

WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES

Focus: Encourage and strengthen Conference and local church relationships with global, ecumenical and interfaith partners; promote UCC identity and interests in the wider community; develop opportunities for publicizing and promoting UCC mission.

Major Areas of responsibility:

God Is Still Speaking: Recruit and support persons trained in the resources and techniques of the UCC God Is Still Speaking identity initiative; encourage local church use of tools for pro-active outreach and welcoming of new comers; provide resources for visitors, new member orientation.

Global Partnerships. Encourage and promote relationships with missionary and global partners; assist congregations with arrangements to receive missionary guest who visit the conference from time to time; develop ways for congregations to relate to the global ministry of the UCC; assist where appropriate in providing opportunities for overseas visitation to mission locations, work projects, youth and adult exchange programs.

One Great Hour of Sharing: Provide resources and encouragement to congregations for participation in OGHS, Church World Service, and other international relief and response projects.

Disaster Preparedness and Response: Recruit and collaborate with Disaster Response trained contact persons in the conference to provide resources; assist in development of conference and local church disaster response plans and strategies; mobilize workers within the conference to provide disaster relief; plan for appropriate response to disasters which may occur within the conference or elsewhere.

Campus Ministries: Administer the Koinonia Fund; promote and review applications for grants from this fund to support local church and campus initiatives to provide Christian outreach and support for students on campuses throughout the Conference; interpret and support the ministries of campus spiritual life leaders on campuses, especially those who are members of the UCC; research, study and implement effective techniques for partnering with students and faculty on campuses for spiritual life, and Christian experiences.

Ecumenical Partnerships: Relate to and support the work of ecumenical and interfaith organizations which serve within the conference; promote interfaith, ecumenical and Christian unity concerns and interests among the congregations of the conference.

Communication: Plan for and oversee Conference edition of UCNews; collaborate with wrap-around editor for themes and focus; provide for and oversee Conference web page development; plan for conference-wide prayer calendar and other communication techniques.

Other working groups may be created at any time to assist in focusing on special projects or meeting specific needs of the congregations of the conference.