaret Mills	Elmore, St. John's UCC
*+John Paputza	Castalia, Congregational UCC
Nicole Pickens	Bellevue, Zion UCC – Fireside
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.

**Privilege of Call...**

Hafidha Saadiqah

**Ecclesiastical Endorsement with the UCC Professional Chaplains**

Rev. Dr. Robert Bottoms	Bellevue
Rev. Dr. Becky King	Sycamore

**Ecclesiastical Endorsement with the UCC Professional Chaplains–Supervisory Level ACPE**

Rev. Faith Proietti	Mansfield
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Credentialing Working Group: Rev. Jerald Fenske (chair), Rev. Becky Sunday, Tom Yingling, Rev. Darla Metz, Rev. Dan Johnson

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.

We currently have eight who have been approved as Members in Discernment and 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. Five others are currently completing the requirements for acceptance into the Member in Discernment. 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	Darrin Harvey	Calvary UCC, Crestline	United Theological, Dayton
Zipporah Lee Zipporah was received as a member in discernment January 2013 as Rebecca Mularski	Becky Sunday	First UCC, Galion	Eden, St. Louis
Dawn Balduf Dawn was received as a member in discernment April 2015.	Margaret Mills	St. John’s UCC, Genoa	Winebrenner Theological
James Robinson James was received as a member in discernment 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	Casey Cain	St. Paul UCC, New Bremen	Lancaster Theological
Bryan Simon Bryan was received as a member in discernment September of 2017	Tom Kagy	Zion UCC-Fireside, Bellevue	United Theological Seminary
Amy Kinney Amy was received as a member in discernment October 2017	Kathryn Helleman	Union UCC, Bascom	Winebrenner Theological

Discernment Working Group: Rev. Jim Brehler (chair), Rev. Jeremy Mann, Garland Gates, Jim Huckemeyer, Pat Shatzer, Doug Ricci

## **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 and decided to reuse the Eleven Guiding Principles found on the UCC website, under the tab "About Us/What We Believe." This year has been a year for our ministry team to refocus our efforts. We conducted some creative exercises from the Human Center Design model to narrow our approach. We have conducted, and are still conducting a clergy questionnaire to discern how we might best be able to serve and assist the local churches in the Northwest Ohio Association. Some ideas that we hope to pursue in the coming year are a Confirmation focused series of retreats, encouraging collaboration between local churches to establish a shared resources library, and host discussions around the association and via Zoom as an open forum for pastors and lay people to discuss faith formation ideas.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Porter, Team Chair

Team members: Mr. Mike Porter (chair/cabinet representative), Rev. Gale Green (vice chair), Rev. Jan Bechtel (sec.), Rev. Jennifer Jackson, Pastor Dave Ferguson, Pastor Margaret Mills, Rev. John Mummert, Ms. Terri Wies-Haithcock

## **Witness and Proclamation Ministry Team**

The Witness and Proclamation team has focused on creating a quick guide for substance abuse resources for all church members. A resource for family, friends, or individuals looking for more anonymous sources of help, readily available through non-confrontational, non-judgmental means, local, or regional. A quick handout of different programs, counseling services and resources throughout the NWOA region. This resource will be available at the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Katy Blum, Team Chair

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

## Stewardship and Caring Ministry Team

We may be small in number yet we dare to dream big dreams. The team has successfully partnered a Stewardship event in 2017 in coordination with the Lay School and led by Margaret Mills. In early 2018, the team held another Stewardship event led by several from our various instrumentalities of the UCC and saw 50 persons in attendance. The committee is looking to have at least one yearly event of similar magnitude, as Stewardship at the local church level is a timely and important agenda item for everyone.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of the OCWM and Special Offerings by the Association's churches. Almost one-half of our churches were 5 for 5 congregations and approximately a quarter of our churches met or exceeded the previous year OCWM giving. For this year's annual meeting we are doing a special celebration as part of the arrival/registration process that will help you know how much we appreciate your efforts on behalf of the wider church. We will also be facilitating at each annual meeting more forums on specific "how to" stewardship events.

