



DEC 2018-JAN 2019

EDITOR

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In Christ we celebrate a living faith, as we worship, care for one another, and reach out to all.

Church Office Hours

Mon-Friday
10 am - Noon

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What You May Have Missed!

There is a lot going on at Edwards these days. The Council has been working diligently to get some governance issues resolved and has had subcommittees working to clean up the Constitution and By-Laws, create a Ministry Assessment Process, rewrite the guidelines and structure of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee - just to name a few. Also a subcommittee has been established to begin writing the Congregational Profile and the characteristics needed on the new Search Committee are being weighed. It's a lot.

This is the time in the interim when it is not just the Council who needs to get active and involved. As the Council rolls out new ideas and processes, it needs you to engage in active dialogue, to become educated and to engage in the process. This is the only way to ensure a successful search in 2019.

To that end, here are some things to note:

- Following this article you will find a copy of the Conflict Management Process the Council has created. We reviewed it at the Congregational Conversation on November 11th and it was received well. Everyone in attendance stood to indicate their willingness to use this process as a way to relate to each other going forward. I encourage you to read it and recognize it as the new way of doing business at Edwards Congregational UCC!
- Also read the article referencing our current demographics. It is important to recognize the changes that have taken place in our membership, especially regarding the changes of families with children.

Peace,
Pastor Becky

Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ
Process for Managing Conflicts

*If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private;
if he listens to you, you have won your brother.
But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you,
so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.
If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.*

Matthew 18:15-17

As a Gospel-based community of faith we aspire to live out the commandment to love one another even at moments of discord and disagreement. This process is designed to assist us in holding each other reverently and honorably, especially at those moments when it is most difficult to do so.

Conflict is the presence of two or more ideas occupying the same space and we recognize conflict as an opportunity for growth and mutual understanding. At times of disagreement, all members and friends of Edwards are expected to approach each other generously and directly. All disagreements are best resolved between the interested parties exclusively. When an issue cannot be resolved through direct communication, the following process is followed.

**this process is to be used whether the parties involved are members, friends, or the pastor.*

1. Direct communication is key. It is expected that direct dialogue between the involved parties will be attempted before any additional steps are taken. Only if the issue cannot be resolved through direct communication should the involved parties move to step two.

Please note that resolution may not mean complete agreement. But in order for the issue to be resolved, both parties must feel heard, respected and able to put the issue to rest.

2. If, after direct dialogue one of the parties feels the issue remains unresolved, that person will ask again for a discussion about the issue. Each party will invite one witness to participate in the discussion, again seeking deeper understanding rather than complete agreement,

The witnesses should be uninvolved in the issue being discussed and be people highly respected within the faith community for their faithfulness, compassion, and ability to see multiple sides of an issue.

3. If the issue remains unresolved, make a request to the Moderator of the Council to convene the Executive Committee and anyone else deemed appropriate by the Moderator to hear both sides of the dispute. Notes may be taken in order to preserve a record of the proceedings but they shall be kept confidential unless determined otherwise by consensus of the Executive Committee.
4. If the Executive Committee is unable to resolve the issue, the Executive Committee will
 - a. Bring the issue to Council with a recommendation for action by the Council.
 - b. If the issue involves the pastor and the parties cannot reach resolution, the Executive Committee will invite the Iowa Conference of the UCC to become involved in resolving the dispute.

November 1, 2018

Church Demographics – A Key Part of Our Profile

What are Demographics? They are a numerical way of looking at our congregation in various statistical groupings (see below). Not surprisingly, our demographics as a congregation have changed somewhat since our last ministerial search profile in 2012. A Demographics section is one of the key parts of the Edwards UCC Church Profile document currently being put together by the Transition Team. Once completed, that document will be submitted through the Iowa UCC to begin the search process for our next settled pastor.

Where did our data come from? The groupings below are based on data provided to and/or updated by our Membership Clerk from each of you individually at the time you joined or became connected with Edwards. No individual data is submitted with the profile or seen by the Transition Team, and all sensitive data is always carefully protected by our church office.

