

# Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ

Equipping, supporting and resourcing congregations and clergy for effective ministry

**Position:** The Wisconsin Conference of the UCC seeks a full-time Associate Conference Minister.

**Priorities:** The Wisconsin Conference values diversity in race, ethnicity, culture, gender identity and sexual orientation. We continually strive to widen our circle of inclusion, and thus seek a diverse candidate pool.

**Scope of ministry:** Regional responsibility for 60 congregations and care for all authorized ministers in the Northwest Association. This portfolio also includes some conference-wide programmatic and project responsibilities. Residency expectation is within the Northwest Association.

## Primary responsibilities:

- Guide pastoral transitions (develop expertise in the profile and candidate process)
- Communicate all search and call information with the search and call coordinator
- Staff and resource Association Church & Ministry Teams
- Staff and resource Association Administrative Teams
- Guide Members In Discernment and those seeking Privilege of Call or Lay Authorization
- Provide support and accountability care to authorized ministers and congregations
- Preach/participate in worship (anniversaries, ordinations, installations, invitations)
- Attend monthly field staff, wider ACM staff and full staff meetings
- Attend Association, Conference, AM21 and General Synod meetings
- Utilize leadership skills in conflict resolution and guiding compensation negotiation
- Guide congregations to resources related to organizational change and re-visioning ministry
- Encourage cohort learning for clergy – mentor, coach and Communities of Practice
- Cultivate opportunities for shared ministries and openness to emerging ministry models
- Develop a working knowledge of the Manual on Ministry and MESA best practices
- Promote justice work and foster ecumenical relationships with counterparts in other faith traditions

## Candidate Qualifications:

Theology and social justice stances consistent with UCC

Sensitivity and skill in bridging range of perspectives

Authorized Standing in United Church of Christ

Significant local church pastoral experience

Strong team player and trust builder

Attentiveness to self-care

Strategic collaborator

Spiritual depth

Pastoral heart

Leadership Instincts

Non-anxious presence

Exceptional self-motivator

Gifted in discerning priorities

Strong EQ and self-awareness

Excellent communication skill set

Joyful, positive, gracious, resilient spirit

**Conference snapshot:** The Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ (<http://www.wcucc.org/>) comprises four associations, 213 congregations and nearly 40,000 people. The Conference staff comprises 12 talented team members. Our Conference office (The Trost Center) is located just north of Madison and provides a spacious and beautiful setting for ministry and Wider Church meetings. The congregations of the Wisconsin Conference are hearty, faithful and resilient. We savor our long and rich history from both the Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed traditions, yet we also welcome new models for ministry and innovative ways to engage the world spiritually and prophetically.

The churches of the Wisconsin Conference continue to provide steady support to Our Church's Wider Mission and to our UCC special offerings. Many of our congregations have cultivated thriving community-based ministries and active justice working groups. Our Outdoor Ministries inspire people of all generations through three incredible camp and retreat settings: Daycholah Center (located on Green Lake), Moon Beach Camp (located in the far north near Eagle River), and Cedar Valley Retreat Center (located near West Bend). We recently launched a new online learning institute called the Damascus Project (a shared leadership and education endeavor with the Minnesota Conference). In 2019, the Wisconsin Conference hosted General Synod 32 in Milwaukee.

**Residential expectation:** We anticipate this ACM will reside in the Northwest region.

**Compensation:** The salary/housing range is \$72-\$76K, along with a full and generous benefit package.

**Application:** Please direct your UCC profile to Susan Taylor at the Conference office ([staylor@wcucc.org](mailto:staylor@wcucc.org)) and forward a cover letter that responds to these questions:

- 1) Why are you interested in judicatory work, and why this position in particular?
- 2) What unique skills, gifts and experiences would you bring to this ministry?

**Application deadline:** September 15, 2022

**Anticipated start date:** January 2023

**Contact:** The Rev. Franz Rigert, Conference Minister ([frigert@wcucc.org](mailto:frigert@wcucc.org) or 414-704-2625)

## **About Northwest Wisconsin**

This Associate Conference Minister serves the Northwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference, stretching from La Crosse in the south to Madeline Island in the north, from the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers in the west to Land O' Lakes and Stevens Point in the east. The association even includes one congregation in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The region contains several small and medium-sized cities and contains five four-year campuses of the University of Wisconsin and Northern Michigan University, along with three two-year campuses. The UCC enjoys historic connections with Northland College. There are technical colleges, private colleges, factories and farms, and a thriving tourism industry and arts community. The region offers many opportunities for hunting, fishing, camping and snow-related activities that attract people from across the Midwest. The Northwest Association is home to an active Native American UCC congregation, and several of the 11 recognized tribes in Wisconsin.

