Official Call to the
2020 Annual Meeting
New Hampshire Conference
United Church of Christ

Dear Members of the New Hampshire Conference Family,

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee invites you to come together, as the Gathered Conference, for the 219th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ.

What: 2020 Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ

When: Business Meeting
Saturday, October 17, 2020

Where: via Zoom Webinar, YouTube Livestream
access information to be provided upon registration

THEME
This year we will explore the theme “Repair, Restore,... Re-new” as grounded in the scripture lesson from Isaiah 58:9-12 (RSV)

9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
10 if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.
11 The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.
12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

FEATURED SPEAKER
The Rev. Michael W. Caine will deliver the keynote address at this year’s meeting. Michael was ordained at the Riverside Church in Manhattan in 1990. He served congregations in East Harlem and Brooklyn, and then he joined the staff of the NY Conference of the UCC. He is currently Pastor of Old First Reformed United Church of Christ in Philadelphia, where he has been for almost 11 years now.

Michael’s various experiences lead him to believe that 80% of what happens to a church is beyond its control, but it's the church's responsibility (and privilege) to look for opportunities in what's happening around us. God placed us here and now with a purpose.

Michael will spend time imagining with us about the ways our changed and quickly changing world calls the church and our individual congregations to different responses.

CONNECTING SESSIONS
Throughout the month of October there will be opportunities to participate in educational sessions to prepare for the business meeting on October 17th and to reflect on the current and future work of the Conference.

- October 1 - Racial Justice Theological Roundtable
- October 6 - Budget Hearing
- October 8 – Ministry in the Community
- October 13 - Discussion on the Rights of Nature Resolution
- October 18 & October 21
  Conversation with the Conference Minister
WORSHIP
The Annual Meeting Worship Team is offering a pre-recorded service to be released on Sunday, October 18th. At the heart of worship will be a sermon delivered by the Rev Michael Caine and an anthem created by the Conference wide virtual choir.

OFFERING
An offering will be received to support the mission and ministries of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. We encourage churches and individuals to make a donation online or send a special offering to NHCUCC, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH 03275.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT
The format of this year’s Annual Meeting employs new technology. Every effort is being made to allow you to select options ranging from interactive participation via a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, smart phone, or dial-in phone line. Many segments of the meeting will also be shared on YouTube to allow for viewing without interactive participation. We will be providing educational resources, helpful tips, and technology stewards to assist you in this experience. The latest information will be posted in the Technology section of the Annual Meeting webpage.

YOUTH DELEGATES
We strongly encourage each church to include a Youth Delegate (under 25) as a member of your delegation. 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 https://www.nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/2020-annual-meeting for up-to-date Annual Meeting Resource Materials and a link to the registration website – which officially opens September 8, 2020.

This year all registrations will be processed online on or before Wednesday, October 7th at 11:59 pm. However, be sure to register early if you plan to attend any of the Connecting Sessions occurring before that date. Each participant will incur a registration fee of $25 this year. The fees are intended to cover the operational costs for this virtual event. Major credit cards and personal checks will be accepted for online registration. 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 / September 8 - October 7).

Please feel free to contact the Conference Office with any questions regarding the Annual Meeting. We look forward to “seeing” you on October 17th!

May God’s Peace be with you.

Your 2020 Annual Meeting Planning Committee:

Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight (Chair)  
Rev. Gail Doktor  
Rev. Carolyn Keilig  
Rev. Deborah Knowlton  
Rev. Gordon Rankin  
Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen  
Rev. Dr. Lynn Wickberg

Staff to the Annual Meeting Planning Committee:  
Cindy Bradley  
Ann Desrochers