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SOUTHWEST  
WISCONSIN  
ASSOCIATION

UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST

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2008

## FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION MINISTER

I saw this in the Northwest Word – the newsletter of the Northwest Association. It was penned by Rev. Diane Martin of LaCrosse, who is a member of their Division on Mission of the Church and in the Word. I think it is a helpful piece for interpretation of OCWM (Our Churches Wider Mission) We are always seeking ways to help people in the broadness of this mission. “In Wisconsin, OCWM Basic Support is used in five ways:

1. To support the UCC on the **Association** level:
  - \* Placement of pastors
  - \* Ordinations and installations
  - \* Pastoral care for clergy and families
  - \* Building community among pastors and congregations
  - \* Support and training for pastors and lay leaders
2. To fund ten non-profit **health and human service agencies** through the Wisconsin Council of Health and Human Services (WCHHSM):
  - \* Aurora Sinai Medical Center in Milwaukee
  - \* Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS
  - \* Cedar Community senior home in West Bend
  - \* Crossroad Children’s Homes in Fort Wayne, IN
  - \* Emmaus Homes for people with development disabilities in MO
  - \* Fairhaven Senior Services in Whitewater
  - \* Lifelink international adoption program
  - \* New Glarus Retirement Home
  - \* Orion Family Services throughout WI
  - \* Parks Edge Pre-school in Hales Corners
3. To Provide **ministries for the local church:**
  - \* Camping at Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach camps
  - \* Resources for all areas of church life
  - \* Lay Academy to train non-ordained leaders
  - \* Global partnerships
  - \* Church renewal, new church starts, youth initiatives
4. To support the **oversight ministries of the Conference**
  - \* Communications, including the all-church mailing, Website and other publications
  - \* Seminars, workshops and meetings at the Conference Center in DeForest and and the Annual Meeting
  - \* Administrative support services and administration of the shared-cost health insurance program
  - \* Financial oversight of contributions and invested funds
5. And to fund wider church ministries through the **national UCC**

Just as most churches ask their members to pledge their local giving for the coming year, so does the Wisconsin conference need to know how much its congregations hope to give to OCWM. In August each church in the Wisconsin Conference received a letter suggested a specific goal for Basic Support for 2008.”

In Christ,

Bob Mutton

## SPRING ASSOCIATION MEETING TO BE HELD AT MONTICELLO ZWINGLI

The Spring Meeting of the Southwest Association will be held on April 26 at Zwingli UCC in Monticello., beginning with registration at 9 a.m. The theme of the day will be Congregational Renewal and Development with the Keynote speaker being the Rev. Joanne Thomson, Associate Conference Minister for Mission, Stewardship and Renewal.

## DISTRICT MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

Clergy gather in districts (geographical areas) monthly for Bible Study (of the upcoming lectionary gospel reading), theological reflection and prayer. In February we'll be discussing a chapter from Walter Brueggemann's book, "The Book That Breathes New Life," - Chapter 3, "Biblical authority and the Church's Task of Interpretation." We have copies if you need one. Contact the Association Office.

District IV Evansville	February 19	9 a.m.
District I Dodgeville	February 20	8 a.m.
District III Portage	February 20	12 noon
	(date tentative)	
District II Madison	February 27	8 a.m.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS

### HELP!!!

The Nominating Committee of the Association will be gathering soon to put together a slate of officers, committee and division members as well as delegates to General Synod. We are seeking folk for the following positions:

**Vice Moderator** – a 2 year term (will become Moderator for a 2 year term) Need lay person

**3 at-large members for the Executive Committee** (7 meetings a year – 2 year term – can remain up to 6 years – need clergy female, clergy male and a laity male

**3 members for the Division on Christian Education**

**2 members for the Social Concerns Committee**

**2 members for the Periodic Support Consultation Committee**

**4 people to be delegates to General Synod for 2009 (Grand Rapids, MI) and 2011 (Hawaii)**

Need Male Clergy, Female Clergy, Male laity and female laity. If you have interest or can recommend someone, please contact the Association or our Lay Coordinator, Nancy Potter, at [nlpotter@charter.net](mailto:nlpotter@charter.net) or (608) 206-0731.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Thanksgiving for the birth of Ruth Amelia Smith Lippert For Jacki Mitchell, recovering from cancer treatments David Schlieter, as he moves to the Southeast Association Lois Rosko, as she is Ordained and Installed at Reeseville

### OUR CONGREGATIONS AT:

Platteville First Congregational - Cathy Carlson, Pastor

Platteville Mt. Zion – Cathy Carlson, Pastor

Portage - Vicki Warren, Pastor

## SCHLIETER CALLED TO NEW HORIZONS

Yep, that's the name of the congregation – New Horizon UCC. It's located in Farmington near Kewaskum in the Southeast Association. We wish David and his family Godspeed in the transition. We are delighted that he will continue to be a faithful colleague in the Wisconsin Conference. David's last Sunday at Mineral Point will be February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## NEW GROWTH IN DODGEVILLE

Ruth Amelia Smith Lippert was born on January 19, 2008, to Todd and Sara. She was 7 lbs and 20 in. long. Brother and sister are delighted, mostly sister. We thank God for this healthy birth.

## CONGREGATIONS SEEKING:

Darlington Immanuel – Sue Strickler, Interim

Mineral Point – Beryl Melcher, Interim

## READING GROUP TO BEGIN NEW BOOK

The Contemporary Theology Reading Group will begin "The Beginning of All Things...Science and Religion" by Hans Kung. From the cover, "Kung seeks to reconcile theology with the latest scientific insights, holding that a confrontational model for the relationship between science and theology is out of date. If you have interest, let us know and we'll order you a book. We meet at the Association Office on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

## CHECK OUT THE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

The Division on Lay Life and Leadership has taken the Association website as their project and have done a great job. We now have a new page where people can sign up to receive Nancy's Association E-News. You can go to the home page and follow the link or just click on this one. <http://www.swwisconsinucc.org/ecommuications.htm>

## AN INVITATION FROM TISHA BROWN & THE COMMUNITY OF HOPE UCC:

**Contemplative Taize Worship During Lent – Sundays, Feb. 17-Mar. 16 at 5 p.m.**

Lent is a season of introspection and self-reflection. It's a season when we remember Jesus' temptation in the wilderness and walk with him through his public ministry on the way to the cross. This is why we offer additional worship opportunities and often focus more intensely on our own spiritual journeys during this time.

You are invited to join them throughout Lent for Contemplative Taize Worship at Madison Christian Community. We will gather at MCC in the Covenant Room on Sunday evenings, February 27, 24, and March 2, 9, and 16 from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. This worship time will feature songs from Taize, scripture reading, contemplative silence and prayer. All are welcome.