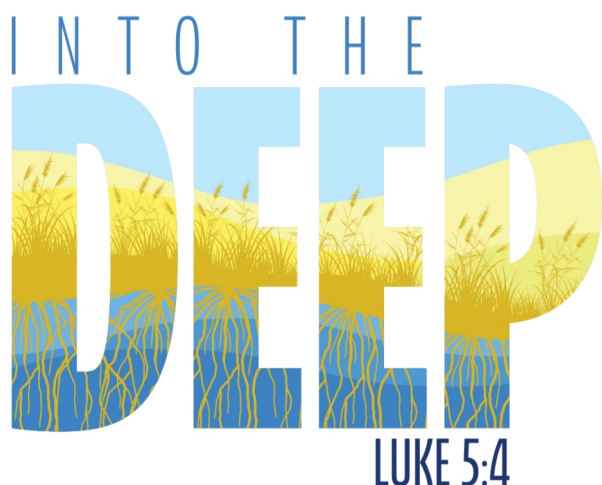


Living Waters Association NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

of the Nebraska Conference of the United Church of Christ.

October 2025

INTO THE DEEP



Living Waters Association Fall Gathering

Have you ever felt like church is just holding on? Like the disciples in Luke 5 — fishing all night, casting net after net, and pulling up nothing but exhaustion? Many of us know that feeling. We love our churches, but some days it feels like we're just trying to keep things afloat.

And then Jesus speaks:

*“Put out into the deep water and let
down your nets for a catch.”*

Against all logic, the disciples trusted. And when they did, their nets overflowed with more than they could hold.

That story is our story too. Even when we're weary, Christ calls us beyond the shoreline of the familiar and into the deep waters of faith, trust, and surprising abundance.

This fall, the Living Waters Association of the Nebraska Conference, United Church of Christ, invites you to join us for a one-day mini-retreat with the theme *Into the Deep*. We'll open in worship, then dive into a fun and eye-opening **Personality Lingo Workshop** to explore how each of us — fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image — brings unique gifts that shape how we and our congregations respond to change.

We'll also hear from our **General Synod delegates**, who will share how the wider UCC is being called *Into The Deep* in worship, witness, and decision-making. We'll break bread together at lunch, carry out the important business of our Association, and close the day in worship, sending one another forth renewed for the work God has set before us.

So come ready to pray, to laugh, to learn, and to listen for the Spirit. Come ready to leave the shoreline and trust the One who promises abundance in the deep.

November 1st, 2025

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

St. Luke's United Church of Christ

1072 21st Ave Columbus NE 68601

FREE

Register online at the association website:

livingwatersassociation.org

or call 402-564-8862 by October 17th, 2025

Into the Deep: What Is Personality Lingo?

Each of us has our own style, preferences, and ways of operating. Some of us like to pause and connect before starting a discussion, while others want to skip the small talk and get straight to the point. Some find comfort in preparing a detailed plan and sticking to it, while others thrive on the adrenaline of last-minute decisions and acting in the moment. When we share preferences, it's easy to get along. When our preferences differ, misunderstandings naturally happen.



Personality Lingo gives us a fun, memorable way to name those patterns — in ourselves, in one another, and in our churches. It helps us recognize that our differences aren't flaws to fix but gifts God has woven into us. By understanding these differences, we learn to honor one another even when we don't see things the same way.

At our fall retreat, *Into the Deep*, we'll dive into this together. As individuals, we'll see how our personality style is part of being *fearfully and wonderfully made* in God's image.

As congregations, we'll notice how our shared style shapes the way we face change. Some churches value tradition and planning, others leap into action, others focus on deep relationships, and still others thrive on strategy and new ideas. Each way reflects a piece of God's image.

By exploring Personality Lingo together, we'll discover how our different styles can become a strength as we move *into the deep waters of trust and faith*, just as Jesus called the disciples in Luke 5. Even when we feel like we're holding on and our nets are empty, Christ invites us to go deeper — together — and trust that abundance awaits.

2025

ANNUAL MEETING

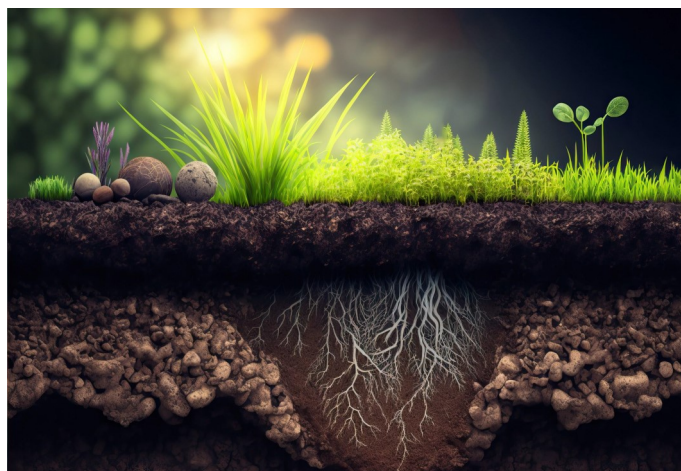


Reminder for Authorized Ministers

To retain faithful standing in the Association, Authorized Ministers (Lay Ministerial Standing, Licensed, Commissioned or Ordained), in the United Church of Christ are expected, per the *Ministerial Code*, to be active participants in the life of the Association. One of the primary ways to fulfill this covenantal expectation is through participation and attendance at Association activities. Your presence matters — it strengthens our shared ministry and keeps us connected as colleagues in Christ.

