

# Mission giving & outreach



*Our mission is to express the love and welcome of Christ through word and action in our community and the wider world.*

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”  
-Matthew 25:37-40-

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we need your help

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NOW!

The Mission Giving & Outreach Committee thanks you for your interest in reaching beyond yourself to help the needy people of Colorado Springs and our world.

We hope this booklet is helpful in informing you about the organizations and projects your MG&O contributions support.

Please pledge generously to the Mission Giving & Outreach budget this year so that we can continue to help so many people and organizations.

*We also ask that you consider a pledge of your time to one or more of the organizations or projects listed in this brochure.*

Thank you.

The Mission Giving & Outreach Committee (MG&O)

For further information, please contact the First Congregational Church Office at 719.635.3549.

## How to Request funds

Because of the generosity of this congregation, the church's **Mission Giving & Outreach** committee (MG&O) often has additional funds to allocate for the support of outreach projects. We want everyone in the church to know how to make specific proposals.

Requests should clearly and briefly state the following:

- The purpose of the project;
- Its relationships to the committee's mission statement;
- The amount of money requested and how it will be spent;
- The involvement, if any, of FCC members.

Application forms are available in the church office or on the church website [www.fcucc.org](http://www.fcucc.org) to make grant requests easier.

Grant applications are accepted between January 1<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>. All grant requests are considered and awarded between September 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>. Grantees will also be requested to complete an evaluation form and participate in the First Congregational Mission Fair. These filled out forms will be necessary for being considered for further grants.

## seminarian scholarships (funds available)

Application forms are available in the church office or on the church website. Seminarian Scholarships are considered and awarded around September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Requests are accepted between January 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> of the year.

## your way of touching your community and the world

Through your generous contributions to the church's Mission Giving & Outreach (MG&O), many worthwhile programs, events, and people are given the support that is needed to continue in their work.

The following pages will help acquaint you with the programs your contributions help sustain.

If you are interested in the First Congregational Church Mission Giving & Outreach and would like to serve on this committee, please contact the church office at 719.635.3549.

## what is mission giving & outreach (MG&O)?

First Congregational Church, (OCWM) Our Church's Wider Mission has a new name, **Mission Giving & Outreach (MG&O)**. This committee is composed of church members whose function is to support local, national, and worldwide missions by disbursing funds pledged by the Church's congregation to the mission budget. The Committee also provides opportunities for participation in community service projects.

**Mission Giving & Outreach** have a separate budget from the local church's operating budget. The approximant pledged income for the MG&O budget is \$100,000.

Each year, members and friends of First Congregational Church are asked to make **two** good faith pledges in support of the church:

1. The local operating budget, and
2. The Mission Giving and Outreach (MG&O)

This Mission booklet highlights where your money goes when you pledge to support the church's world and community outreach budget and your opportunity to serve.

## special FCC Mission Highlights

First Congregational Church's **Mission Giving & Outreach** to the wider and local community in our 2005 budget helped many victims of the Katrina disaster in Louisiana. We sent \$8,000 to the national UCC and in our local community spent \$12,500 on helping refugees that came to Colorado Springs to relocate.

In 2008 MG&O emergency funded a grant to Ecologia in China to reflect on the issue of hunger through member Meg Young through her experience before and after the earthquake in Sichuan Province.

## HOW TO HELP

For the new members of FCC we would love to have you consider the many opportunities to serve not only our congregation but also the community of Colorado Springs and the greater world offered by service on the Mission Giving & Outreach committee. Our committee is divided into two "teams", mission giving and outreach.

The mission giving team reviews all the requests for "mission" funds. These requests come from members of the congregation who are committed to an organization in the community or internationally, from the seminarians in our congregation and from community organizations. They then make recommendations to the committee at large and the requests are voted upon and distributed.

The outreach team is looking for areas in our community, state and world where we as a congregation may be of service.

## special collections

The conference gives us the opportunity to be part of the **5 for 5 congregations**. The Mission Giving & Outreach (MG&O) collects these offerings.

### 1 **UCC Basic Support**

Provides funding from congregations for Conferences and the national ministries of the United Church of Christ (Wider Church Ministries, Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, General Ministries, and Pension Boards).

### **UCC SPECIAL MISSION OFFERINGS**

*Part of Our Church's Wider Mission, these four offerings sponsor vital ministries that bring hope to people in the U.S. and around the world.*

### 2 **One Great Hour of Sharing** *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

Channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response, administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources. Suggested offering date is the fourth Sunday of Lent.

### 3 **Strengthen the Church** *Pentecost Sunday*

Supports leadership for new and revitalizing congregations, programs for youth and young adults, and leadership development for the whole church. These ministries are carried out by UCC Conference and Local Church Ministries.

### 4 **Neighbors in Need** *First Sunday of October*

Supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Witness Ministries.

### 5 **The Christmas Fund** *Sunday before Christmas*

Helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy families in need, and Christmas checks to hundreds of annuitants, as administered by the Pension Boards. Suggested offering date is the Sunday before Christmas.



## conference and ucc support

Fifty percent of the **Mission Giving & Outreach** budget goes to Basic Support.

Basic Support is divided two ways:

### 1. **Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC).**

Part of the Basic Support money goes to various mission agencies and ecumenical groups in the Conference. It also helps fund administrative costs of the Conference.

### 2. **United Church of Christ (UCC) and World Ministry (General Synod).**

The balance of the Basic Support money is distributed to worldwide efforts in areas of health services, agricultural and economic development, evangelism, and advocacy for justice and human rights. It also provides services to new and local churches.

## ecumenical social ministries (ESM)

ESM provides emergency assistance to low-income people in El Paso County. Food, rent assistance, prescriptions, laundry, eyeglasses, transportation, clothing, and job search training are offered.

We have committed along with seven other participating downtown churches, to support ESM by pledging \$8.12 per member of the congregation per year. Our approximate contribution is over \$10,000 per year.

First Congregational Church members also:

- Donate food monthly to ESM.
- Please bring as many of these suggested items below to the church, and place them in the grocery cart in the Founders' Room on Sunday mornings:

Macaroni & Cheese  
Canned Fruits  
Tomato Sauce  
Canned Vegetables  
Toilet Paper  
Hispanic Canned Foods

Canned Tuna  
Pork and Beans  
Toiletries  
Diapers  
Asian Foods

## CUE seminary support

Knowing that the strength of our churches depends on the quality of our future leadership, First Congregational Church has traditionally given funds to help support three United Church of Christ seminaries. CUE is an acronym of the first letters in the seminary names:

CHICAGO Theological Seminary  
UNITED Theological Seminary (Twin Cities)  
EDEN Theological Seminary (St. Louis)

## MISSION FAIR

The Mission Giving & Outreach (MG&O) Committee holds its Annual Mission Fair themed "Partners in Service." The MG&O Committee invites local and national organizations that FCUCC sponsored. MG&O envisions the Mission Fair as an opportunity for congregants to connect with these organizations or even volunteer their time. The Mission Fair is a success for MG&O but more importantly it afforded the following 18 organizations and congregants the opportunity to interact and forge new relationships. Attending the Mission Fair were, The Angola School for Girls, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), ESM (Ecumenical Social Ministries), Greccio Housing, Habitat for Humanity, Pikes Peak Justice & Peace Commission, Heifer International, Inside/Out Youth Services, IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network), Marian House, Mission Medical Clinic, No More Deaths/No Mas Muertes, Partners in Housing, Pastors for Peace, SET Medical Clinic, S-CAP (Southern-Colorado AIDS Project), TESSA & Westside Cares.