Why are the Demographics Important? They are important in at least two ways. It can help us as a congregation decide how we can best use our skills within our church community and for mission outreach, and it also gives potential ministerial candidates a picture of who we are as a congregation, so they can determine if their skills and strengths are a good match for us.

What is the right percentage distribution for a church? There are no right or wrong answers on how a distribution should look. Large numbers in one portion of a category are not better or worse than smaller numbers in another area. No two church profiles will look alike, or will attract the same mix of search candidates.

The Edwards data below is based on 231 total participants in the current congregation, including youth and regular visitors. The categories are those requested by the UCC profile.

Length of Time at Edwards:

More than 10 years:	54%
Between 5 & 10 years:	29%
Less than 5 years:	17%

Participants by Age Group:

0-11 years old:	8%
12-17 years old:	5%
18-24 years old:	5%
25-34 years old:	7%
35-44 years old:	13%
45-54 years old:	13%
55-64 years old:	14%
65-74 years old:	18%
75+ years old:	17%

Household Types:

Single Adults under 35:	6%
Households with minors:	15%
Single Adults 35-65:	10%
Joint Households, no minors:	54%
Single Adults over 65:	15%

Highest Education Level Completed:

High School:	32%
College:	43%
Graduate School:	12%
Specialty Training:	13%

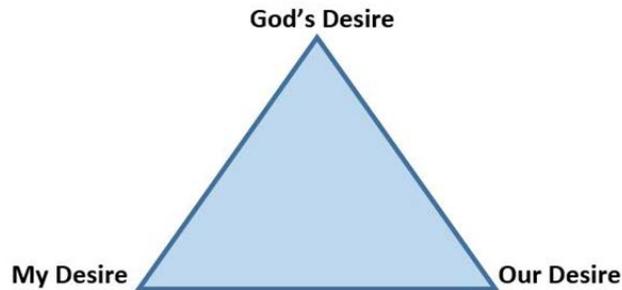
Employment Status:

Full-time Employed:	40%
Retired:	41%
Part-time or Not Employed:	19%

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION

Congregational Conversation Notes Sunday November 11, 2018

1) Discussion: **moving around the triangle.**



From the book of Holy Conversations:
Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations
by Gil Rendle & Alice Mann

To be a community we need to move from what we want personally to what is best for the community. Because we are a church, we must then move to discern what God's desire is for us. This led us to a brief discussion of how we make decisions. The Council is currently looking at our governance structures (how we make decisions as a community)

2) Presentation by Becky: **Process for Managing Conflicts**

A copy of this process can be found in this edition of the Editor. The process was created by a Council sub-committee. Here are a few points to remember:

- Conflict is simply the presence of two or more ideas in the same space.
- Direct communication is the key.
- Resolution may not mean complete agreement.
- It takes courage to create a solid community and relationships.
- Respectful confrontation never means anger.

Pastor Becky asked everyone who was willing to follow the process to vote by standing up. All 50 or so of us in attendance did stand up. So in effect the congregation has accepted this policy.

3) **Practiced managing conflict** over "Should the U.S. Flag be in the sanctuary." Quite a lively discussion by those who served in the military or had relatives in the military and Pastor Becky. Pastor Becky believes "only religious symbols belong in the sanctuary."

By the time we adjourned those in the room were aligned that the U.S. flag was not going to go back into the sanctuary. That doesn't mean everybody agreed with that decision. It does mean everybody could live with that outcome. It also means we were able to move this flag issue from the "me space" on the triangle towards the "our space" and closer to the "God space".

◆ *It was agreed that the flag could appropriately be placed outside the sanctuary.*

CHRISTMAS FUND

I've always been pleased that Edwards is one of the *5 for 5* Congregations of the United Church of Christ. Through our benevolent giving we provide support beyond our local church all year by contributing to *Our Church's Wider Mission*, and we contribute to the four special UCC offerings. One of those four offerings is received in December. *The Christmas Fund* was known for many years as *The Veterans of The Cross Offering*. The funds collected through this offering are administered through the Pension Board of the United Church of Christ.

