

OGHS Frequently Asked Questions



*feed my sheep

2010 Theme, Scripture Reference John 21:15-17

In Jesus' last conversation with the disciples after his resurrection, He repeated the same message *three* times: If you love me, take care of the people I love. Jesus had given up everything to care for ordinary people. He called on his followers to now make a tangible difference in the lives of others. (John 21:15-17)

When you make a gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, you actively participate in tending God's flock throughout the world. Your gift brings shelter, food, water, and medical supplies to disaster survivors. You help refugees find safe shelter and begin to build new lives. You aid impoverished communities in securing dependable sources of food and clean water. And you help provide medical care and education that strengthen bodies and minds and create brighter futures.

Remember the feeding of the 5,000? The disciples thought their resources could never meet the people's great need. Yet the followers of Jesus gave sacrificially from what they had — and through God's blessing, their gifts created a miracle for all.

Live your love for the Good Shepherd. Feed Jesus' sheep with a generous, even sacrificial, gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, and become part of a *new* miracle of sharing.

Taken from the 2010 Bulletin Insert

1. What is One Great Hour of Sharing®?

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

2. Who participates in One Great Hour of Sharing?

Nine Christian denominations - *American Baptist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Church of the Brethren, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church, Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church, and Church World Service* work together to develop common promotional materials thereby sharing ideas, costs, and a commitment to faithful service. Each denomination receives and manages its respective OGHS offerings.

3. How is the United Church of Christ's offering used?

More than 60 percent of the UCC's offering supports international development initiatives, including annual support for approximately six missionaries working in health care, education, and agricultural development. Gifts are also used for disaster preparedness and response, refugee and immigration advocacy and assistance, and disaster and refugee related volunteer initiatives.

4. Where and how are OGHS funds shared?

The United Church of Christ responds to development, disaster, and refugee needs in more than eighty countries, including the United States.

Funding decisions are made by asking our worldwide mission partners, "What would you have us do with you?" The United Church of Christ responds as a member of ecumenical organizations such as Church World Service and Action by Churches Together, International. We also support the direct mission efforts of churches and church-based organizations with whom the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have direct partnerships with through Global Ministries. Nearly one-third of the UCC's offering is shared through Church World Service to support refugee, disaster, development, and advocacy programs.

5. How many dollars are given to the UCC's OGHS offering?

On average, annual OGHS special offering receipts total \$3 million. Nearly seventy percent of UCC congregations participate annually.

6. What percentage of OGHS donations are used directly for mission?

On average, of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 88 cents are used directly for mission programming; 6 cents for interpretation materials and 6 cents for administrative costs. Most administrative costs are paid with gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support and endowment funds. Due to decreases in OCWM Basic Support, beginning in 2004 both mission and administrative costs for refugee ministries are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing.

7. Where's the Accountability?

Currently, the OGHS Program Committee of the Wider Church Ministries Board meets at each of its semi-annual meeting dates to review expenditures and to address initiatives to increase the promotion of the offering for the United Church of Christ.

8. How can I contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing?

The OGHS special mission offering is received through local UCC congregations and all UCC members are encouraged to participate in this way. Local churches will forward gifts to the conference office and all gifts will be forwarded to the United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Make a secure on-line contributions by visiting our One Great Hour of Sharing website at www.ucc.org/oghs.

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sharing resources, changing lives.

