

New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ



January 29, 2018

Dear Friends:

Grace and peace to you from God who made us, Christ who saves us, and the Spirit who creates and renews the Church. We give thanks for your faithfulness in living the good news as a congregation of the United Church of Christ.

Excitement is growing as we come closer to the 2018 edition of “Prepared to Serve” on Saturday, February 24. This premier educational event of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ, brings hundreds of people to learn together in dozens of workshops supporting effective and faithful ministries. We hope your congregation plans to send people to this inspiring gathering.

During worship at the last two “Prepared to Serve” events, those attending were deeply moved by the offering of pledges in support of the ministry and mission of the New Hampshire Conference, UCC. That offering of pledges will take place again this year. We ask you to complete the pledge form enclosed and have a representative of your church come forward to present it during our morning worship.

On this year’s pledge form you will see a place for you to record your church’s 2018 pledge of support and a second line for you to record an additional amount your church may be inspired to give. We are offering this opportunity because our Conference needs increased support to fund the Missions and Spending Plan approved at our Annual Meeting. Our mission includes:

- Filling pulpits with strong new pastoral leadership with the help of our prayers, our special consultants and our Conference staff;
- Searching for a new Conference Minister;
- Working with consultants to guide us in our stewardship of Horton Center and developing a truly sustainable outdoor ministries program; and,
- Responding to a variety of justice issues and making a public witness as we bring justice and hope to our vulnerable neighbors.

These and all the missions and ministries of our Conference, even the “Prepared to Serve” event itself, are subsidized from the Conference budget approved at Annual Meeting in October.

In faith, we approved a \$40,000 deficit to support our wider mission. And in faith, we ask you to help us meet this challenge. It is attainable. For example, if each of our churches were to increase their giving by \$400 over last year, the deficit would disappear completely.

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Most likely, your church has already approved an amount to support Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) in 2018. We respect that.

What we ask simply is that you commit to any increase of your support to OCWM. Let’s see what generosity might be unleashed among us as we together stretch ourselves for the sake of our shared ministry and mission.

Thank you for the ways you support our shared mission and for giving this appeal your prayerful consideration. We look forward to seeing you at “Prepared to Serve.” Don’t forget that Pledge Form!

Yours in Christ’s service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Van Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Van Wagner, Chair
Roger Arend, David Keller, Dan Tinkham, Gayle Whittemore
Finance Ministry of the New Hampshire Conference, UCC