Dear Members of the New Hampshire Conference Family,

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee invites you to come together, as the Gathered Conference, for the 220th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ.

**What:** 2021 Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ

**When:** Business Meeting & Keynote Address
Saturday, October 16, 2021

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

**THEME**

This year we will explore the theme “Building Beloved Community” as inspired by the words from Lamentations 3:22-23 (The Inclusive Bible), “YHWH’S favor is not exhausted, nor has God’s compassion failed. They rise up anew each morning, so great is God’s faithfulness.”.

**FEATURED SPEAKERS**

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, who serves on the National Staff of The United Church of Christ as the Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice, and the Rev. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference United Church of Christ, will share the keynote address at this year’s meeting. As we transition to a post-pandemic world, they will help us understand the impact of having spent time in isolation and the role of faith in rebuilding our beloved community. Drawing on her work with liberation theology, Rev. Dr. Lund will speak to the power of story and testimony in creating resiliency and hope. She will share tools that facilitate bringing about justice and transformation through faithful, loving relationships that build beloved community. Rev. Abbott brings a wealth of experience from his writings and work in contemplative practices. He believes we were created for community and connection and will focus on how deep listening to God and one another is part of the healing and rebuilding.

**CONNECTING SESSIONS**

Throughout the month of October there will be opportunities to participate in educational sessions to prepare for the business meeting on October 16th and to reflect on the current and future work of the Conference.

- October 5: General Synod 33 Calls Us to Actions “Rooted in Love”
- October 7: Resolution Discussion
- October 12: Budget Hearing
- October 17 & October 20: Conversation with the Conference Minister

**WORSHIP**

The Annual Meeting Worship Team is offering a pre-recorded service to be released on Sunday, October 17th. At the heart of worship will be a sermon delivered by Rev. Gordon Rankin and an anthem created by the Conference wide virtual choir.

**OFFERING**

An offering will be received to support the formation of our Members-in-Discernment 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 virtual Annual Meeting utilizes numerous forms of 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/2021-annual-meeting for up-to-date Annual Meeting Resource Materials and a link to the registration website – which officially opens September 7, 2021.

This year all registrations will be processed online on or before Monday, October 4th at 11:59 pm. 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 7 - October 4).

Please feel free to contact the Conference Office with any questions regarding the Annual Meeting. We look forward to “seeing” you on October 16th!

May God’s Peace be with you.

Your 2021 Annual Meeting Planning Committee:

Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight (Chair)
Rev. Gail Doktor
Rev. Sean Dunker-Bendigo
Rev. Carolyn Keilig
Mr. Bruce Kinney
Rev. Gordon Rankin
Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen
Ms. Charen Urban
Rev. Dr. Lynn Wickberg

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