Agenda at a Glance

9:00 to 9:15	Registration
9:15 to 9:45	Morning Prayer
9:45 to 11:15	Workshop "Personality Lingo"
11:15 to 12:00	Report on General Synod
12:00 to 12:45	Fellowship / Recognitions and and Lunch
12:45 to 1:30	2025 Business Meeting
1:30 to 2:00	Closing Worship



When Is the Newsletter Published?

Short answer: We publish the Living Waters Association newsletter whenever we have enough timely information to share.

Our goal: To be good stewards of time and funds, our long-term plan is to make the newsletter **online-only**. Reaching that goal depends on every local church keeping its contact information current and being willing and able to receive communications electronically.

How often could we publish?

We'd love to send the newsletter more regularly—and we can, if we have content. When churches share event details at least two months in advance, we're able to assemble a fuller issue, promote your ministries, and keep the whole association better connected.

What we need from you

- **Lead time:** Send items **8–10 weeks before** your event (graphics optional; a plain description is fine).
- **Essentials to include:** event title, date/time, location, brief description (2–4 sentences), contact person, registration link (if any).
- **Accuracy:** Please **keep your church contact list current** so updates reach the right people.
- **How to submit:** Email your items to the Association Office (subject line: "Newsletter Submission")

Why it matters

Your updates help congregations pray for one another, show up for one another, and celebrate what God is doing among us. Quite simply, your contributions make the difference.

Thank you for partnering with us. If your church has an upcoming event, please share it (8-to 10 weeks in advanced) so the whole association can participate together.



Living Waters Association Small Church Grant Program

The Living Waters Association of the Nebraska Conference United Church of Christ is pleased to announce the opening of the 2025 Small Church Grant Program, opened **September 15, 2025**.

These one-time grants are designed to support churches within our association that have fewer than 225 members. Each congregation may apply for up to \$500 in grant funds this calendar year.

Please note: Total available funds are limited to \$5,000, so not all applications may be funded.

Eligible Uses for Grant Funds Include:

- Regular or special church events or functions
- Utilities and building maintenance
- Clergy continuing education (including travel)
- Church education events (youth or adult)
- Pulpit supply support

Application Requirements:

- Association dues must be current.
- A congregation member must be present at the Association Annual Meeting to receive the grant.

We encourage all eligible congregations to apply and make thoughtful use of these funds to strengthen ministry and community presence.

To apply visit the Living Waters Website at www.livingwatersassociation.org

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Across the Living Waters Association, it has become increasingly challenging to recruit individuals who are both willing and able to serve full terms on the Association Council and its committees.

At the same time, the Council has begun a comprehensive bylaws rewrite to strengthen our structure for the long term. That larger project will take careful listening and collaboration. To keep essential leadership steady while that work continues, the Council is bringing forward a **limited, interim solution**.

What the motion does (in plain language)

- **Extends one current treasure's term by one additional term or year (to be decided at the meeting)**—no more, no less.
- **Applies only as stated** in the motion and **does not permanently change** the standard term lengths.
- **Creates continuity** so key responsibilities are covered while we recruit, discern, and finalize the broader bylaws update.

Motion text to be considered:

“The Council moves to amend Article VIII, Section 4.4 of the Bylaws (Term of Office), by adding the following sentence: ‘Notwithstanding the preceding clause, the term of the current **treasure** shall be extended for one additional term/year, concluding at the **2026 or 2008** Annual Meeting.’”

Why this matters

Stable, continuous leadership helps:

- keep committee work moving
- and ensure good stewardship of association resources.

In short: extension now keeps ministry steady while we build a better long-term framework.

What this does not do

- ✗ It does **not** rewrite our bylaws top-to-bottom (that’s a separate, ongoing process).
- ✗ It does **not** extend all officers automatically—only the treasure is named.
- ✗ It does **not** remove the association’s ability to elect successors next year.

How we’ll proceed

- **Discussion & Questions:** Members are encouraged to ask questions in advance and at the meeting.
- **Vote:** The proposed amendment will be placed before the entire association members at the annual meeting for action.
- **Next Steps:** The Council will continue the comprehensive bylaws revision with opportunities for input from congregations and ministers, bringing a full package for consideration when it’s ready.