Rev. Richard Slater opened the meeting in prayer, sharing words from Walter Brueggemann’s *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*.

General Introductions

- Ann Desrochers, Office Manager/CE Resource Consultant, NH Conference, UCC
  Coordinated NHCUCC activities for 2017 Synod, coordinated/attended in 2019.
- Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight, Delegate, First Congregational Church, Pelham, NH
  Attended prior Synod as a guest, first time delegate.
- Rev. Bill Jones, Gorham Congregational Church, NH
  This is his third time serving as a delegate in 26 years of ministry.
- Rev. Stacey Kullgren, Delegate, United Church of Jaffrey, NH (serves in MA)
  Very experienced/plugged into UCC Synod, attended seven times, including work on planning Youth Ministry activities for Synod.
- Rev. Gordon Rankin, Conference Minister, NH Conference, UCC
  This is seventh Synod.
- Rev. Richard Slater, Associate Conference Minister, NH Conference, UCC
  Attended 11 times in his current role, supporting the NH Delegation.
- Gretchen Smith, Delegate, Community Church of Durham, NH
  Attended a Synod a long time ago when her dad was moderator.
- Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Delegate, Congregational Church of Hollis, NH
  New to UCC Synod experience.

Logistics

- General Synod 33 – completely virtual, July 11-18, 2021, most days starting at 5:30 pm.
  Youth and young adults have afternoon activities. The last weekend there will be things during the day.
- 615 minutes of time over the six days that we will all be together in Plenary, Worship, Celebrations, (not including Committee work).
- Happening on a platform called PC-Biz, that will be used for visiting displays, voting, GS sessions, ...
- Zoom will be used for the NH Conference Caucus times. Still to be scheduled, but most likely right before the evening start time. Hope to have more definition at our June meeting. Two to three Caucus Meetings anticipated.
- Pre-Synod events will include the ONA Coalition event, some workshops.
- Synod business will include elections, budget, by-law revisions, and resolutions.
  (see national website for details: [https://www.generalsynod.org/#UCCSynod](https://www.generalsynod.org/#UCCSynod))
o A new piece to resolutions will be the implementation sessions.
  o This year not every delegate will be assigned to a committee due to capacity
    issues, during registration you will be asked if you desire to participate in
    committee work (rich experience, recommended for first time delegates)
  o June meeting, we will review, in more detail, the specific business pieces

- Registration logistics are minimized – opens online May 1, 2021. We will provide a Fact
  Sheet prior to registration opening.
- One more orientation session
- National setting will be hosting trainings on PC-biz (this is mandatory for delegates).
  Training schedule not yet available.
- GroupMe text app will be used for us to communicate throughout the Synod time.
- Schedule/Agenda, Speaker info available on national website (see above).

Finances/Reimbursement
(Post Meeting Update: The Conference will pay the full cost of participation for Delegates and
Associate Delegates. National has been provided with these names, therefore, at the end of the
online registration process your cost due should be zero and the Conference will later receive an
invoice for the full cost of the Delegation. If this does not happen, please let Ann Desrochers,
adesrochers@nhcucc.org know. )
  - We will reimburse full cost of Registrations ($175 for Delegates). This is processed by
    sending an email with your confirmation (showing the cost) to Ann at:
    adesrochers@nhcucc.org She will screen and forward to Lydia for payment.
  - Reimbursement Policy, and other NH Conference specifics, are posted to the General
    Synod section of the Conference website: https://nhcucc.org/conference-
    ministries/wider-church-relations-ministry/general-synod
  - We do not yet know the cost of optional sessions, so will speak to reimbursement on
    those as that information becomes available.

Role of Delegates
  - God speaks through each one of us – your role is to vote your own voice; you are not
    representing the Conference or your local church in your vote; you are part of the Synod
    gathered body voting your own voice.
  - You are expected to prepare, read through documents, discuss/discern prior to voting.
  - Staff will keep you equipped for your discernment.
  - Pace yourselves – try not to work a full day and then do Synod every evening. (self-care)
  - After Synod you are encouraged to share with Association; contribute to General Synod
    Report to Annual Meeting.
- Week of Synod participate in Worship, Plenary, Committee work as assigned, Business Meetings, check out displays, attend Caucus meetings, an optional workshop or two, be supportive of work being done on NH sponsored resolutions.

**Next Meeting:** Watch for email updates with this information.