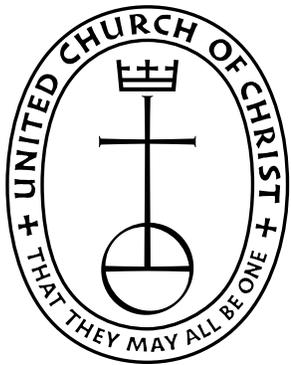




Weaving our *fabric*

With your help,
each strand
strengthens
the whole



Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ



Our Vision

The United Church of Christ is the church the world needs today.

The world needs a church that proclaims, “No matter who you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” The world needs a church bold enough to say, *God is still speaking*.

We believe the UCC is such a church.

In Christ we are invited to be transformed and to work with God to make a more peaceful, just, and loving world. Our Still-Speaking God invites us to be bold, to think creatively, and to be innovative in our ministries.

The call of Christ undergirds the covenant we share with one another as the United Church of Christ. We are guided by the principle of Christian connectedness — “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” We are 235 churches working together to be a faith-forming, multi-racial and multicultural, open and affirming, globally minded movement to transform ourselves and our world.

In isolation, no single UCC congregation can be the church the world needs today. To be that world-changing church, congregations must join together to support and inspire each other.

We live reliant upon a fabric woven of mutual interdependencies

God calls us to the work of strengthening the interconnected threads.

As the *United* Church of Christ, we know that it is *together* that we learn, grow, and love. Relying on God and with a spirit of mutuality, the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ strives to build faithful leaders and vital communities of churches in Connecticut, each and all proclaiming a radical welcome that embraces all of God’s children.

Our mission is, quite simply, to strengthen churches by empowering faith leaders to have creative and effective ministries. We help local congregations realize their missional identity and become justice-seeking, peacemaking communities of compassion. The Conference’s central focus is on leadership development and congregational vitality, while the scope of our vision and impact is much wider.

Through a variety of initiatives, the Connecticut Conference promotes unity within our denominational family by focusing on core values, shared mission, and common vision. As a voice for progressive Christianity in our society, we help the wider church nurture ministries that proclaim a radical welcome. We help churches articulate their vision and accomplish their mission and articulate and realize God’s unique plan for them in their unique setting. We help foster a wider community in which local churches share best practices, encourage experimentation, and offer innovative responses to the collective and individual challenges we face.

We need each other if we are to be the church the world needs

And *God needs us* to support each other. Jesus calls us to be one.

At the Connecticut Conference, we are empowering and uniting churches in common mission and ministry because God is calling us all to do new things in new ways. Our distinctive witness is urgent in the world in which we live, and our capacity to make a difference is greater when we work together.

Please continue to share and invest in this work. Through your financial support for the Conference's community-building and capacity-building mission, and for Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), you help us strengthen and sustain a movement of people and churches working together to answer God's call and spread God's love.

Your gifts to the Connecticut Conference:

- bolster connections
- facilitate the distribution of ideas and concepts
- bring successful local programs and ministries from one end of the state to the other
- form and foster leadership to guide vital communities of faith
- enable care and comfort for congregations suffering from loss
- provide educational opportunities for lay and ordained leaders
- help congregations during pastoral transitions
- support ministries that gather young people to deepen their spiritual lives in fellowship, worship and service
- magnify our united and collective voice in the public sphere as an advocate on behalf of the marginalized and as a champion of environmental justice
- help local churches feed the souls of their parishioners
- help local congregations work to eradicate racism and violence in their communities



WITH YOUR HELP, EACH STRAND IS WOVEN TO STRENGTHEN THE WHOLE FABRIC

What Your Gifts Support

SHARED GOALS AND VALUES:

Leadership Development • Identify, affirm, nurture, network, and build the capacity of lay and clergy leaders

Congregational Vitality • Highlight the impact of communities of faith upon their neighbors and the world, to affirm and assist capacity building within congregations, and to nurture covenantal practices among all settings of the Conference