In 2017, *The Christmas Fund* enabled 424 retired clergy, lay employees, or surviving spouses or partners to receive supplements to small pensions; health benefit supplements were given to 210; 384 retired or active clergy were provided emergency grants; and a Christmas "Thank You" was given to 477 retirees. The Emergency Grants aided in unexpected, possibly catastrophic, situations. The various supplements helped those whose pensions are smaller for a variety of reasons. *Christmas Fund* envelopes are available at church. I encourage you to prayerfully consider supporting this important offering.

Bob Hamilton, Annuitant Visitor
The Pension Boards-United Church of Christ

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

At least for now Sunday morning worship for 5 year olds through 5th grade has been changed to allow children to worship with their families, guided by material that can be used in church and at home. These family worship bags will be replenished each month to correlate with the church season and lectionary as much as possible. Artspace will continue the First Sunday of the month and the children can join their families to have communion with them. There are plans to work with the worship board to include the children during the service as well.

During Wednesday evening fellowship, we have a meal, have some conversation and then a service or mission project with a different mission theme each month. In October we focused on making items for the craft show to raise money to buy items for the North High School food pantry. In November we talked about the Green Grass Christmas project. Lyle Stratton gave a presentation of his experience with that community. We also made Thanksgiving cards to be included in the Blessings in a Backpack and the Thanksgiving baskets. In December we will participate more with readings and dance during worship. In January our youth/confirmation (6,7,8th grades) will join forces with Faith UCC and the First Christian churches both from Davenport led by Pastor Heidi Hulme from Faith church. A letter with schedule will be sent to those families. Jeri Revels will represent Edwards with this group. We will alternate locations with the other churches. Submitted by Marilyn Riedesel and Kathy Lafrenz

NEWS FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM:

The Edwards transition team continues its hard work regarding the process with moving towards the calling of a settled pastor. Currently 13 members of the congregation are putting the church profile together, which is the next step in this process. Each member has been assigned a section or sections of the profile to work on, with a goal of having a rough draft completed by mid-December. The final product probably won't be completed until January because we will need the results of the stewardship campaign. It is the plan to share the final church profile with the congregation before it goes to the conference. In addition, we are inviting our conference minister, Jonna Jenson to come in January to inform the council as to next steps regarding the calling of settled pastor. Those members working on the profile include Sandy Reinders, Dave Reinders, Carol Ogletree, Geri Delaney, Paul Petherick, Marilyn Riedesel, Robert Riedesel, Lyle Stratton, Joyce Paustian, Woody Perkins, Lou Wren, Shirley Johnson and Brian Foy.

QC SANCTUARY COALITION:

The Quad Cities Sanctuary Coalition met November 10 at the Unitarian Church. Terry Schlabach and Judy Pavlak represented Edwards UCC. Robbin Clark-Bennet from the Labor Center at the University of Iowa was the speaker. She has worked with immigrants in the Iowa City area to help their communities to establish leadership and help them make their communities stronger and better. She emphasized that to establish trust, connection through relationship to immigrant communities is crucial. The next meeting is December 8, 2018 at the Unitarian Church.

