



Our Church's Wider Mission

Resources for learning more about Our Church's Wider Mission

OCWM Study Guide:

Some people look at **Our Church's Wider Mission** as the money we pay to the conference to run a wide variety of programs. That's kind of it. But really, it's about sharing. **Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)** is the money we share together so that ministries we could not do on our own can happen. Ministries like: helping churches find ministers and ministers find churches; sponsoring educational programs such as the Church Leaders' Event and workshops; preparing candidates for ordained or commissioned ministry in the church; programming for youth and children; supporting new churches—especially those from immigrant populations such as Micronesians—grow to their full potential in the wider church and community; speaking out for justice at local, national, and international levels, and much, much more.

Ask yourselves ...

- What does it mean to share?
- What are some of the advantages of sharing?
- What does your church give each year? Has this amount gone up or down over the last five years?
- What are things your church receives from **Our Church's Wider Mission**? (Remember—the issue is not “do we get our money's worth” but rather “how are the whole church and community strengthened?”)
- What do others in your community receive?
- Think of 5 ministries that the church—your church, or the Hawai'i Conference, or the national setting—is able to do *because* of **Our Church's Wider Mission**. Imagine what things would be like if those ministries were no longer happening.
- Many people tithe (give 10% of their income) to the church. If your church is not giving its full potential to **Our Church's Wider Mission** can you consider increasing your giving until you are tithing—that is, giving 10% of your annual budget—to support wider ministry?

OCWM Resources

Go to www.hcucc.org and click on “Resources” and then “Stewardship” for a link to lots of things that can help you learn about **Our Church's Wider Mission** and share the story with others. Some of the things you'll find include:

- **OCWM 2013**—a video produced by the Hawai'i Conference explaining some of the many ways we share ministry through giving to **Our Church's Wider Mission**. Watch the video to learn more, and show it during Sunday worship, or at a council meeting or Bible study.
- **PowerPoint® presentations** from both the Hawai'i Conference and the national setting of the United Church of Christ. The accompanying script allows anyone, even with limited knowledge of OCWM, to present the PowerPoint®. This presentation also includes options for study.
- **OCWM newsletter feed** contains an ever-expanding number of short blurbs that help tell the story of **Our Church's Wider Mission** and can be put in church newsletters and bulletins.
- **OCWM Basic Support Explained**—this link will take you to numerous resources from the national church available online.
- **Plain Talk video**. Go to hcucc.org then “Resources” then “Stewardship.” Click on “OCWM Interpretation Resources” and then “What is OCWM?” for a great 5-minute video explaining the basics of OCWM.

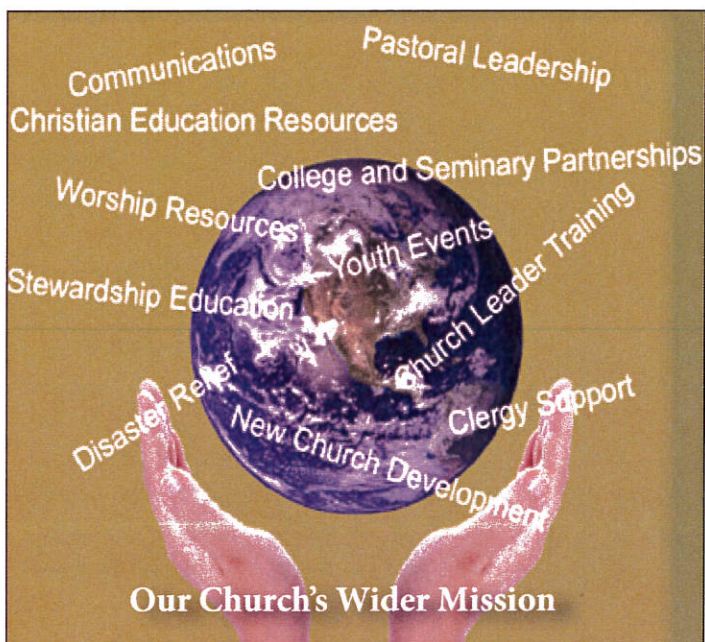
Bible Study

Exodus 16:2-8

- Why in the wilderness do people long for Egypt? In remembering “the good old days,” do we forget the harsher realities of life in the past?
- In what ways might your church (or the United Church of Christ as a whole) be in the wilderness—between the old days and newer ways? Are there negatives from the old days we fail to remember today?
- How did God respond after these laments in the Bible?

2 Corinthians 8:7-9

- What might it mean to be “the best in this work of grace” (verse 7)?
- What are things your local church excels at? What makes them strong?
- What are ministries your church shares with other congregations and faith communities—either within the UCC, or with other churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, etc.?
- How does your church “prove the authenticity of its love” (verse 8)?



Here are 3 ways congregations can increase OCWM giving:

1. We need to teach our congregation to be generous every Sunday.
2. We can ask our congregation to tithe 10% of our total operating budget to OCWM.
3. If that's not possible, we can ask our congregation to increase its OCWM contribution each year by 1% of the total operating budget until we become a tithing congregation.

Changing Lives That's Our Church's Wider Mission



Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) funds the work we do in the Conference as well as in the national and global church. OCWM funds are invested in programs, resources, and tools needed to keep local UCC churches strong, effective, and growing. OCWM helps provide pastoral placement and education for church leaders; worship materials and theological interpretation; resources and training for stewardship and fundraising; and so much more. We are one church—a united and uniting church.