

# ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UCC HELD JUNE 7



## Excerpt from Rev. Franz Rigert's **State of the Conference Presentation**

“Two troubling realities – the widely reported epidemic of loneliness and political polarization – have created an opportunity for the Church, Conference Minister Franz Rigert said in his State of the Conference Address. “People are longing for belonging,” he said. “Guess what: We in the Church are really good at building community. The time is ripe.” What’s more, the Church can provide safe spaces “for relationships in which we can hold diverging perspectives and honor each other in the process. Using Jesus as our model, we are called to be truth tellers who practice civil discourse – otherwise known as Christian behavior – in order to show the world that it is possible to keep our integrity to treat those with whom we disagree . . . lovingly.”

## ANNUAL MEETING RECAP FROM OUR DELEGATE

Written by our church’s delegate at Annual Meeting, Jeanne Mantsch



I attended the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting, and, as usual, found it very interesting. One resolution was voted on - “Declaration for a Just Peace Between Palestine and Israel” which requires a study in a majority – it may be 60% - of our churches during the next year. So, that’s something we should plan to do – with or without a permanent pastor! All the speakers were very good, and the workshops engaging. There was additional discussion of ending the 4 associations into which our state has historically been divided. This was also a topic of discussion at the annual association meetings held in April.

### *“Declaration for a Just Peace Between Palestine and Israel” Resolution*

Resolution of Witness to Adopt the 2021 General Synod Resolution Declaration for a Just Peace Between Palestine and Israel The Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ Board of Directors hereby brings forth a resolution of witness to adopt the 2021 General Synod Resolution Declaration for a Just Peace Between Palestine and Israel. This resolution will be placed on the agenda of the 2024 Annual Meeting with the support of the Board of Directors. The full text of the Declaration for a Just Peace Between Palestine and Israel resolution is available below. The process for adopting a resolution of witness calls for a vote of the Annual Meeting when first brought forth, followed by one year of study and engagement by local congregations, and a confirming vote at the next year’s Annual Meeting. The motion that will be voted on this year is: “Is this an issue that the Holy Spirit is calling the Wisconsin Conference to engage in the coming year and consider for a possible resolution of witness after a year of study and reflection?” The action at the business meeting this year will determine whether we begin this process. The resolution process calls for at least 30% of the congregations to report that they have engaged in some study. This study can be done in the manner chosen by the local church. This local study calls only for some discussion; it does not require that any action be taken, or a decision voted on. Responses are expected by May 1, 2025. A vote to formally adopt the resolution would be held at the Annual Meeting in June 2025. The Palestine Justice Working Group is available to provide support during the year of study and to be a resource to any local congregation, any committee, any Association body, any clergy group or any other gathering that will be holding discussions. To reach the group, email Lisa Hart, Associate Conference Minister for faith formation and justice ministries (lhart@wcucc.org).