

# Continuing Testament

## What does Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) support?

**In the national setting of the United Church of Christ there are four Covenanted Ministry partners who share gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission to do the work of the wider church.**

**The Office of General Ministries houses the President** and General Minister who serves in many ways. One strategic role of the President is convening leaders in conversations on what it means to be a faithful, vital, and healthy church. These conversations take place in many and various settings of conference boards, local churches, seminary trustees and Mission Planning Council. The aim is to collaboratively develop new forms of cross setting resourcing, engagement and sharing.

Another key ministry housed in the Office of General Ministries is our Publishing, Identity and Communications office. One responsibility they have is establishing and maintaining a web and social media presence. [UCC.org](http://UCC.org) has had 2,750,000 visitors to the UCC website since May of last year! Those visitors have viewed 7,477,000 UCC web pages!

The largest number of visitors comes for three purposes: looking for a church, worship and preaching resources.

Outgoing communication keeps us connected. Every week 56,000 subscribers open [Keeping You Posted](#) E-zine (KYeP). Our social media presence is growing. Those new to the UCC and those responding to postings by UCC members increased our fan base on Facebook to 48,100. And each day we email 30,000 [Daily Devotional](#) messages to inspire and create opportunity for contemplation.

**Local Church Ministries** and Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Team helped launch the [Center for Progressive Renewal](#) (CPR). This is a training program for UCC pastors though a growing number of denominations are starting to recognize the Center. CPR trains pastors about having the "compelling vision, effective communication strategy, data management, community development, external mission and transformational worship." Recently partnered with two UCC Seminaries, the Center offers accredited courses and is "providing a complementary offering, allowing seminaries to offer the theological grounding, while CPR offers the technical training". There are two tracks: one for new church pastors and one for pastors looking to renew congregations (large and small). These course offerings are in response to the complex and ever-changing landscape of what it means to be church today.

## Extravagant Welcome

**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 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.

In partnership with the Disciples of Christ, Common [Global Ministries](#) is the ecumenical global sharing of resources and prophetic vision of a just and peaceful world order, joining with God's concern for the poor and oppressed.

All of this work – being long-term mission – is accomplished through over 70 trusting partnerships, 90 full-time deployed [volunteer](#) staff, 88 educational mission trip host sites, and shared resources for supporting those in need. We also gather mission reports from 164 UCC groups with over 5,500 members. We provide programmatic presence in disaster recovery, immersion training centers and service and learning sites to offer leverage and systemic support for wider ecumenical host sites, grassroots initiatives and mission trip participants.

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.

[Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing](#) (Justice LED) training program for church members, teaches leadership skills to support justice work in local churches and UCC Conferences. Very exciting work!

[Justice and Peace Action Network](#) is a UCC grassroots advocacy effort to educate and engage church members and friends to shape public policy. Since last May we've emailed 540,000 "Action Alerts"! And over 27,000 letters, emails and faxes went to Congress and the President. Download the 2011-2012 [Public Policy Briefing Book!](#)

Immersion centers like [Centro Romero](#) facilitate educational, transformational seminars along the border focusing on issue of globalization, economic policies, immigration and community empowerment.

The work of Justice and Witness Ministries is guided by the pronouncements and resolutions approved by the UCC at General Synod.

## Changing Lives

*that's Our Church's Wider Mission*