

**COVENANT** is the backbone and conduit through which all of our relationships flow. It is God's love language to God's people. The bedrock of the United Church of Christ is covenant.

The conference is **all of us**, in churches and associations, in committees and teams, and the conference staff. "We are us."

**We are the conference!**

We covenant together to be the conference in different manifestations.

**Covenant** is apparent between churches, and between churches and associations through support and fellowship.

**Covenant** is manifest between churches and conference board and committees through volunteering time and treasure.

**Covenant** of churches with the conference staff is manifest in the staff providing support, resources, consultation, and whatever else is needed for churches to be alive and thrive.

**Covenant** on the churches' part is to reach out for help, to attend association and conference meetings, and to support the ministries of our conference staff through

- OCWM Basic Support
- Association Dues

With both of these financial parts of the covenant,

**we can be alive and thrive.**



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# We Are the Conference



## A Covenant Together Time Talent Treasure

*For just as the body is one  
and has many members, and  
all the members of the body,  
though many, are one body,  
so it is with Christ. Now you  
are the body of Christ and  
individually members of it.  
1 Corinthians 12:12, 27*

# What is OCWM?

**Our Church's Wider Mission** (OCWM) basic support is a *pledge* that churches make each year that assures that ministries of each and every faith community are supported in tangible ways by judicatory staff (CM and ACM) as well as conference committees.

Just like with churches, our conference considers our budget for ministries based on the number and amount of pledges each year.

Some examples include:

- **Search and call** for small and large churches
- **Consultation for churches** that need support: leadership struggles, bylaws and governance challenges, financial challenges
- **Education** for pastors and laity, including boundary awareness
- **Ministerial support** and guidance
- **Consultation** to Committees on Ministry
- **Coordination** of communities of practice & interim ministers' support group
- **Social justice** endeavors, outreach ministry beyond our conference such as Honduras.
- *And MUCH MORE...*

**"If I give, what do I get in return?  
Covenant is not transactional"**

## Why do we pay Dues every year?

**Maine  
Conference  
Keeps  
90%**



**Sends  
10%**  
to National Office

**Most  
Associations  
Keep  
10%**



**Send  
90%**  
to MECUCC

**Dues** are collected each year by **associations**, based on the number of members in a congregation.

The conference part of the dues contributes to:

- maintaining our operations
- office staff salaries & benefits
- brick and mortar expenses.

## How can I do more?

Good news! Individuals can also choose to express their covenant by giving contributions as a **Friend of the Maine Conference!** Making a generous gift is as easy as writing a check (with FOMC in the Memo) and mailing it to the conference office or going to [www.maineucc.org/giving](http://www.maineucc.org/giving) to make your safe and secure gift