THANK YOU'S

- We thank you from the bottom of our hearts! God bless you all for caring, for coming to honor Ron through your presence and prayers, and your generous memorials in his name, to Edwards. All of you Edward's supporters Ron Rebal's memorial service was amazingly beautiful and uplifting to his entire family and friends. ~Pat Baxter-Rebal & Family
- We received the following "Thank you" from Back Bay Mission in Biloxi. "Dear Friends...Your recent work camp time spent at the Back Bay Mission was a blessed event for many! Undoubtedly, there was a good impact on both our client's lives as well as yours. We trust whenever you reflect on that time, it will summon a smile. It surely does for those you helped. Your selfless acts of kindness and service restore a comfort and are a breath of hope for many in need on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Every one of us at Back Bay Mission extends our deepest gratitude for your support of our mission. Regardless of which program you chose to give your time and service to, you aligned with and helped support our vision "to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." We look forward to the day you can join us again and continue the living. May God bless you in your journey of faith! ~ *Gratefully, Craig, Wanda, Paul, and Ben.*
- Thank you to everyone who came out on that cold and windy Saturday to donate blood. We made the goal thanks to all of you. Your generosity will help up to 51 people. Also, thank you to the people who donated food and a special thanks to Dick Dulaney and Tom Kenneke for taking down the tables and putting them up again after the drive.
- We received the following from the Elliott Vallandingham Family: Dear Edwards family, With apologies for the tardiness of the note, please accept my deepest thanks for the myriad of ways so many of you supported Dick and me during his illness and since his death. To lose a life partner is devastating and having a community such as Edwards sit with us during the darkest of time is a gift I can never repay or forget. We were always so grateful for our friends at Edwards and counted those days as some of the sweetest of our lives. Each card, note, call, text, gift, message – we read and absorbed the compassionate care within them all. I was so incredibly moved that Dick's name was read aloud on All Saint's Day. You have walked with us in love and in loss and my appreciation is deep and never ending. Peace to all of you, dear friends. Call if you are ever in Nashville! ~ *Always, Angela Elliott & Family*
- Thank you to all who contributed non-perishable items and funds for our Thanksgiving baskets. Also, if you helped pack baskets, used muscle to either load or unload and deliver items – we thank you! We appreciate all your time and efforts to make this event a success and could not have done it without you! - Mike & Ray Ball-Trevor
- Thank you to all the Edwards members who assisted with the funeral lunch for Ron Rebal. Pat was very appreciative. We had great bakers, salad makers, dishwasher crew and set-up help.
- The Stewardship Committee would like to offer a BIG THANKS to all who have already sent in their pledge cards. If you haven't done so yet – there is still time to send your pledge card in. Remember that as we share God's blessings we may all feast and still have leftovers.

- Many thanks to the 10 members and friends of Edwards who cleaned up a 2-mile stretch of Utica Ridge Rd. in October. It was a bee-yootiful day for it! Thanks to Sara Verdick, Tom Kenneke, Robert Riedesel, Mary & Wayne Coker, Dick Jirus, Joyce Paustian, Alice duPas, Chuck Collins and Carol Ogletree. After their hard work they had a great lunch prepared Chris Kenneke. The next highway cleanup is scheduled for early Spring – 2019. ~ *The Mission Board thanks you!*



- Much appreciation to the entire congregation for supporting the 2018 mission trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. The Edwards team was comprised of Trisha Gehler, Marilyn Riedesel, Robert Riedesel, Sara Verdick, Cathie Miller, Julie Henke, Tom Kenneke, and Carol Ogletree, and included folks who joined the group for the first time – Chuck Collins, Dee Hillyer, and Mary Ostrom – and Paul Petherick who rejoined after a long absence! If you would like to see and hear more of this year’s story you can check out the 2018 blog (<https://youarewelcomerehere.wordpress.com/> and start with the October 15 entry) or you can listen to the October 28 worship service here: <http://www.edwards-ucc.org/media.htm>. Rounding out the rest of our crew were our team members from Emmanuel UCC in Sebring Florida (Tracy Miller, Randy Roth, Diane Griffith, Michael Griffith, and David Schmidt). And special thanks to our individual prayer partners – Bev Bergert, Lou Wren, Geri Dulaney, Judy Stouffer, Cathy Loughead, Dick Dulaney, Lyle Stratton, Judy Pavlak, Richard Jirus, Elizabeth Spieston, Fran Wolfe, Evona Petherick, Vonnie King, Ardis Kasper, Kathy Lafrenz, Jeannine Miller, Joyce Paustian, Brian Dugan, Rhonda Curl, Dorothy Hammond, Martha Jirus, Kay Anthony, and Woody Perkins! Next year’s trip is planned for October 13-19, 2019. Consider joining us for next year’s spiritual journey!



2018 BACK BAY MISSION GROUP

- Thank you to Wednesday fellowship for raising \$65 for the North High School food pantry for non-food items. A special thank you to Ellie and Nora Van Howe for selling these items at their craft table.

STAFF GIFT APPEAL

As is our custom at Edwards, each year we take up a collection to distribute to our staff to show our appreciation and thanks. If you feel so inclined to contribute to this fund please either give by a check, marking 'staff gift' in the memo line or, by cash in an envelope for the collection plate also marked 'staff gift'. Thank you.