There are 60 congregations with roots reaching deep into the history of the Christian church and the communities of this region. One distinctive characteristic is the number of licensed ministers serving congregations in this area – there are 14 licensed ministers who receive ongoing training, far more than the other three associations in the state. There are 36 ordained clergy serving congregations and an additional 49 who have retired in the region. Seven of the 60 congregations have declared themselves open and affirming.

The geographic distances in the region pose challenges in connecting people with one another, yet this association has made great strides in nurturing collegial relationships, and Zoom has been a game changer. Opportunities exist for collaboration across denominational lines and to use technology to help people connect with one another within the UCC.

# Wisconsin Conference UCC

## Associations and Associate Conference Minister (ACM) Deployment

**Northeast Association:** 56 churches

**Northwest Association:** 60 churches

**Southeast Association:** 49 churches

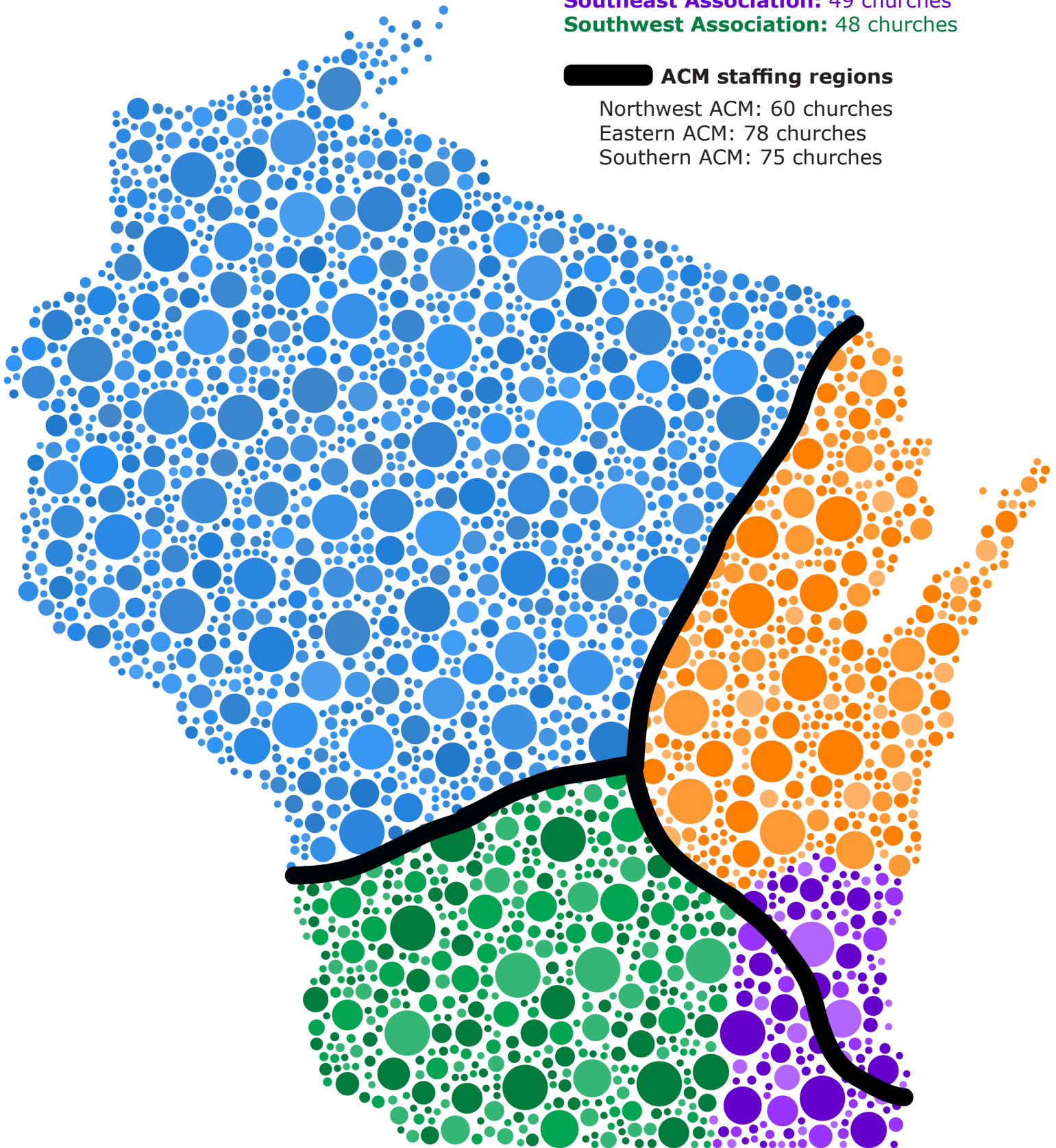
**Southwest Association:** 48 churches

### **ACM staffing regions**

Northwest ACM: 60 churches

Eastern ACM: 78 churches

Southern ACM: 75 churches



*Map is approximate*