

Official Call to the 2019 Annual Meeting

New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ

Be strong, bold, and courageous as you lead... for God goes with you.

(An adaptation of Deuteronomy 31: 6-7)

Dear Members of the New Hampshire Conference Family,

The members of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee invite you to come together, as the Gathered Conference, for the Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. Here is what you need to know:

What: The 218th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ

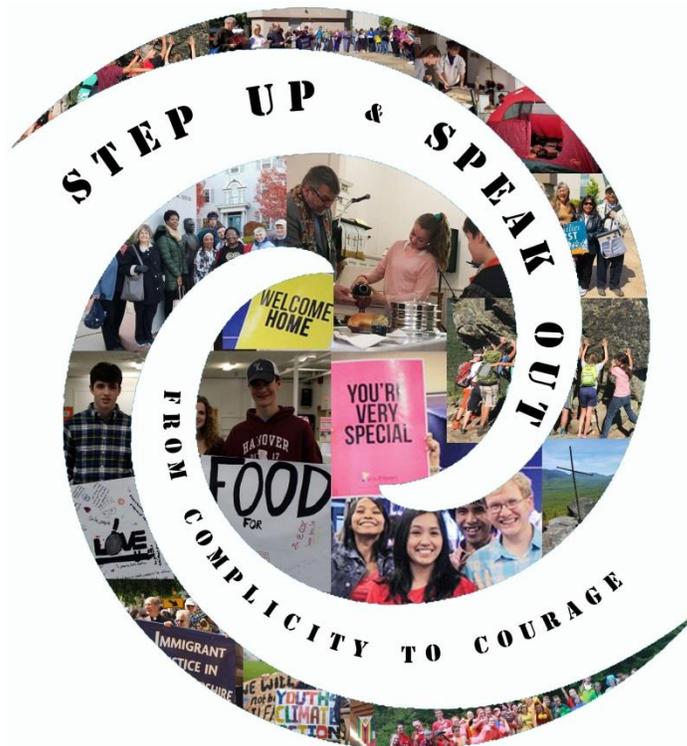
When: Saturday, October 19, 2019

Where: Grappone Conference Center
70 Constitution Avenue,
Concord, NH 03301

THEME: The theme of our meeting this year is, “Step Up, Speak Out – from Complicity to Courage”. The theme will be unpacked as we explore an adaptation of Deuteronomy 31:6-7, “Be strong, bold, and courageous as you lead...for God goes with you.”

FEATURED SPEAKER: The Rev. Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries of The United Church of Christ and Senior Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ in Florissant, MO., will share reflections on her life work and focus on communal resistance to systemic injustice.

WORSHIP: Worship will not be “the thing we do to break up the business.” Rather the liturgy of worship will guide and sustain the substance and structure of our time together as the Gathered Conference. As we celebrate past achievements, confess brokenness, and consider the shape, scope and substance of our blessed Conference ministries for the future, we will be doing so as a gathered body in worship. At the heart of our worship we will hear reflections by Rev. Blackmon; and personal stories from the Rev. Eric



Jackson, President, Manchester NAACP; Kristin Forselius, Director of Education and Faith Formation at the Community Church of Durham; and a representative of the Immigrant and Refugee Support Group of the New Hampshire Conference .

OFFERING: An offering will be received during morning worship for the support of many ministries of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. We encourage churches to send a special offering with your delegates.

CHILD CARE: If you require child care in order to fully participate in this event, we ask that you make your own arrangements. The NH Conference is prepared to provide financial assistance. Please contact Ann Desrochers at 603.715.9526 or adesrochers@nhcucc.org for additional information.

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 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 www.nhcucc.org for up-to-date Annual Meeting Resource Materials and a link to the registration website – which officially opens on **Monday, August 26th**.

For registrations processed **on or before Wednesday, October 9th at 11:59 pm**, when online registration officially closes, the Youth Delegate Rate will be \$50/person; Retired Clergy and Retired Clergy Spouse/Partners will be \$65/person; and Delegates & Visitors will be \$85.00/person. Major credit cards and personal checks will be accepted for online registration. Registrations processed after the close of online registration will be taken on the day of the event, at the "walk-in" rates of \$50.00 per youth delegate, and \$110 for all others. For walk-in registrations, cash or check will be accepted (sorry, no credit cards). 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 / August 26-October 9).

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 \$139.00 per night plus taxes, and must be reserved on or before September 27, 2019 to receive the discounted rate. To reserve a room at the hotel please contact the Courtyard by the Marriott at (603) 225-0303, and mention that you are with the United Church of Christ to receive this special rate.

ACCESSIBILITY: The Grappone Conference Center is an accessible facility with parking near the main entrance. Denise Gracia, CART Captioner, 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 regarding the Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing you on October 19th!

May God's Peace be with you.

Your 2019 Annual Meeting Planning Committee:

Laura Sevigny (Chair)

Neal Cass

Rev. Gail Doktor

Rev. Eric Jackson

Rev. Carolyn Keilig

Rev. Deborah Knowlton

Rev. Dr. Robert Marrone

Marcie Miller

Rev. Gordon Rankin

Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen

Rev. Dr. Lynn Wickberg

Staff to the Annual Meeting Planning Committee:

Cindy Bradley

Ann Desrochers