Proclamation, Identity, and Communication • Share the wisdom and the ministries of the Connecticut Conference

Silver Lake Conference Center • In partnership with God and the churches of the Conference, form life-sustaining leaders for the Church and the world

Economic Justice • Protect and raise up the vulnerable among us

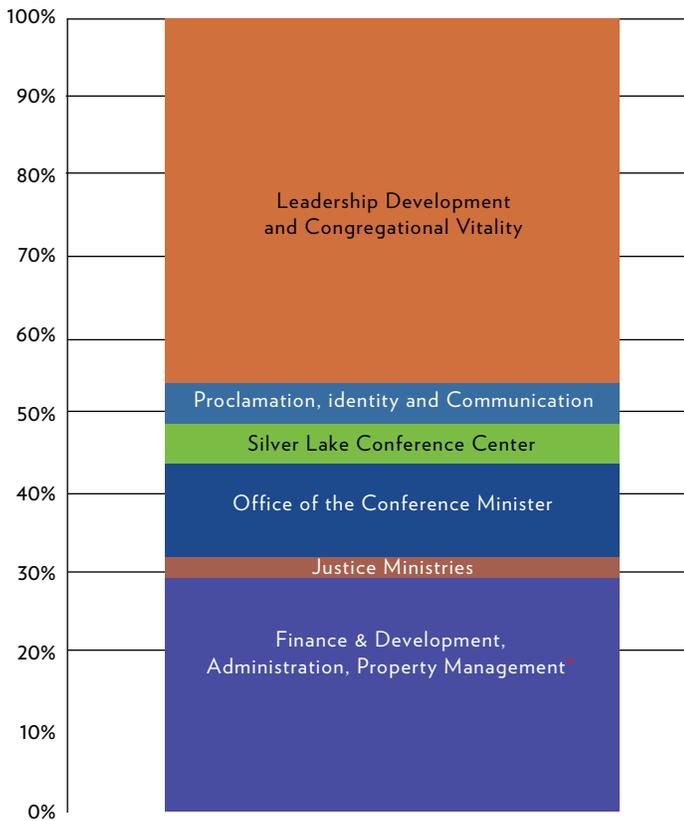
Environmental Justice • Provide transformative, justice-centered approaches to climate change and environmental equity in a forum that empowers individuals and communities to be bold witnesses and leaders

Racial Justice Ministry • Eradicate racism in the personal, interpersonal, cultural and institutional realms

Office of the Conference Minister • Set the vision for, provide spiritual leadership for, and oversee the ministries of the Connecticut Conference

Finance and Development • Administration • Property Management • Support the ministry and mission of the Connecticut Conference with its financial and property resources

ALLOCATIONS OF UNRESTRICTED GIFTS:



VITAL ACTIVITIES:

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

46%



We are committed to a lively, robust Church served by engaged, talented leaders.

Regional Ministers advise Association Committees on Ministry to best equip, empower, and support our church leaders. They work with pastors and lay church officials, offering ongoing support and counsel. Clergy Excellence Groups provide a setting to inspire and equip our

clergy. Excellence Events will provide unique opportunities for lay and ordained leaders to sharpen their skills and gain new tools. Youth and Young Adult Ministry Programs — including Thinking About Working for God for a Living, the Give Squared service opportunities, the Annual Youth Revival, the Joseph Clemmons Job Training Program, and Youth at Synod — engage young people and cultivate their gifts for leadership. Faith Formation and Leadership professionals and the Ruth Dudley Resource Center support Christian educators in local churches.

Every local church moves through transition at some point in its life — the Church Universal faces great change in these times. Our new Associate Conference Minister for Transitions develops resources and new models of leadership for times of flux, as well as helping us find ways to recruit the best pastoral leaders from across the United Church of Christ.

The Conference Registrar offers administrative assistance during transition times to congregations and clergy, and also supports Conference programs of continuing education and ministerial aid.

