

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

... God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young shall see visions, and your old shall dream dreams. ...

— Acts 2: 17 (NRSV)

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

In 2018, your support:

- ◆ Increased church vitality by awarding 12 grants totaling \$350,000 through the New and Renewing Spiritual Communities program.
- ◆ Ensured excellence in ministry through the completion of the Habakkuk group and the Manual on Ministry.
- ◆ Worked to alleviate poverty through the Adese Fellowship program for spiritual entrepreneurship.
- ◆ Strengthened your local church through the services provided by the UCC conference.

Please join us in planting the seeds needed to grow and sustain our denomination by making a gift to the Strengthen the Church offering.

NEW AND RENEWING SPIRITUAL COMMUNITIES

The New and Renewing Spiritual Communities grant strengthens UCC Congregations by providing funds to assist in community revitalization or support new churches. Grants are awarded each year to fund ministries that impact their communities towards a Just World for All.



Taos UCC in New Mexico provides a voice of faith and justice where partners in the work can journey together because of their faith. Launched in September of 2017, Taos UCC has quickly become a voice of Sanctuary and hope for all people. Their

commitment to share the gospel teachings of Jesus, and live lives grounded in God and in prayer, has enabled them to become a faith community that helps our lives, our town, and our world be better.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP

Strengthen the Church designates a portion of the offering to go towards Youth and Young Adult leadership development in the United Church of Christ. As we plan and ready ourselves for National Youth Event in 2020, Rev. Trayce Potter, Minister for Youth and Young Adult Engagement, is well underway in planning and connecting.

My main goal in working with youth is to create an effective program that provides leadership development, helps youth articulate their faith in a way that is relevant and authentic, and helps retain youth as they transition into ... young adulthood.

— Rev. Potter



POTTER