

# Official Call to the 2018 Annual Meeting

## New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ

*This is the day of the poured out spirit. Dreamers and Visionaries arise.*

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

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

**What:** The 217<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ

**When:** Saturday, October 20, 2018

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

**THEME:** The theme of our meeting this year is, “this is the day of the poured out spirit. Dreamers and Visionaries arise.” The theme is rooted in the words of Joel (2:28), “I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.”

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** The Rev. Dr. Stephen Ray Jr., newly appointed President of Chicago Theological Seminary, will deliver the keynote address. Rev. Dr. Ray also serves as the President of the Society for the Study of Black Religion. Having written and lectured broadly in the areas of Systematic Theology, African American religion, human rights and the intersection of religion and politics, his current work focuses on reinvigorating the public square as a place for all, and reclaiming a vital expression of progressive religion in that project.

**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. 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. The keynote address Rev. Dr. Stephen Ray Jr. will lie at the heart of our Service of Word and Sacrament,



while the music under the direction of Kimberly Vars Whitehead, 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:** If you require child care in order to fully participate in this event, we ask that you make your own arrangements. The NH Conference is prepared to provide financial assistance. Please contact Ann Desrochers at 603.715.9526 or [adesrochers@nhcucc.org](mailto:adesrochers@nhcucc.org) for additional information.

**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 27th**.

For registrations processed **on or before Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm**, 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 \$110 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 27-October 10).

**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 \$144.00 per night plus taxes, and must be reserved on or before September 28, 2018 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. Denise Gracia, CART Captioner, 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 20th!

*May God's Peace be with you.*

**Your 2018 Annual Meeting Planning Committee:**

**Laura Sevigny (Chair)**

**Rev. Dr. Charles Buck**

**Neal Cass**

**Rev. Gail Doktor**

**Rev. Eric Jackson**

**Rev. Deborah Knowlton**

**Rev. Dr. Robert Marrone**

**Marcie Miller**

**Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen**

**Rev. Richard Slater**

**Rev. Dr. Lynn Wickberg**

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

**Cindy Bradley**

**Ann Desrochers**