

August 2011

Dear Friends,

We are happy to share the good news that your church is a “Five for Five” congregation of the United Church of Christ. Your Conference reports that in 2010 you gave to *Our Church’s Wider Mission* Basic Support and the four special mission offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and The Christmas Fund. *You are a leadership church in the United Church of Christ*, and we thank you for your faithful generosity and the breadth of your vision for ministry.

Through your support of the wider mission of the church, you are *changing lives* in your own neighborhood *and* in places far away, reaching out in compassion and justice to imagine and then build a better world. For example, through the work of missionaries and development partners overseas, and disaster relief workers here in the United States, you are transforming the lives of those affected by the ravages of famine, war, and weather.

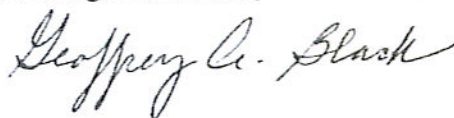
You offer *extravagant welcome* to the spiritually homeless who find warm hospitality, good news, spiritual nourishment, and a community of justice in UCC congregations. Together, we nurture the vitality and deep commitment to ministry of both new and established churches. We also reach people around the world through our growing web ministries, touching the lives of those who are grateful to find a church that will welcome them, no matter where they are on life’s journey.

In every generation and in every place, the United Church of Christ proclaims the *continuing testament* of the Stillspeaking God who calls us to ministry, including, for example, the youth who bring enthusiasm, energy, and hope to the church. Your generosity supports youth ministries across the church, but you also honor the covenant with a generation that has served long and faithfully, by meeting the needs of retired pastors and their spouses who often live on very modest resources.

Finally, you also support the wider church that makes these and many other ministries possible, from developing leaders and connecting them through the search and call process to providing resources for their ministry, like Sermon Seeds and Worship Ways, and so many more. Every day, we grow into a more multiracial and multicultural church, a church that lifts up the ministry of women, a church that supports the ministry of those challenged by disabilities but gifted by God. Your giving makes all of this possible.

Please display the enclosed poster in your church so that your members will rejoice at the good works being made possible in Christ’s name, in your midst, and across the whole church. We are enclosing a sample sticker that says, “My Church is 5 for 5!” You may order additional stickers – free of charge – by calling UCC Resources at (800) 537-3394. Once again, we thank you for your faithful generosity and your commitment to the gospel as it is lived out in the United Church of Christ.

Blessings and thanks,



Rev. Geoffrey A. Black
General Minister and President



God is still speaking,

