



OFFICIAL CALL TO THE
2013 ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE GATHERED
**NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

“Surprising Joy”

*“Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations . . .*

“The Lord has done great things for them.”

Psalm 126:2-3

Dear Members of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ:

The **Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference** will be held on **Saturday, October 26, 2013** at the Grappone Conference Center, 70 Constitution Avenue, Concord, NH. **Registration begins at 8 A.M. and the meeting at 9 A.M.**

The theme of the Annual Meeting is “Surprising Joy.” Building upon ideas and images found in Psalm 126, the theme will be expressed in a variety of ways throughout the meeting. Keynote speaker, the Rev. Talitha Arnold, is Pastor of the United Church of Santa Fe, New Mexico, which was started in 1980 as the only UCC congregation in Northern New Mexico. Beginning with a group of 30 members meeting in a local restaurant, the United Church of Santa Fe today has over 500 members. Rev. Arnold is also a popular writer in the Stillspeaking Devotional series that is daily distributed throughout the United Church of Christ online community (<http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/daily-devotional/>).

The Annual Meeting will be blessed by the presence and witness of a delegation of our mission partners from the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe, will feature a State of the Conference Report by the Rev. Gary Schulte, a report on General Synod 29 from our delegation, round-table discussions during the lunch break, informative exhibits, an after-meeting Social Hour, and much more.

WORSHIP: As always, meaningful worship will lie at the heart of our gathering. The Opening Worship will, in dramatic fashion, set forth the theme of “Surprising Joy” in word and song. The afternoon Worship Service will feature a sermon by our Conference Minister, the Rev. Gary Schulte, and conclude with a celebration of the Sacrament of Communion.

OFFERING: An offering will be received during worship for the support of the many important ministries of the United Church of Christ. We encourage churches to consider a special offering for Our Churches Wider Mission to be presented by your delegates at the meeting.

SOCIAL HOUR: New at this year's Annual Meeting is a Social Hour which will follow the meeting in the Webster and Pierce rooms at the Center. The Social Hour will provide opportunity to greet the delegation from the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe, to congratulate authorized ministers honored at this year's meeting, and visit with good friends. Hors d'Oeuvres will be served and a cash bar will be available.

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."

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 find renewed energy for living the "Surprising Joy" of faith.

REGISTRATION: Please register at www.nhcucc.org where you will find complete information about the Annual Meeting and a link to begin the registration process. An "**Early-Bird**" rate of **\$50.00 per youth delegate** and **\$75.00 for all other registrant categories** will apply through October 14th, after which the rate increases by \$15.00 per registrant. Major credit cards and personal checks will be accepted. **Online Registration will officially close at midnight October 24th.** Anyone registering after October 24 will be admitted at the "Walk-in" rate of \$ 75.00 per youth and \$100.00 for all others. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may register by calling Donna Follansbee at 888-642-8229, ext. 100.

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 \$129 per night plus taxes. To reserve a room at the hotel please contact the Courtyard by the Marriott at (603) 225-0303, and mention the United Church of Christ to receive this special rate.

ACCESSIBILITY: The Grappone Conference Center is an accessible facility with accessible parking at 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 or concerns regarding the Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing you October 26!

May God's Peace in Christ be with you,

THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE