



# Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ

November 2016

## Quick Links

[December Daily Lectionary](#)

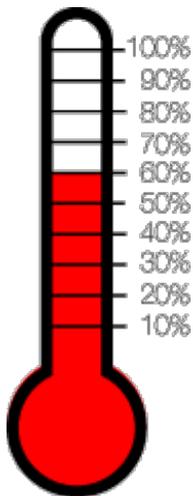
[IKC Prayer Calendar](#)

[IKC Calendar](#)

[Church World Service News](#)

## 2016 Budget Goal

### OCWM Basic Support



Goal=\$635,000  
We Have Reached  
59% Of Our Goal  
As Of 10/31/16

## Upcoming Events

IKC Office Closed-  
Thanksgiving Observance  
Nov. 24-25

## Indiana-Kentucky Conference News

### Plan Ahead To Participate In Disaster Recovery Efforts

The Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry team is planning disaster recovery work opportunities in South Bend and Kokomo, Ind. in the summer of 2017. In August, over 700 families were affected by flooding in South Bend and a major tornado touched down in Kokomo.



United Church of Christ

Indiana - Kentucky Conference

Mark your calendars for the weeks of June 12, June 19, July 10 and July 17. The cost will be approximately \$20 per day per person. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Mary Anna Speller by [email](#) or by phone at 317-409-3993 or 317-736-8707.

### Cheerful Giving

By Rev. Michael Erwin  
Pastor, Christ Church UCC & Church Financial Consultant

As you plan worship for the Advent and Christmas season, consider your special offerings. Many churches support charities and causes with special offerings during December, and you can help your members be more generous. In the UCC, for example, churches are encouraged to support the Christmas Fund, which cares for active and retired clergy who need financial assistance.

Look at your worship calendar. Do you have any special Sundays or worship services where you expect a larger than normal attendance? Perhaps your choir has a special Christmas cantata, or your children perform a special program. Sometimes Christmas Eve is a time when young adults will attend their home church with their parents and grandparents. Identify those Sundays in which something special is happening that boosts attendance.

Prepare an excellent worship program for those high times. Ensure that every part of worship is engaging and that transitions are smooth. Generosity is supported by our emotions, so let's engage our whole selves - body, mind and spirit - in worship. Make the connection between this worship service and this special offering, always keeping the focus on the gathered community, not the offering itself. The offering should be a natural expression of our worship.

This season, help your congregation enjoy "cheerful giving" in a special way.

## UCC News

Permission To Experiment

With Appreciative

Leadership

Indianapolis

[Nov. 29](#)

Best Practices For ONA

Church Growth

Webinar

[Dec. 6](#)

Understanding Yourself In A

Team That Thrives

Webinar

[Dec. 7](#)

Christmas Fund Offering

[Dec. 18](#)

IKC Office Closed-Christmas

Observance & Staff

Vacation Time

Dec. 26-30

Join Our Mailing List!



Save The Date

IKC Office Closed-New

Year's Day Observance

Jan. 2

Young Ambassadors All

Generation Reunion

Indianapolis

Jan. 7

IKC Office Closed-Martin

Luther King, Jr. Day

Jan. 16

UCC/DOC Clergy Retreat

Indianapolis

Jan. 23-25

IKC Confirmation Retreat

Merom Camp & Retreat

Center

[Jan. 27-29](#)

General Synod 31

Baltimore, Md.

## Support Global Ministries Through Charitable Rollovers

In December 2015, Congress enacted a permanent extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover. Under the now permanent law, if you are 70 ½ or older and have an IRA, the IRA Charitable Rollover provides you with a unique opportunity to make charitable gifts to the charitable organization of your choice, including Wider Church Ministries (UCC) and Division of Overseas Ministries (Disciples), the two fiscal entities that make up Global Ministries. Such gifts are sent directly to the charity by your plan administrator, and count toward your required annual distribution from your IRA, with the advantage that you do not pay income tax on the gift amounts. [Gifts through IRA Charitable Rollovers](#) can be a tax-smart way to provide important resources for the work of Global Ministries.



## White Privilege: Let's Talk. Let's Do Something.

The UCC now offers a new adult curriculum - "[White Privilege: Let's Talk](#)" - that's designed to encourage church members to engage in safe, meaningful, substantive and bold conversations on race. There are webinars, a discussion forum and the opportunity to move beyond just talking about white privilege to actually doing something about this injustice.

## UCC Disabilities Ministries Seeks Board Nominations

The UCC Disabilities Ministries Board's Nominations Committee is seeking people who are passionate about disability ministry who would like to serve on our Board. Our Board is made up of people with disabilities, professionals who work in the disability field, and family members of people with disabilities. Our mission is to encourage our denomination to create worship and meeting places, programs and leadership that are accessible to all (A2A) and welcoming and inclusive of all persons with disabilities.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, visit the UCC Disabilities Ministries [website](#). The nominating form must be filled out [online](#) and received by Dec. 9.

## ONA Webinar: Best Practices for Church Growth

Join Andrew Lang, executive director of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC, for an [interactive webinar](#) on best practices for Open and Affirming (ONA) church growth.

Have you ever asked, "What's next for our ONA church?" This webinar is for you! Congregations exploring the possibility of an ONA covenant will also benefit from this webinar. The webinar is \$30 and will take place Dec. 6 from 7-8 p.m. Eastern.

## UCC Scholarship Applications Open Soon

The UCC has a wealth of scholarships for individuals in the denomination who are engaged in education, leadership and ministry. Applications are accepted Dec. 1-March 15. [Scholarships](#) are currently available in the following areas:

### [Ministry Education Scholarships](#)-

Scholarships for those preparing for ministry in the UCC and for support for ministers in financial or personal crisis.

[Leadership Development Scholarships](#)-Scholarships that help to support UCC undergraduate students, future seminary professors, African-American laywomen, and gifted persons with disabilities, among others.



The Indiana-Kentucky  
Conference of the  
United Church of Christ  
was selected as a  
Constant Contact  
All Star  
in 2011, 2012 & 2013

Send story ideas or  
comments to the editor,  
[Nikki Richards](#). Story  
ideas should be within the  
mission and ministry of  
the IKC and may be  
edited for space.

*\*This newsletter was  
made possible by your  
OCWM donations.*

[The Genesis Fund](#)-The Genesis Fund will accept applications for faith-based projects that are innovative or experimental, represent a new initiative in Christian mission, or that may be deemed controversial. Funds are available for domestic and international projects. UCC local churches, associations, conferences, national bodies, UCC-related institutions, and overseas/global partner UCC churches are eligible to apply.

### 2017 UCC Insurance Rates Announced

The 2017 insurance rates are now available. For the 2017 plan year, the Non-Medicare Plan and the Medicare Supplement Plan with Rx will experience a rate increase of 9%. There is no change to deductibles or pharmacy co-pays. There will be a 4% increase to the Dental Plan. The Vision Plan remains unchanged from 2016 levels. Click [here](#) to read more.

## News From Our Partners

### Cornerstone Fund Offers Funding Options For Churches

Is your church considering new construction, making repairs, or even refinancing an existing loan? The Cornerstone Fund can help you explore your options, refine your plans, and move forward with the knowledge and information that will ensure a solid foundation for your project, as well as for your church's mission and future.

[Check out](#) Cornerstone's current rates today. For more information, email [info@cornerstonefund.org](mailto:info@cornerstonefund.org) or call 888-822-3863.

Thank you for reading the Inky e-news. If you know someone that would like to receive the e-news, you can forward them this email and they can sign up using the "Join Our Mailing List" button or they can email [n.richards@ikcucc.org](mailto:n.richards@ikcucc.org) and request to be added to the list.

Sincerely,

Nikki Richards

Communications Coordinator  
Inky e-news Editor  
Indiana-Kentucky Conference  
United Church of Christ  
[n.richards@ikcucc.org](mailto:n.richards@ikcucc.org)

Indiana-Kentucky Conference, United Church of Christ | (317) 924-1395 |  
[ikc@ikcucc.org](mailto:ikc@ikcucc.org) | <http://www.ikcucc.org>  
1100 West 42nd St., Ste. 155  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

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