WORKING INTERDEPENDENTLY, WE MAXIMIZE OUR IMPACT IN THE WORLD

The Conference also lifts up and supports the needs, hopes, and dreams of local church congregations. Conference publications share the stories of our congregations, highlighting ministries that transform churches and their communities, and offering both inspiration and insight for new endeavors. Regional Ministers walk with congregations in times of joy and in times of sorrow — most of all, they walk with them in times that are confusing and uncertain. How is God calling us to be the Body of Christ for the world?

6%

PROCLAMATION, IDENTITY, AND COMMUNICATION



Our people have stories to tell. We tell them with pictures, e-mailings, websites, audio programs, video productions, and right there in person. We share our experience of God in *The Spirit Calendar* and *Spirit-ed Wednesday*;

we share the doings of our people in *CTUCC This Week*, *CTUCC This Month*, and *CTUCC ConferenceCast*. We let you know what's coming in the *CTUCC Flier*. Our Legislative Advocate visits with lawmakers to remind them that we care about the most vulnerable among us. Our new Leadership Studio gives us new ways to gather people in a virtual space to learn from each other, and to help churches tell their stories in new and exciting ways. Our people have stories to tell; we have the means to tell them.

5%

SILVER LAKE CONFERENCE CENTER



At Silver Lake, we provide spirit-lifting and faith-forming experiences of inclusive and nurturing Christian community. Each summer young people find themselves growing as they live and play as disciples of Jesus Christ. In winter, spring, and fall, people of all

ages grow in faith by stepping into "God's Back Yard." Throughout the year, Silver Lake demonstrates sustainable environmental stewardship of God's creation.

12%

OFFICE OF THE CONFERENCE MINISTER

The Conference Minister exercises a ministry of leadership: building relationships, guiding staff, overseeing programming, developing financial resources, and participating in the national setting of the UCC. It is an interdependent ministry:

The Conference Minister works closely with the Board of Directors, other Conference boards, committees, and ministry teams, and has the partnership of the Executive Assistant to do the work of setting the mission, raising the vision, and maintaining the priorities of the Connecticut Conference.

2%

JUSTICE MINISTRIES

"Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." (Amos 5:24)



In Christ we are called to participate in God's transforming work, often through challenging conversations and difficult decisions.

Our Legislative Advocate works with state lawmakers, reminding them that we care about those who struggle to feed their families, access affordable health care, adequately educate their children, and find meaningful employment. We encourage legislation that fosters equal justice for all members of our society. Our Advocate builds coalitions of lay and clergy leaders, connects them with their legislators, and helps express their concerns.

At the UCC Northeast Environmental Justice Center, located at Silver Lake Conference Center, we are called to inspire and motivate individuals and communities to restore and sustain God's creation. We seek means that are responsible, faithful, and just. We strive to foster communities that honor the Earth as a sacred gift. We acknowledge our duty to protect and care for all our planet's inhabitants, species, and ecosystems.

Our Racial Justice trainings offer tools so that people can do the work. They will have a common language to use. They will be able to unmask racism in the personal, interpersonal, cultural, and institutional realms. They will be able to inspire others to engage in the quest for racial justice. Our goal is no less than to eradicate racism.

29%

FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT • ADMINISTRATIVE • PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The Finance and Development Team sees that Conference ministries find the resources they need, and that those gifts are well stewarded. Development work concentrates on strengthening covenantal relationships and on encouraging support for Conference ministries. Endowment management, accounting, and budgeting help us extend and direct our resources, while property management sees that our facilities provide hospitable settings for ministry.

