

Want More Information?



Yes, please send me more information about the Wisconsin Council of Churches' Community Investment Program.

Name: _____

Congregation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Denomination: _____

Mail to:

Wisconsin Council of Churches
Community Investment Program
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Sun Prairie, WI 53590

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Community Investment Fund Oversight Committee

Dave Groenewold is Director of Finance for the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA. Dave is responsible for managing the finances of the synod, including congregational mission support, church-wide and global partnerships.

Kandace Keuler owns Keuler Insurance Agency, Inc. in Mineral Point with her husband. She represents the Insurance Board for United Church of Christ and Presbyterian churches in Wisconsin. Kandy serves on the WI Conference UCC Finance Committee.

Valerie McAuliffe, an Episcopalian, is co-treasurer of her local church and a part time computer resource person for local businesses. She has served as a local elected official and leader and facilitator for team challenge courses.

Janet W. Reinke, FSA, MAAA, CFA, has volunteered as board member and clerk for her American Baptist congregation. She is employed as a senior risk consultant and actuary for CUNA Mutual Group, specializing in capital and market risk.

Rev. Susan Zencka is pastor of Frame Memorial Presbyterian Church in Stevens Point. Prior to seminary studies in 1994, she worked as a CPA. She recently moderated the Finance Commission of the Winnebago Presbytery.

Rev. Steve Zekoff, United Methodist, served 41 years in administrative positions at the denominational finance agency, judicatory finance office, camps and local church levels. He retired in July, 2017 as the Wisconsin Conference UMC Benefits Officer.

Member Denominations of the Wisconsin Council of Churches

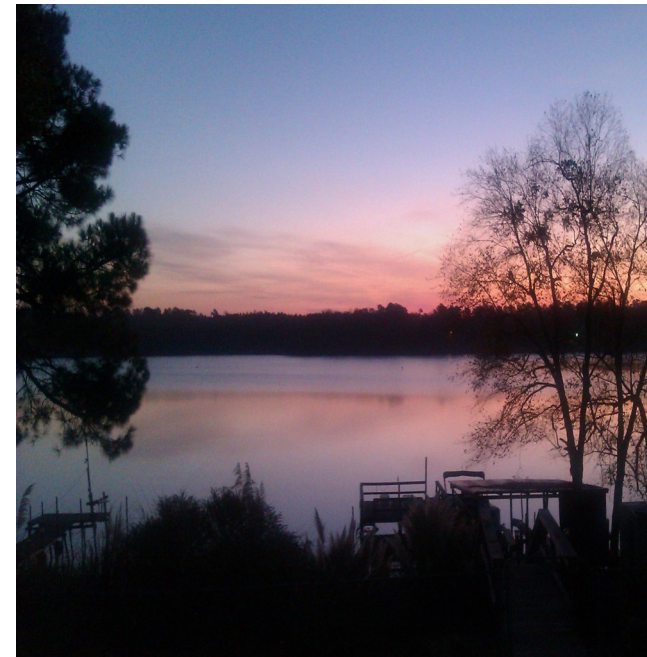
African Methodist Episcopal Church
American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin
Armenian Oriental Orthodox Church-Eastern Diocese
Christian Church: Disciples of Christ
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Church of God in Christ (COGIC)
Church of the Brethren, Illinois and Wisconsin District
Coptic Church
Ecumenical Catholic Communion
Episcopal Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Greek Orthodox Church, Diocese of Chicago
Mennonite Church USA
Moravian Church, Western District
Orthodox Church in America
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Reformed Church in America
United Church of Christ
United Methodist Church



the
WISCONSIN
COUNCIL of CHURCHES

We pray and work together for the unity and renewal of the church and the healing and reconciliation of the world.

Community Investment Program



The Community Investment Program

The Wisconsin Council of Churches offers a unique opportunity to local church members, congregations and its member denominations to invest in selected community development financial institutions (CDFI's) throughout Wisconsin.

CDFI's are loan funds, credit unions, banks and venture capital organizations which help distressed communities, low and moderate income people, and minority populations to develop housing, employment and business opportunities.

The Wisconsin Council of Churches currently has \$480,000 invested in five community development finance institutions in the state. Annual interest rates for the past three years have averaged 2.17% (past performance does not guarantee future results). The Council has a number of years' experience in screening CDFI's and investing funds. We are able to offer this same investment opportunity to our membership around the state.



How the Program Works

The Wisconsin Council of Churches will issue promissory notes to its members and re-lend or re-deposit the proceeds in CDFI's, thus providing investors with diversification and lower administrative costs than one could obtain by acting individually.

Nearly all of the organizations in which the Council will invest are primarily certified by the U.S. Treasury as CDFI's or are federally insured financial institutions. Certification is an indication of the strength and vitality of these organizations and is an important component of the screening process carried out by the Wisconsin Council of Churches' Finance Committee. This process does not guarantee future performance by and CDFI.

The current minimum investment is \$2,000 and the maximum investment is \$25,000.

Current Holdings in the Community Investment Program

CAP Services is located in Stevens Point and lends money to low and moderate income households and businesses to help them achieve home ownership, adequate housing, and business development in Central Wisconsin. capservices.org

Forward Community Investments, Inc. (FCI) investments go to non-profit affordable housing development and rehabilitation projects, economic opportunity and job creation, and community service facilities throughout Wisconsin. The FCI mission includes revitalizing economically disadvantaged communities and providing increased access to capital. forwardci.org

NiiJii Capital Partners Inc. provides alternative financing (loans) and development services (technical assistance and training) for entrepreneurs and small businesses on the Menominee, Mole Lake and Lac du Flambeau Reservations. niicap.org

Working Capital for Community Needs administers the NICA Fund which lends money through eleven partner organizations in Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan CDFI's provide capital for economic development in low-income communities. Their goals include locally controlled development, redistribution of economic resources, gender equality, and fair labor practices. wccn.org

The Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC) is an economic development corporation that provides business education, technical assistance and access to capital throughout Wisconsin. WWBIC's programs include lending funds, business education, economic development, and business mentoring. wwbic.com

The Community Investment Program at Work



Sandra Reynolds, a veteran of the United States Navy, decided to follow her dream of business ownership and start NovelTea Bookstore in 2011. Noveltea's vast selection of used books for adults and children is supplemented by a variety of loose and packaged teas, as well as organic herbs, from Fair-Trade organizations. Sandra has tapped into many of WWBIC's resources: a loan along with technical assistance regarding marketing and growing her business. Sandra hopes that NovelTea Bookstore will be Kenosha's destination for book and tea lovers. It is the perfect place for reading, research and relaxation!



Tammie Kniprath, Nekoosa, had been making and decorating cakes as a hobby for several years. In 2012, she started remodeling a portion of her house to accommodate a commercial kitchen to create custom-themed cakes and cupcakes for special events. Kniprath needed a flexible schedule in order to care for her special needs child, and the decision to start a home-based businesses doing what she loved was the best of both worlds for her career and her family. In early 2013, after attaining a business management degree and completing a Small Business Boot Camp program, Kniprath began working with CAP Services to develop financial projections and obtain financing. In May of 2013 Kniprath formally opened **Make Mine Frosted LLC**.