

**UCC PROGRAMMATIC WORK**

**SPECIAL REPORT: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS)**

*Contributed by: the Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith, Executive Associate, Wider Church Ministries*

**OGHS DOLLARS AT WORK & OGHS TOTAL OFFERING (2017-2021)**

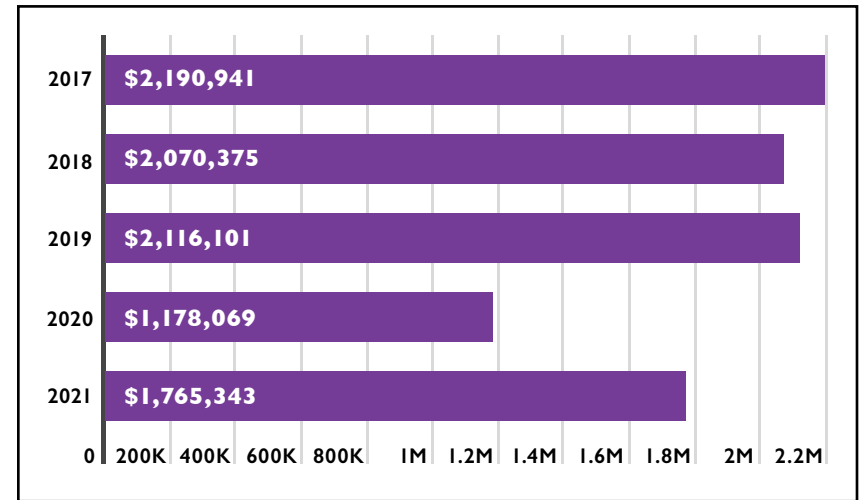
Funds collected from the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering, and other special funds, are used by Wider Church Ministries to fulfill the United Church of Christ’s commitment to respond to a variety of international and domestic concerns by providing advocacy, sustainable development resources, long term disaster recovery support, humanitarian aid and assistance for refugee and asylum seekers. We can accompany families as they rebuild their homes and lives through our collaborative partnership with churches and organizations like Church World Service (CWS), Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance and World Council of Churches (WCC).

Stories and reports bear witness to the transformative and life sustaining impact of our support through international programs in five (5) Global Ministries regions -- Africa, East Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East/Europe, and Southern Asia -- under the guidance of Global Ministries Area Executives working in collaboration with global partners.

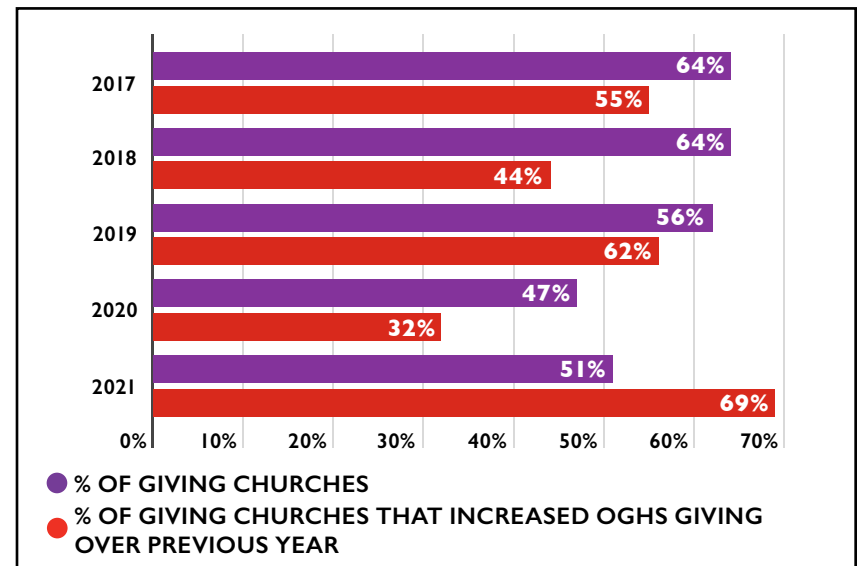
After several years of distributing over \$2 million in funding annually, the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020 precipitated a substantial (44%) decrease from the previous year in OGHS funding. This resulted in a reduction of available resources across all programs and created a year-end deficit. Remarkably, the increased giving from over two-thirds of churches that give regularly to OGHS resulted in a modest rebound in the 2021 offering.

