

# Official Call to the 2017 Annual Meeting

## New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ

*In Search of Sanctuary: Won't You Be My Neighbor?*

**Dear Members of the New Hampshire Conference Family,**

The members of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee invite you to come together for the Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. Here is what you need to know:

**What: The Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ**

**When: Saturday, October 21, 2017**

**Where: Grappone Conference Center  
70 Constitution Avenue,  
Concord, NH 03301**

**THEME:** The theme of our meeting this year is rooted in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), and the haunting question posed by Jesus: *"Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"* Drawing upon his experience as the founding Pastor of Living Water United Church of Christ in Philadelphia, and as political director of People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO), Bishop Dwayne D. Royster will bring the Keynote Address, speaking to our theme: *"In Search of Sanctuary: Won't You Be My Neighbor?"*

**WORSHIP:** Muriel Lester once wrote, "There is nothing more illumining, more enabling, than to be one in a company of people who have come together in order to free their spirit from entangling personal bonds, quiet their soul by silence, release their aspiration by music and poetry, concentrate their mind on spoken wisdom, open their heart . . . to God and to come into touch with Jesus Christ." Thus, as we celebrate past achievements, confess brokenness, and consider the shape, scope and substance of our blessed Conference ministries for the future, we will be doing so as a gathered body in



worship. Worship will not be "the thing we do to break up the business." Rather the liturgy of worship will guide and sustain the substance and structure of our time together as the Gathered Conference. The keynote address by the Bishop Dwayne Royster will lie at the heart of our Service of Word and Sacrament, while the music of the Prodigals, a Jazz Band led by the Rev. Dr. Bob Maccini, will lend a rich musical dimension to our worship.

**OFFERING:** An offering will be received during morning worship for the support of many ministries of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. We encourage churches to send a special offering with your delegates.

**CHILD CARE:** Offered by the Conference for a modest daily fee of \$20.00 per child (for children between the ages of 1 and 9), professional caregivers will be available on-site for the children of delegates and visitors. Please indicate your need for childcare when you register, and additional information will be made available.

**YOUTH DELEGATES:** We strongly encourage each church to include a Youth Delegate (under 25) as a member of your delegation. Youth Delegates may register at a reduced rate (see below). The Annual Meeting is an effective setting in which our youth may learn about the wider church, meet church leaders, and come to appreciate the role of the church in addressing matters of social and spiritual concern.

**DELEGATES:** The Conference Bylaws define the voting membership as *"those delegates duly appointed by the churches, the Conference officers, members of the Board of Directors, and each ordained, licensed, or commissioned minister with standing in a New Hampshire Association."* (Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2). *Each church shall be entitled to four (4) lay delegates, one (1) of whom shall be under twenty-five (25) years of age at the date of election. Churches with more than one hundred (100) members shall be entitled to one (1) additional delegate for each one hundred (100) additional members or major fraction thereof."*

**VISITORS:** Visitors are welcomed and strongly encouraged as a means of deepening the covenant that our congregations share in the NH Conference and the United Church of Christ.

**REGISTRATION:** Please visit [www.nhcucc.org](http://www.nhcucc.org) for up-to-date Annual Meeting Resource Materials and a link to the registration website – which officially opens on **Monday, August 28th**.

For registrations processed **on or before Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm**, when online registration officially closes, the Youth Delegate Rate will be \$50/person and the Delegates & Visitors rate will be \$85.00/person. Major credit cards and personal checks will be accepted for online registration. Registrations processed *after* the close of online registration will be taken on the day of the event, at the "walk-in" rates of \$50.00 per youth delegate, and \$100 for all others. For walk-in registrations, cash or check will be accepted (sorry, no credit cards). If you

do not have access to the internet or have any trouble registering yourself, please call Cindy Bradley at 888-642-8229, ext. 1100 (Monday – Friday / 10am-3pm / August 25-October 11).

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** A discounted block of rooms has been reserved at the Courtyard by the Marriott, a hotel directly adjacent to the Grappone Conference Center. These rooms are offered at the rate of \$139.00 per night plus taxes, and must be reserved on or before September 29, 2017 to receive the discounted rate. To reserve a room at the hotel please contact the Courtyard by the Marriott at (603) 225-0303, and mention that you are with the United Church of Christ to receive this special rate.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** The Grappone Conference Center is an accessible facility with parking near the main entrance. CART Services of NH will be participating in this year's meeting, for the benefit of our hearing impaired delegates.

Please feel free to contact the Conference Office with any questions regarding the Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing you on October 21st!

*May God's Peace be with you.*

**Your 2017 Annual Meeting Planning Committee:**

**Laura Sevigny (Chair),  
Rev. Eric Jackson,  
Rev. Barry Jacobson,  
Rev. Bob Marrone,  
Rev. Deborah Knowlton,  
Rev. Gail Doktor,  
Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen,  
Marcie Miller,  
Nancy Rottman,  
Neal Cass,  
Rev. Richard Slater**

**Staff to the Annual Meeting Planning Committee:**

**Ann Desrochers,  
Cindy Bradley**