



Wisconsin Gossellers Mar 2018

Mission Statement: To bridge cultural divides and touch souls through the transformative power of gospel music

Vision Statement: A world where God's love triumphs over that which divides us.

How will the church look in today's ever-changing and evolving society?

With technology and social media exponentially growing and evolving, the current generation no longer needs the church as a place to find community. People find community with like-minded people on Facebook, Instagram, and many other places. People easily keep in touch with their close friends and family via Facebook email, and cell phones. Few people reach out to churches the same way they used to to find community.

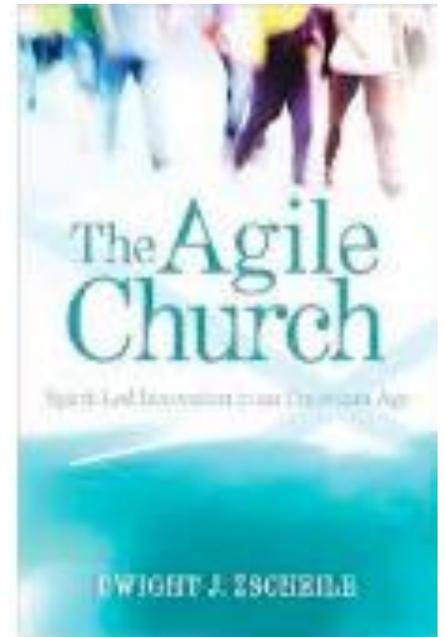
At the winter forum of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, Rev. Dwight Zscheile explained how we have to start to think of church in a different way in order to keep pace with the exponentially growing society. Society has moved from the age of mobilization (clubs, organizations, structured activities), to the age of authenticity (discovering one's true self, self expression, etc). The church has to provide people with a place to be authentic and true to themselves. Church has to also be engaging and thought provoking.

As a member of the millennial generation, I can relate to the desire to be engaged and challenged, while remaining true to one's self. How does this translate to the church? It means the church has to be more agile - meaning it has to get up and go out into the world to find people where they are being true to one's self. We can't expect people to "feel true to one's self" by going into a church setting where they've most likely never been before.

The Wisconsin Gossellers is currently my new "church." It is a singing group where I can be true to myself as well as challenge my faith, and explore what it means to believe in God. This church doesn't necessarily have a building or necessarily have a set membership, but it has an identity. The identity of the Wisconsin Gossellers can be described by its mission statement: To bridge cultural divides and touch souls through the transformative power of gospel music. We are a living, breathing church.

Churches need to start being churches with an identity! It needs to have a deep understanding of itself. Therefore, for any church you may be part of, I highly recommend and encourage you to create or renew your mission statement to help find your identity. Once you have your identity, encourage your members to transform the mission statement from words on paper to a living and breathing movement of itself. Become an agile church!

Alicia Gardner



Follow us on

www.WisconsinGossellers.org or on Facebook by searching "Wisconsin UCC Gossellers"



Want to sing with us? Contact wisconsingossellers@gmail.com for more information.



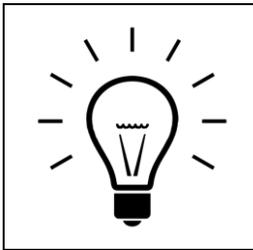
Wisconsin Gossellers

March 2018

Reminders and Notes

Thanks all for taking the time to participate and be a part of the Wisconsin Gossellers. We want to remind people that the concert at the UCC annual meeting in June will help us spread the word about how to be a thriving and agile church. We are paving the way for the new SHIFT movement.

For the rehearsal and performance at the annual meeting in June, the Wisconsin Gossellers have booked two houses for lodging for Friday night and Saturday night. We will be asking for the members to pay for their stay which covers the lodging as well as the food. As always, if finances would be the only thing holding you back from attending, please contact Donna or Kimberly so we can work out scholarship funds as needed. We will let you know the cost either at the March rehearsal or via email when we figure out the exact cost.



Lynn Childress moving to England in May

Lynn Childress will be moving to England in May to be closer to her family. We want to say thanks to Lynn for being part of the Wisconsin Gossellers singing group. We want to wish her many well wishes and God's Blessings as she moves and makes her transition to living in England. We were glad to have her as part of the Wisconsin Gossellers choir. We welcome her to sing with us any time she visits Wisconsin. Thanks Lynn! We will be singing with you in our hearts!



Middleton Glen Notes

Middleton Glen Community Center in Madison is still a viable option for the Wisconsin Gossellers to do a workshop similar to the format in West Bend Cedar Community. Donna Leet has contact with a member of the Middleton Glen Community Center, and will continue to research what an event here might all entail.

Upcoming Events and Activities

Sat, April 7 (note this is 1st Saturday rather than 2nd)

GOSPELLERS rehearsal

10AM-3PM

Olivet Congregational UCC, Columbus

313 W Prairie St, Columbus, WI 53925

Sat., May. 12

GOSPELLERS rehearsal

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pilgrim UCC, Fond du Lac

535 Stow St, Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Fri.-Sun, June 8-10 (time TBD)

Rehearsal and performance at the Wisconsin Conference

UCC annual meeting

Green Lake Conference Center

Sunday Concert in Ripon (still tentative on time)

Sun July 8 Concert (Still tentative if enough interest)

Monticello Homecoming Days

Concert

Aug 2 – Aug7 New York Conference Choir Visits

Wisconsin and sings with Wisconsin Gossellers. Singing events times and locations TBD