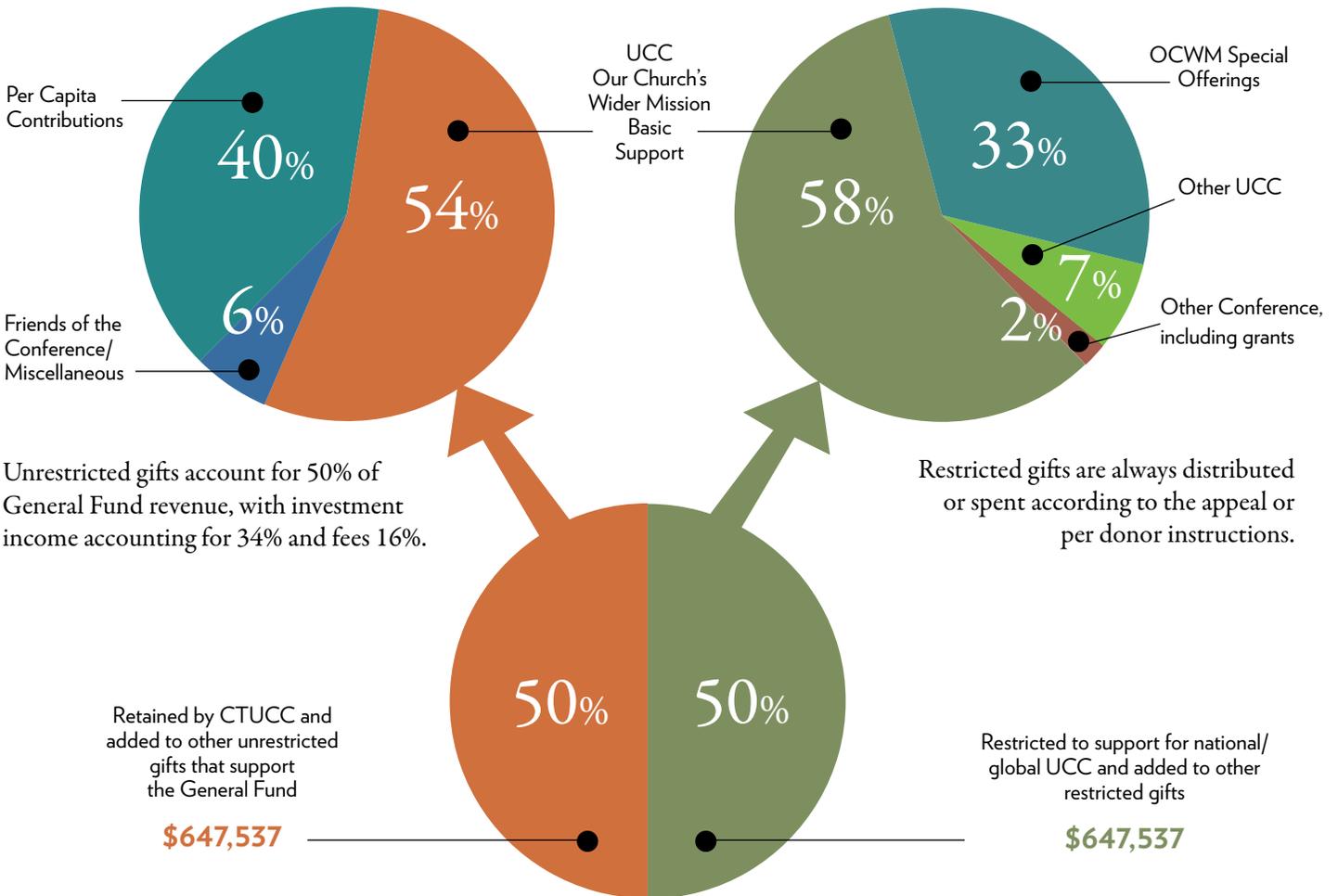
Where Our Support Comes From

Unrestricted Gifts • \$1,189,103

- OCWM Basic Support from churches
- Per capita contributions from churches (support CTUCC ministries)
- Friends of the Conference (annual appeal to individuals)
- Miscellaneous gifts (less than 1% of total)

Restricted Gifts • \$1,122,322

- OCWM Basic Support from churches
- OCWM Special Offerings:
 - *One Great Hour of Sharing*
 - *Neighbors in Need*
 - *Strengthen the Church*
 - *Christmas Fund*
- Other gifts (disaster relief, special appeals)



OCWM Basic Support • \$1,295,075