

Good News: Association Makes OCWM Cash Gift to Ohio Conference

Dear friends,

Our Association was very blessed in 2014 to receive OCWM contributions above the amount anticipated and budgeted for the year. This slight increase in giving, when combined with reductions in personnel and operating expenses and a higher OCWM retention rate enacted in the last several years, resulted in a budget surplus for 2014 as indicated in the year-end report. We're grateful to God for the generosity of our member congregations, and for your faith in and commitment to covenant with the wider church.

When the CSEOA Council increased our OCWM retention rate in 2013 as one step necessary to balance our annual budget, we did so with the clear understanding that, should OCWM contributions exceed expectations, we would consider making a cash contribution to Conference. At its March meeting, Council approved that action from 2014 funds received from our member churches. A check for \$10,700 has been sent to Rev. Phil Hart, Ohio Conference Minister. The Conference, in turn, shared a portion of that amount with the National Church, as they do with other OCWM gifts received. This gift essentially increases our contribution to the Ohio Conference of OCWM gifts received in 2014 from 25% to 30%.

We are hopeful, and prayerful, that the increase in OCWM giving from our member churches in 2014 is a harbinger of future giving, and that we are embarking on a sustainable path that will permit us to restore our historic pass through rate of 35% to Ohio Conference (with a portion of that going to National) incrementally over time. Well done, dear friends! It has been through sacrifice, belt tightening, hard work and hard decisions, and lots of faithfulness and prayers from all involved, that we make this historic turn in our financial journey.

Rev. Susan Towner-Larsen
Moderator, CSEOA – UCC