Amid despair, through your generosity, the United Church of Christ continues to stand with partners in solidarity and mutuality to provide much needed support to communities in need, offering reminders of God’s love to nurture hope.

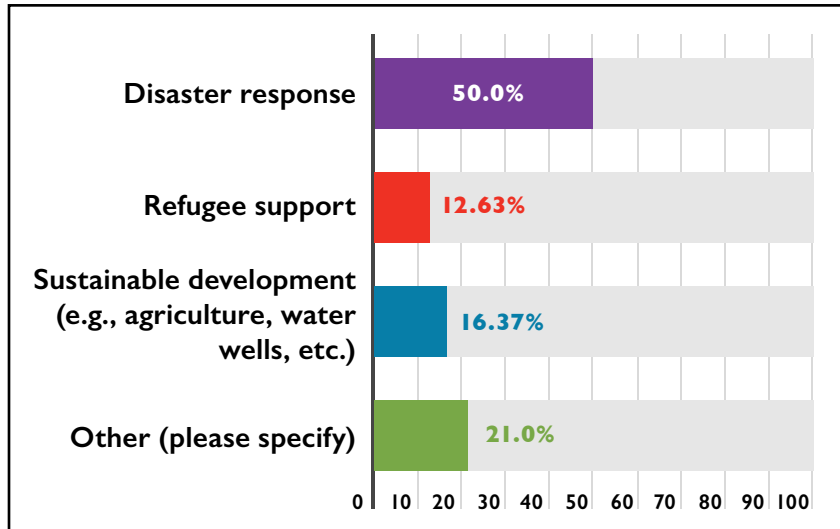
**OGHS TOTAL OFFERING (2017–2021)**



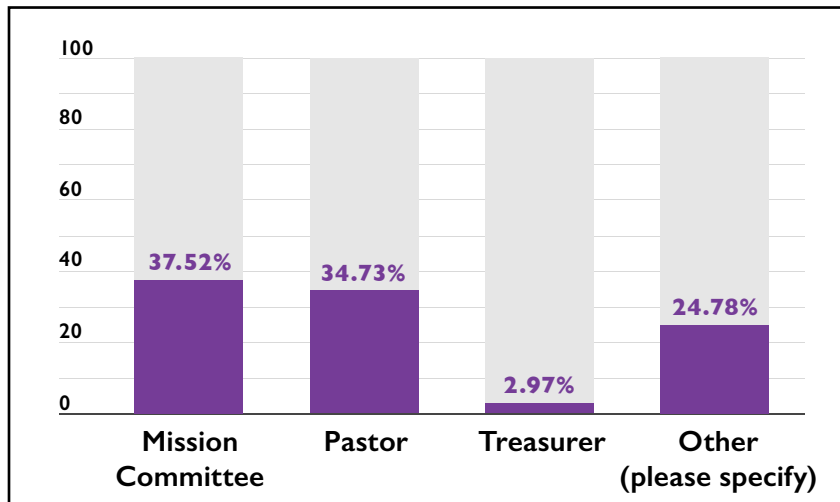
**5 YEAR CHURCH GIVING (2017–2021)**



### WHEN ASKED “WHY DO YOU GIVE TO OGHS; WHAT WOULD YOU HIGHLIGHT?”



### WHO HAS THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROMOTING THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING IN YOUR CONGREGATION?



### OGHS CHURCH GIVING (2017-2021)

The COVID 19 pandemic in 2020 resulted in fewer giving churches and fewer churches with increased giving over the previous year. However, the downward trend was reversed in 2021 with as many as 69% of giving churches showing increased giving over the previous year.

### OGHS SURVEY (MAY 2022)

A survey was sent in May 2022 to learn when and how UCC congregations engaged with the OGHS offering. While the majority of churches that responded to the survey received the OGHS offering on the recommended date, some churches extended the opportunity to give through the entire month of March. Other dates included the months of April, May and special Sundays like Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Respondents most frequently named disaster response as their “why” for contributing to the offering, followed by “other”, which included “all of the above” with an emphasis on where help is urgently needed. In addition, the mission committee and pastor are most commonly responsible for OGHS promotion within congregations. Other responses for who was responsible for OGHS promotion included: administrative assistant, church secretary, office manager, stewardship committee, outreach committee, elders and deacons.

### WHEN DO YOU RECEIVE THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS) OFFERING?