CELEBRATING DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS – Enjoy your day!

12/01- Lyle Stratton, William Norwood; 12/02- Carole Baggerly; 12/05- Dave Reinders;
12/07- Molly Dye, Tobias Augspurger; 12/11- Chris Snyder; 12/14- Quinn Reier 12/15- Dennise Weyman; 12/19-Robert Riedesel, Alex Slack; 12/ 20-Wendy Shaw-Sullivan; 12/21-Lisa Gaston; 12/22- Lynn Warren, Megan Beck;12/26-Bob Wilber, Mike Ball-Trevor; 12/27-Gary Mahan; 12/ 28-Willow Ball-Trevor; 12/30-Ollie Gallaher ***Happy Birthday to all!***

CELEBRATING JANUARY BIRTHDAYS – Enjoy your day!

1/01-Shannon King; 1/03-Sharon Hege; 1/06-Stephanie Kieffer; 1/07-Fay McCarrel; 1/08-Dao Molis;
1/09-Tim Reier; 1/11-Nolan Stratton; 1/13-Britt Hein; 1/22- Robert Dean, Ellie Van Howe;
1/23-Frank Hurtte; 1/29-Robert Norwood ***Happy Birthday to all!***

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Due to privacy issues we no long publish names on the website version.

If you are hospitalized and would like a visit from a Pastor or Edwards UCC Caregiver, please let Lyle Stratton know, at 563-570-7556. Due to hospital privacy rules and hospital staffing shortages, we don't always hear from the hospitals in a timely manner. Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

COOKIE WALK – SUNDAY, DEC. 2

We will have the Cookie Walk after worship next Sunday. Cookies may be donated and can be dropped off in the kitchen any time starting Nov. 30. Plates of a dozen cookies will be \$5 and the proceeds will benefit the Edwards general fund. Faith Formation is sponsoring the function.



ONE HUMAN FAMILY FUNDRAISER – Dec. 4

The Crane & Pelican will be donating 15% of their sales for the day to this great cause. They are open from 11 am – 9 pm. Get some holiday shopping done and go have lunch or dinner!



MOVEABLE FEASTS IN 2019

Our 'Moveable Feasts' (potlucks) will be starting again in January, and they will run the months of January, February, and March in 2019. If you have any questions, please contact either Chris Kenneke or Sandy Reinders. The sign-ups will begin after Christmas.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The **ALL MY RELATIVES** award will be presented during the Annual Meeting, and The Social Justice Board is looking for nominations.

All My Relatives (Mitákuye Oyás'íŋ) is a phrase from the Lakota people. It is a prayer of oneness and harmony with all forms of life: other people, animals, birds, insects, trees and plants, and even rocks, rivers, mountains and valleys.

In 2009, the board established the "**ALL MY RELATIVES**" annual award to be presented to an individual or group of individuals within our church community whose activities embody social justice mission.

"To empower the members of Edwards United Church of Christ to follow the challenge and example of Jesus, proclaiming and implementing justice through education and providing the lens through which we can understand Christian witness in our church, our community, and the world." The Social Justice Board is interested in honoring activities which advance Jesus' teaching of God's Kingdom here on earth.

Nomination forms are available on the Social Justice Bulletin Board, in the Secretary's office or in the Edwards online Library. Any Questions or concerns please contact the Social Justice Board chairperson, Julie Henke. These nominations are due **January 6th, 2019** to the Social Justice Board.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

SIoux RESERVATION TOY DRIVE 2018

For the past eight Christmas seasons Edwards has served the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation by running a Toy Drive for the Green Grass community there. As before we have a list of children identified as boy or girl, with their respective age available for you to consider sponsoring at Christmas. Individual sponsorship slips will be available in the narthex through December 9th. Please consider sponsoring one of these children by

1. purchasing a gift (value approx. \$25),
2. wrapping it, and
3. returning to the church by **December 9th**



To be more "green" and environmentally friendly we are asking that you use newspaper to wrap the presents (the comics are colorful--or use ribbon to add some festivity to the gift package) instead of the un-recyclable gift wrap. Please keep in mind that we must send the gifts by mail so it is preferable that gifts be not heavy, large or bulky. Generally speaking an age appropriate gift you would be purchasing for a boy or girl in our culture would be appropriate for them. If you have any questions, contact Lyle at 563.570.7556. Thank You!!!! ~ *Mitakuye Oyasin* - All My Relatives/We Are All One!

