



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

— Ephesians 4: 11 – 12

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

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 on 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 2017, your support made possible:

- ◆ 12 awards totaling almost \$350,000 through the New and Renewing Spiritual Communities grant program!
- ◆ The Adese Fellowship program launched its first class of 14 future church leaders!
- ◆ The addition of 24 new faith communities to the UCC!

This is in addition to the great ministry happening in your local conference!



ADESE FELLOWSHIP

This 12-month program maximizes the capacity of fellows to launch business that will help end system poverty. Participants engage in theological reflection and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.



MCLEOD

MEAGAN MCLEOD is an Adese Fellow residing in Philadelphia, PA. Through this program, she hopes to provide a place where single mothers can feel significant, secure, and supported through her organization, Healing Streams Center.

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.



VOELKEL

Your support of our ministry emboldens, empowers and allows us to step out in faith. We are grateful beyond words — both for the money and for the faith and prayers the money represents, without which we would not be able to do our work. Thanks be to G-d!

— Rev. Dr. Rebecca Voelkel, Center for Sustainable Justice at Lyndale UCC