

A Resolution of Prudential Instruction in Support of a New Location and Time for the Annual Meeting of the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ

Source: Proposed by the Annual Meeting Planning Committee of the NH Conference, UCC

Submitted: April 14, 2008

Contact: Rev. Michele Bagby Allan, Chair, 2008 Annual Meeting Planning Committee, 107 Post Road, North Hampton, NH 03862, pastormichele@uccnorthhampton.org, 603.964.6207

Summary: This resolution calls upon the Gathered Conference to affirm the work of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee (AMPC) as it proposes the time and location of the 2009-2011 Annual Meetings of the Conference. The AMPC has prayerfully considered the evaluations of previous Annual Meetings and envisions gathering at a more central and accessible time and location in future years. The AMPC sees the Annual Meeting as a time for the Gathered Conference to engage in covenantal business, transformational worship, soul-tending retreat and community building time, and workshops intended to build up local church leadership. The AMPC proposes a move to the Waterville Valley Conference Center for the next three years of the Annual Meeting (for best financial negotiation options) beginning with the 2009 Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 16-Sunday, May 17, 2009.

Background Statement:

- The Annual Meeting Planning Committee has received feedback from previous Annual Meeting evaluations and AMPC members' input that the current gathering format, while meeting the needs of many, could better serve the New Hampshire Conference with a change in time and venue.
- With a depth of gratitude for the ways that Brewster Academy has worked diligently to accommodate the needs of the Conference, we note the following "cons" to continuing to meet at this time and location.
 - Many high school youth delegates and weekday-working delegates cannot attend due the Annual Meeting Friday-Saturday format which currently takes place during graduation weekend for many schools in New Hampshire.
 - Delegates with disabilities must travel from building to building for meals, workshops, keynote sessions, and exhibits.
 - Motorcycle Weekend in Wolfeboro does not allow for quiet retreat and respite for delegates and visitors.
 - Dormitory bedding and rented seating are not comfortable for many delegates and visitors who attend.
 - While a beautiful setting, Wolfeboro is not centrally located in the state.
- With these "cons" in mind, the AMPC sees the following "pros" to moving to a May Saturday-Sunday format at Waterville Valley Conference:
 - Waterville Valley Conference Center is centrally located off of I-93.
 - WVCC provides a conference retreat center that could accommodate all needs of the Gathered Conference in one or two buildings.

- WVCC is an accessible center for people with disabilities.
- WVCC as a location offers a peaceful and beautiful retreat setting for all ages.
- WVCC offers comfortable accommodations for meeting (bedding, chairs, facilities, etc.).
- Moving to a Saturday-Sunday format (with Lay Worship Resources made available by the AMPC to all churches in the Conference) would afford youth delegates and weekday workers the opportunity to represent their churches without forgoing school or work, and would allow clergy the opportunity to receive worship.

Rational:

Whereas the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ states in its bylaws that “the NHCUCC shall hold an Annual Meeting at such time and place as shall be determined at the preceding meeting,”

And whereas the Annual Meeting Planning Committee has prayerfully considered and prepared the resolution statement below,

And whereas the Conference Council has also prayerfully considered and affirmed the Annual Meeting Planning Committee’s work and vision,

Statement:

Be it resolved that the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ will gather for work, worship, retreat and respite, on May 16-17, 2009 at the Waterville Valley Conference Center.

Be it further resolved that the Annual Meeting Planning Committee be tasked with negotiating on behalf of the New Hampshire Conference for best financial arrangements with Waterville Valley Conference Center.

Plan of Action

Title: A Resolution of Prudential Instruction in Support of a New Location and Time for the Annual Meeting of the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ

Submitted: April 14, 2008

Contact: Rev. Michele Bagby Allan, Chair, 2008 Annual Meeting Planning Committee, 107 Post Road, North Hampton, NH 03862, pastormichele@uccnorthhampton.org, 603.964.6207

Implementing Body: Annual Meeting Planning Committee

Anticipated Costs: Currently the Annual Meeting costs have been funded 100% by attending delegates’ registration fees. The move to Waterville Valley Conference Center would inevitably increase the cost per delegate to attend. In order to offset cost increases, the AMPC asks that the Conference include \$5,000 in the 2009 Budget, \$2,000 of which to be used for keynote speaker fees and expenses, and \$3,000 as a scholarship fund for churches and delegates for whom the increased costs would be prohibitive.

Directional Statements and Goals: The Annual Meeting Planning Committee will negotiate with Waterville Valley Conference Center seeking the best possible financial arrangements for the Annual Meetings of 2009-2011.