Plans are underway for a survey of each church to determine what would be helpful in resourcing local churches for effective Stewardship. Once surveys are completed, a group of 3-5 churches will be selected for a year of coaching, with targeted training both on site and off site to facilitate best practices in Stewardship, individualized to that particular local church. Once a church has completed its first year, we are then going to be asking the churches and pastors that participate, to, in turn, aid in coaching the next group of churches selected. As each "class" moves forward it will allow us to exponentially reach each congregation that wishes to, to have a special year of coaching on the best practices in Stewardship that have been proven successful in Northwest Ohio churches. To accomplish this goal we need another 3-5 Stewardship and Caring team members to aid us in moving forward with our ambitious plans.

We have attempted to be faithful in putting regular communications in the Vine that provide not only encouragement but reflect some of the current thinking available regarding Stewardship. We hope to continue the process of providing uplifting thoughts, stories, and programs for you to consider in shaping your local stewardship programs.

We have also had conversations around the "caring" portion of our job description but not yet any concrete actions. But that is not for lack of "dreaming". We have clearly identified a need for either an Association supported or regionally supported Stephen Ministry program or Called to Care program training to assist local churches and pastors in adequately caring for their congregations. We have considered the potential value of pooling resources that would enable multiple churches to team together to create a critical mass to receive such training. There is a known link that churches who help to team with their local pastor in meeting the caring needs of the members are able to significantly free up a portion of the pastoral time to work on other initiatives while at the same time, give care that is more specific to members through trained lay leaders. It becomes a "win/win" for the church.

I want to thank the team members who have been able to be faithful to the task of meeting and planning. Jay Scott, Janice Burns-Watson, Adrian Sunday, David Borden and the regular presence of our Association Minister, Dan Busch. In addition, we all would concur that without the faithful presence and activity of Joan Davidson, only half of what we might dream about could be accomplished. Many of us are learning our task as we immerse ourselves in Stewardship and hope that our own "product" will be continually refined and therefore be more effective. All suggestions are most welcome!

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

Team members: Rev. David Plant (chair), Rev. Janice Burns-Watson, Rev. Adrian Sunday, Rev. David Borden, Pastor Jay Scott



## Excellence in Ministry Program

Excellence in Ministry teams are divided into teams called Communities of Practice.

They are defined as: *groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. (shared domain of interest)*  
*Clergy Group Facilitator Resource Guide, Version 3- pg. 10*

The Excellence in Ministry Communities of Practice gather monthly for about two hours. The nine-meeting season begins in September as each group in collaboration with its facilitator, creates a covenant, sets an agenda for the year and defines their specific team meeting format. Led by the facilitator within a safe and caring environment, team members feel comfortable to discuss the joys and challenges of ministry that impact their lives, both pastoral and personal. Over time, close bonds have developed that deepen a community spirit.

Members of the EIM teams were invited to complete confidential evaluations of our Excellence in Ministry Program in May. The outcome was positive, affirming caring relationships and the importance of safe spaces to discuss issues that surround pastoral ministry and its impact on pastors.

Beginning our fifth year in September 2017, the number of EIM team members remains consistent, between thirty-three and thirty-five. We welcomed Paul Fraser and Karen Fraser Moore, who were trained as facilitators in Illinois, to our Facilitator Team. We offered our thanks and very best wishes to David Plant in his new role as Vice Moderator of the Ohio Conference.

The 2017 Season facilitators are Casey Cain, Ken Daniel, Paul Fraser, Ed Heilman, Becky King, Margaret Mills, Karen Fraser Moore, David Orr, 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 newer to ministry, and they have co-facilitators: Ken Daniel and Becky King... 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 to the future, we continue to invite clergy to join the Excellence in Ministry Program. This is an excellent opportunity to participate in a collegial environment of support for pastoral ministries and a secure space to offer and receive personal nurture as pastors learn, grow and share God's love and grace with others.

## **El Salvador Coordinating Team**

### **Iglesia Luterana Salvadorena**

### **Our Global Partner**

In March of 2017, the first extension of the partnership between NWOA and the Lutheran Church of EL Salvador was signed for another five years. This has been a rewarding partnership for the past six years for both partners. Bishop Medardo Gomez and Christian Chavarria have both visited with us twice in these past six years. They have both become very good friends by sharing their faith and friendship with us here in NWOA.

