



September 23, 2018

What does our OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) Contributions Support ?

As budget time for your church is approaching often the question of "Where are our OCWM contributions used?" is raised. Of all the OCWM funds received into the PSEC office, 10% is forwarded onto the National Office for use by the wider church.

Those funds are used by the National church in support of the following four areas:

- 1) The Office of General Ministries houses the President and General Minister who serves in many ways.
- 2) Local Church Ministries supports the local church in many ways. The Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Ministry Team (MESA) team is designed to support Authorized Ministers (Ordained, Licensed and Commissioned) in our denomination from the first inklings of their calling through a healthy retirement. MESA's ministry is a collaborative effort intertwined with Conferences, Associations, and Committees on Ministry.
- 3) Wider Church Ministries is most widely known for the mission outreach work of the UCC because of our disaster ministries. This arm of the church also serves congregations and other settings of the church who strive to be inclusive whether it is multicultural/multiracial, open and affirming, global or accessible to all.
- 4) The vision of Justice and Witness Ministries is of a more just, peaceful and compassionate world that honors all of God's creation but leaders are needed throughout our churches and communities to help share, pursue and achieve this vision.

On a local level, the church's OCWM contributions support the following:

- 1) Search and Call resources.
- 2) Reporting that is required between pastors, churches, conference, and national.

- 3) Help to finance Youth events for those youth who are unable to attend due to financial reasons.
- 4) Help support clergy events and the whole spiritual life ministry programming, including the clergy convocation.
- 5) Contribute towards clergy leadership training with the Pastoral Excellence program and the Lay Ministry in the 21st Century program.
- 6) Support part of the Physis testing for clergy.
- 7) Support Committees on Ministry training.
- 8) Sponsor Clergy Retirees' events and retirees' health subsidy through national.
- 9) Support Justice and Witness and Disaster Relief projects.
- 10) Contribute towards Lancaster Theological Seminary, Locust Lake, E&R Historical Society, the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia, and the PA Council of Churches.
- 11) Support churches with our revitalization efforts through the Center for Progressive Renewal and other workshops/programming.
- 12) Support churches with our website implementation program for churches without a website presence or one that doesn't function well.
- 13) Provide grants for students attending seminary.
- 14) Support MIDs and new pastors with events.
- 15) Provide recognition materials for new pastors or new calls.
- 16) Support interim pastors with events.
- 17) Support clergy with boundary training, safe church training, and training on working in the internet based world, especially social media.
- 18) Help keep us connected with the wider church and each other through emails, Communitas, and eNews.
- 19) Support local churches with financial issue training.
- 20) Support local churches and pastors in their time of need or celebration.
- 21) Provide workshops when asked on various topics.
- 22) Administer fiscal responsibility over the monies and endowed funds that have been contributed to the PSEC.
- 23) Support the work of the PSEC office!

If you would like to discuss your OCWM Contributions please feel free to call the Conference office at 484-949-8774.

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