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## Harvest of Hope Committee

Robert Forbess  
Debra Greene  
Howard Kanetzke  
Brian Kuhn  
Mike McLain  
John Szalkowski  
Roger Williams

### With support from:

Sonja Keese-Berg  
Tom Matthews

## Our challenge

"... it is still God's policy to work through the embarrassingly insignificant to change the world and create the future. Just as Jesus invited that first unlikely bunch of fishermen, God invites us to drop our nets and abandon our boats and join in the adventure of changing the world."

*Tom Sine, The Mustard Seed Conspiracy, Waco, Texas, World Books, 1981*

"We view the deterioration of the family farm system with alarm and pain. It alienates ordinary people from the land, which is God's gift to all. It saps the strength of rural communities. And it creates a situation where control of food production could be concentrated in the hands of a few. We cannot stand by and see this happen."

*Interfaith Statement on Public Policy and the Structure of Agriculture*

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# HARVEST OF HOPE FUND

*A Wisconsin Family Farm Crisis Fund*



Sponsored by the  
Madison Christian Community  
Madison, Wisconsin

Program partners include:

- Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ
- Wisconsin Conference, United Methodist Church
- Food, Faith and Farming Network

Harvest of Hope Fund  
Madison Christian Community  
7118 Old Sauk Road  
Madison, WI 53717

## THE FARM AND RURAL CRISIS

Many Wisconsin farm families are experiencing financial crises due to a number of factors: low commodity prices; high costs of fuel, seed, machinery, fertilizer, and other inputs; rising property taxes; shifting global markets; and drought, flooding, and other climatic conditions.

Yet it is more than a farm crisis. It has also become a rural crisis, dislocating farm and non-farm families; creating shifts away from family farm agriculture; causing tensions within rural communities; and shattering people's values, beliefs, and hopes for the future.

## HARVEST OF HOPE FUND

To assist farm families in getting through these tough times, the Madison Christian Community created the Harvest of Hope Fund. The Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ; the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church; and the Food, Faith and Farming Network are partners in the project.

## OUR GOAL

Our goal is to provide financial help and hope to Wisconsin farm families in difficult situations. The Harvest of Hope Fund provides gifts to farm families who need financial assistance to meet emergency needs for food, home heating fuel, medical or veterinary expenses, electric power cut-offs, climatic conditions (drought, floods, frost, hail), feed for cattle, machinery repair, retraining, or other immediate situations. Funding is also available to purchase seed, fertilizer, fuel, and other supplies for spring planting.

Wisconsin farm families with needs in any of these areas are encouraged to apply for funds.

## IF YOU CAN HELP

The Harvest of Hope Fund allows you to be involved in a special project that demonstrates sharing and caring. Financial gifts from the Fund make a tremendous difference by offering hope to Wisconsin farm families in need.

**Contributions in any amount are gratefully accepted and tax-deductible.**  
**All administrative costs for the fund are covered by the Madison Christian Community so every dollar donated goes directly to farm families in need.**

If you can contribute, send your check to the address below, making the check payable to the **Harvest of Hope Fund**.

Please consider involving your church in this effort: Encourage your members to make individual contributions ... hold a special offering ... initiate a special fundraising drive to benefit the fund ... or decide on a sum of money to be contributed from your church's treasury.

For United Methodist contributions, this is an approved Advance Special Offering.



## IF YOU NEED HELP

If you are a farm family with emergency needs, please contact us at the phone/address listed in the box below. You will be mailed brief application forms to complete and return. You may also print the forms from our website.

Applicants are asked to seek financial planning and management advice from one of the following: UW-Extension agent; agribusiness instructor with a technical college; or farm credit advisor with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

## REVIEW AND SELECTION

The Harvest of Hope Committee reviews all applications on the basis of need, without regard to religious affiliation. Checks from the Fund are sent directly to farm families. Our goal is to respond quickly; let us know if your need is urgent. The maximum gift amount is \$1,500, and applicants can request a second gift from the fund over time.

## COVENANT OF HOPE

Families that receive gifts from the Harvest of Hope Fund are asked to sign a "covenant" stating their hope to contribute to the fund if and when their circumstances permit.

## TO CONTRIBUTE OR TO APPLY FOR FUNDS CONTACT:

Harvest of Hope Fund, Madison Christian Community  
7118 Old Sauk Road, Madison, WI 53717  
(608) 836-4633 or [www.madisonchristiancommunity.org](http://www.madisonchristiancommunity.org)

If you call, your phone call will likely go into voicemail, which helps reduce costs and allows you to call day or night. Please provide the reason for your call and your complete name, address, and phone number.

If you want to apply for help, we will mail you the necessary forms. Alternately, the forms can be found on our website, listed above. Click "Serving," then click on "Harvest of Hope" in the drop-down menu. Once printed and completed, the forms can be mailed to the above street address. **Note:** Both an Application Form and a Financial Planning Statement must be submitted in order for us to act on your request.

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