



## Conference financial consultant is ready to help your congregation

November 10, 2009

Dear church leader in the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ,

Greetings in this fall season, as your congregation's programming is probably ramping up in preparation for Advent and Christmas, the season of gift-giving in our culture. Our faith is all about gifts, both giving and receiving them. God's abundant gift showed us the way.

I write to introduce a **service of Financial Ministry** that the Ohio Conference has had in place for a few months.

Nancy Ackley, Financial Ministries Consultant, is helping congregations with workshops on stewardship and generosity and is consulting with particular congregations on capital campaigns. Nancy is a nationally-recognized expert in the field of church capital campaigns, with many years of experience serving congregations on behalf of the national setting of the United Church of Christ.

**"It's a shame to waste a good recession."**

In these tough economic times, many of our church members and congregations are struggling with finances. Some churches, however, are finding this is the right moment to prioritize what is important in mission and ministry. A surprising number are considering launching a capital campaign, to upgrade facilities or pay down mortgage debts, so that they can free up more money for mission.

As Nancy is fond of saying, "It would be a shame to waste a good recession!" This may be the right moment to move boldly ahead toward greater financial security.

- Is your congregation ready to consider a capital campaign?
- Do you need assistance crafting an annual stewardship campaign?
- Is it time to set up an endowment at your church, or help members with planned giving tools?

We hope you will call on your Ohio Conference Financial Ministries for help.

The Financial Ministries position with the Ohio Conference is a half-time position, paid for exclusively by fees from capital campaigns. There is no OCWM support for this position; it does not appear in the Ohio Conference budget.

The Conference charges 3% of the capital campaign goal for expert consulting services. In lieu of the fee, some congregations are choosing to give 5% of their campaign's pledges to support the Conference's financial ministries program.

Through this program, Nancy is also available to offer workshops across the conference on congregational financial health, stewardship, stewardship campaign nuts and bolts, and planned giving. These services are offered without cost other than transportation expenses.

The Conference is not the only setting of the church offering such assistance. The national setting of the United Church of Christ has just announced that it will offer capital campaign services for congregations, too. Priscilla Shoup Bizer and Susan C. Mitchell will be offering their services at a similar fee structure.

While congregations are free to choose their own consultants for capital campaigns - or no consultants at all - we in the Ohio Conference would encourage you to at least consider using the services offered right here. Money spent through the Ohio Conference enables more ministry here.

For further information, contact the Ohio Conference office (800-282-0740), or contact Nancy directly at [Ackley.nancy@gmail.com](mailto:Ackley.nancy@gmail.com) or 1-888-353-1789.

Wishing you spiritual joy and financial health for the holidays,

Rev. Bob Molsberry  
Ohio Conference Minister