New Hampshire Conference
United Church of Christ

2021 Annual Meeting
Worship Service

OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE
The Rev. Stacey Kullgren, Pastor, Unified Ministerial Mentoring Team, Chair

We ask that you consider accessing our online donation portal to make a contribution to support the formation of our Members-in-Discernment of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. You may also mail your contributions to NHCUCC, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH 03275, with a memo noting this is your Annual Meeting offering.

The Call to Give
At little bit over two years ago, six of our seven Associations voted to participate in the Unified Ministerial Mentoring Team and our work was initiated. This body was envisioned in response to the calls of our Committees on Church and Ministry for more consistency in walking with the Members in Discernment of this Conference, while honoring their diversity, by embracing multiple paths to ordination.

As the work of the Unified Ministerial Mentoring Team was conceptualized the needs for community building among our Members in Discernment and advanced training opportunities were recognized.

We are now ten months living into this work. We know these needs to be integral to the future of this program and our Members in Discernment. Your offering for this Annual Meeting will assist us in providing retreats and training identified as necessary through our relationships with our Members in Discernment. We envision opportunities to engage in programs addressing Implicit Bias and anti-racism work; spiritual growth and self-knowledge; organizational systems; and community change; as well as events that invite our Members in Discernment to grow their entrepreneurial spirit in ministry; and so much more.
In the coming moments we will be sharing with you pictures from those in our Conference who are and have been engaged in discernment toward ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ. I ask you, during this time, to pray: Let your heart be filled by the ways we are blessed by those we journey with us in this process. And ask yourself what contribution God is calling you to make to this work.

**The Gathering of the Offerings: “The Summons”**

(Text: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, © 1987, Iona Community, Tune: Arr. by John L. Bell; © 1987, Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under One License #S-921541. All rights reserved. All photos used by permission.)

*Performed and recorded by Virginia Bailey, BSO Soprano for the 220th New Hampshire Conference Annual Meeting:*

1. Will you come and follow me
   If I but call your name?
   Will you go where you don't know
   And never be the same?
   Will you let my love be shown,
   Will you let my name be known,
   Will you let my life be grown
   In you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind
   If I but call your name?
   Will you care for cruel and kind
   And never be the same?
   Will you risk the hostile stare
   Should your life attract or scare?
   Will you let me answer prayer
   In you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see
   If I but call your name?
   Will you set the pris'ners free
   And never be the same?
   Will you kiss the leper clean,
   And do such as this unseen,
   And admit to what I mean
   In you and you in me?
4. Will you love the 'you' you hide  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound  
In you and you in me?

5. Lord, your summons echoes true  
When you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
Where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you and you in me.

**The Blessing**

Beloved, let us take this moment together offer a blessing on our offerings and on our Members in Discernment and those who are gathered around them offering support, love, challenge, and care.

Let us pray: O God of abundance, we are grateful today for the ways you call us into ministry together. We thank you for those who are called to lead us in the work of our faith. We bless, with you O God, those who are preparing for leadership of this denomination, this church, our faith communities, our world. We bless with you those who engage in a mutual discernment with them, those who offer the loving challenges they need to grow so that they may be their becoming. We bless with you our offerings to this work, our covenantal lives. Amen.