CAREGIVER COORDINATOR:

Healing Service Sunday January 27th!

The life challenges facing our world, our nation, our state, our local communities, our church, our families, -our very selves - have been of an overwhelming nature to us, especially over the past two years! Feeling overwhelmed is a natural reaction to these challenges which are part of our human condition, yet healing, wholeness, and grounded-ness is provided to us by God's grace in the Presence of the Holy Spirit. The promise of "where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there" is ours as we open our hearts and minds to God. In worship on January 27th, Health and Human Service Sunday, we will have an opportunity experience God's grace as we participate in a special healing service, to become centered in Christ's Spirit to give us wholeness, and healing in reintegration of mind, body, emotions, and spirit. Come and get healed, re-charged, re-newed, re-integrated to meet these challenges in the New Year!!!

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE:

We are collecting the pull tabs off of cans to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. There is a collection basket in the small kitchen by the Caregiver's office. Thank you.

CHURCH NEEDS:

The Edwards' folks that volunteer to keep the snow cleared from our sidewalks and driveways are in need of a ***gently used snow blower***. If you have a snow blower that you would like to donate to the church, please contact Dave Reinders at (563) 594-9483.

DECEMBER CALENDAR EVENTS:

DEC 2 – ADVENT BEGINS

DEC 2 – COOKIE WALK AFTER WORSHIP

DEC 3 – WOMEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP – 10 AM

DEC 4 – MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM – 11 AM

DEC 4 & 18 – DONUTS & HAMMERS

DEC 5 & 12 - SIMPLE SUPPER (*No Simple Supper on Dec. 19, 26 or Jan. 2*)

DEC 7 – TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL –

Handel's Messiah Community Sing & Benefit – 7:30 pm

DEC 7 – POINSETTIA ORDERS ARE DUE

DEC 9 – EDWARDS COUNCIL MEETING – 12 PM-4 PM

DEC 9 – SIOUX TOY DRIVE DEADLINE

DEC 11 – BOARD MEETINGS – 6:30 PM / COUNCIL MEETING – 7:30 PM

DEC 18 – CAREGIVER MEETING/LUNCHEON

DEC 19 – ENDOWMENT BOARD MEETING – 6 PM

DEC 20 – WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT – THE RADISSON IN DOWNTOWN DAVENPORT – 6 PM

DEC 21 – DEADLINE FOR THE EDWARDS ANNUAL REPORT MATERIAL

DEC 23 – FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

DEC 24 – JAN 1 – *CHURCH OFFICES ARE CLOSED*

JANUARY CALENDAR EVENTS:

JAN 6 – NOMINATIONS DUE FOR *ALL MY RELATIVES AWARD*

JAN 6 – YOUTH GROUP – LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

JAN 6, 16, 23 & 30 – SIMPLE SUPPER – 5:30 PM

JAN 13 – CONFIRMATION KICK-OFF – 12 PM – 2 PM

JAN 20 – YOUTH GROUP – LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

JAN 22 - DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY EDITOR ARTICLES

JAN 27 - HEALING SERVICE

JAN 27 - CONFIRMATION - UCC HISTORY - LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED



***Handel's Messiah
Community Sing & Benefit***

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Davenport

Friday, December 7, 7:30pm
Ron May, Director

Welcome singers and listeners

*Bring your music score
or borrow from the music scores of the Cathedral.
Fill the pews!*

*Join with our host choir
and sing your favorite choruses*

This is a free concert

***Donations benefit the
Mental Health Court***





The United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance
presents this certificate with sincere thanksgiving to



Edwards Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Davenport, Iowa

For its generous and faithful support of the 2017 Christmas Fund
with gifts totaling \$769

Brian R. Bodager
President and CEO
The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ, Inc.

The Rev. Krista L. Betz
Director, Ministerial Assistance
The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ, Inc.