The people of the Synod of the Lutheran Church also know about the people and churches of Ohio. When Bishop Gomez tells the people in the churches of El Salvador who we are, Bishop tells them that, "We are the United Church of Christ". And then he explains that, "We are just like the people of the Lutheran Church of El Salvador". They have shared their faith, wisdom, friendship, and prayers with all here in NWOA. **Thanks be to God!**

The people of the NWOA churches have supported the building of the new church building, which is the mother church of the Lutheran Synod in El Salvador. The first phase of the building is nearing completion, thanks to your generosity. People of NWOA have also supported the Lutheran schools, the clinic, and the soup kitchen by their monetary gifts and their gifts of many needed items of clothing, school supplies, soccer balls, medical supplies, instruments and many other useful items. The Lutheran clergy and members of their churches are very thankful to the people of NWOA for their support of prayers, friendships, and visits to their country. They are thankful for all the clothing, school supplies, medical supplies and many other items delivered to them by travelers to their country. **Thanks be to God!**

Another group of eleven persons traveled to El Salvador from February 21<sup>st</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. They again traveled with a carryon bag and two checked suitcases, weighing fifty pounds each. They were all filled with many useful items for the people of the Lutheran Churches.

Living conditions are still very difficult for the people, who are mostly very poor. It is a struggle to put food on their tables. If there are jobs for people, they are mostly very poor paying jobs. There are many maquilas (sweatshops) that pay fifty cents to a dollar an hour and the people work for twelve-hour days. Much of the clothing, light bulbs and other things that come from El Salvador are made in sweatshops. There are a few factories that do pay better wages and have better working conditions.

Violence is still a problem but we are always kept safe and stay out of places that are known for violence.

The El Salvador Coordinating Team meets four times a year at the association office. We try to keep the association members up to date on what is happening with our partners in El Salvador. We also try to sponsor a trip to El Salvador once a year. We go as a group to build relationships and to serve as ambassadors. We don't do physical building because there is so much unemployment. If we go to build structures, we are taking work away from El Salvadorans. Instead, we support the people in their daily lives.

Respectfully submitted by John Gilberg, Chairperson

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 nurtured the connectedness of the women of our churches – especially in fellowships, guilds and circles. Due to the disbanding of the Program Districts Women's Group (Defiance, Firelands, Heidelberg, Maumee Bay, Miami Erie, Tempel Hills) we invite the current women's fellowships, guilds and circles of the church to participate by giving to the *Love Gift* mission.

This second-mile giving project, the *Love Gift* offerings, are collected on a calendar year rotation January to December. You will find the 2018 list of *Love Gift* missions on page 12. The Northwest Ohio Association will collect these donations until the end of December, which at this time, will be disbursed.

In the program year of 2017, the collection goal was \$2,400. Collected for 2017 was \$1200. Eight missions received \$150. The Women's Board *Love Gift* offerings were distributed to the following projects:

Church World Service Disaster Relief  
Back Bay Mission – Center for Community Ministry  
CROSSROAD - Child and Family Services  
Richard & Rachel Wolff Fund (Seminary Students)  
United Church Homes - Parkvue Community & Fairhaven Community  
Camp Washington, Washington UCC - Cincinnati, Ohio  
NWOA El-Salvador Mission Project  
Nu-Vizion United Church of Christ, Toledo, Ohio

**We want to Thank, each and every-one for your faithful giving this past year.**

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

## **2018 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**

This fund is being established for residents at Fairhaven Community in Upper Sandusky and Parkvue Community 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 419-447-8323. Allocation: \$300.00

### **CROSSROAD – CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES**

CROSSROAD – Fort Wayne, Indiana - MISSION: to create promising futures for children in difficult circumstances by providing therapy, education and family support services. For more information: 800-976-2306. 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 90+ 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: 513-542-1637. Allocation: \$300.00

### **GRACE COMMUNITY CENTER, TOLEDO, OH**

Doing justice, seeking peace and building community are central to the mission of Grace Community Center as it serves the Olde Towne District neighborhoods in Toledo, Ohio, one of the poorest Toledo neighborhoods. Programs and services include after-school educations for youth, summer edu-camp, sports programming and Saturday social learning clubs, adult health & wellness programming, and emergency food pantry. Location: 406 W. Delaware Avenue, Toledo. For more information: 419-248-2467. Allocation: \$300.00