218th Annual Meeting
New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ
October 19, 2019

Be strong, bold, and courageous as you lead...for God goes with you
THE LITURGY FOR ANNUAL MEETING WORSHIP

GATHERING IN

Gathering Music Lynne Wilby and Daemian Allen

Call to Worship Rev. Dr. Robert Marrone

Gathering Song “I Am One Voice” See Page 7
(Please join in for verses with one hundred and ten thousand voices singing.)

Storyteller Kristin Forselius

Prayer of Response Rev. Gail Doktor

Annual Meeting Business Segment

CELEBRATION OF ALL THE SAINTS – THE CHURCH VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

Celebrating the Church Triumphant Rev. Gail Doktor

The Rev. Mark I. Hamilton February 11, 1948 to November 26, 2018
The Rev. Dr. Richard T. Stuart February 2, 1943 to November 30, 2018
The Rev. Dr. Lois N. Sundeen May 4, 1927 to May 7, 2019
The Rev. David W. Cutting March 2, 1935 to September 2, 2019
The Rev. Dr. Fred Berthold, Jr. December 9, 1922 to September 18, 2019

Commissioning of the Saints Rev. Gordon Rankin

Conference Officers Christian Formation Ministry
Conference Board of Directors Clergy Support Ministry
Nominating Committee Finance Ministry
General Synod Delegates Local Church Support Ministry

Justice & Witness Ministry
Wider Church Relations Ministry

Celebration of Milestones Rev. Richard Slater

Clergy with New Calls in the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ
Significant Ministerial Anniversaries

Laying On of Hands Rev. Gail Doktor

Hymn “Forward Through the Ages” See Page 8
Break

Gathering Song “I Am One Voice” See Page 7
(Please join in for verses with one hundred and ten thousand voices singing.)

Annual Meeting Business Segment

PROCLAMATIONS AND RESPONSES

Scripture Deuteronomy 31:6-7 Rev. Dr. Robert Marrone

Prophetic Witness Rev. Traci Blackmon

Skit on Courage (based on Psalm 23) by Rev. Deborah Knowlton
with Don Tirabassi and Rev. Maren Tirabassi

OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE

There are a few envelopes on the table for your monetary offering, which will go to the support of the many ministries of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. Your support makes events like Annual Meeting and delegate participation in General Synod possible. Checks should be made payable to NHCUCC. We also ask that you provide a “spirit offering” by writing what you would like to commit to give of yourself to the work of God over the next year on the paper provided in the center of the table.

Call to Offering: Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen
As surely as God was faithful and present with the heroes of our Biblical past, the great I AM is with us today: endowing us with courage and every other gift we’ll need to accomplish the task set before us, inviting us to boldness, waiting for our response. Therefore, let us give fearlessly and watch with wonder what God will accomplish with our best acts of faith.

Song “Answering Your Call” See Page 10

Annual Meeting Lunch Break and Connecting Sessions

Speakouts

Gathering Song “I Am One Voice” See Page 7
(Please join in for verses with one hundred and ten thousand voices singing.)
DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND TESTIMONY

Unison Offertory Prayer  Rev. Deborah Knowlton
God of Moses and Esther, you are the One who keeps spreading banquets for your people in the presence of our enemies. Even in our bleakest moments, you fill our cups to overflowing with what we truly need; your goodness and mercy are endlessly lapping at our heels. May the gifts we present before you now, and the heart-felt commitments of our time and efforts in the unfolding weeks and months, be demonstrations of our resolve to be vessels of your courageous power, your relentless love, and your redeeming grace. Bless them and us, to be instruments of your purpose. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Storyteller  Representative of the Immigrant and Refugee Support Group

Prayer of Response  Rev. Tara Olsen Allen

Annual Meeting Business Segment

Break

Gathering Song  “I Am One Voice”  See Page 7
(Please join in for verses with one hundred, ten thousand, and We are ONE voice singing.)

OPEN HEARTS AND OPEN MINDS

Storyteller  Rev. Eric Jackson

Prayer of Response  Rev. Tara Olsen Allen

Reflections on the Day  Rev. Gordon Rankin
Rev. Richard Slater

Unison Prayer of Confession  Rev. Richard Slater

Assurance of Pardon and Grace  Rev. Richard Slater
Part of the call to be courageous is to confess our complicity, sin, and brokenness. This we have done. Hear then, family in Christ, we are assured — that the Love speaking into the world, the Word walking among us, and the Spirit moving through us — overflows with God’s grace. Children of God, we are forgiven, we are called beloved.
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
Rev. Gordon Rankin and Rev. Traci Blackmon

Sharing of the Elements
Grape juice and Communion Wafers will be served by Intinction. Please proceed to the nearest server. If you prefer to remain seated at your table, a server will come to you. The wafers are gluten, wheat, yeast, dairy, egg, soy, nut and corn free.

Communion Hymns
“Take My Gifts and Let Me Love You”
“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving
We have been welcomed to your table of grace, O Christ. At this table, we have come to recognize our complicity in the brokenness of your Body and the brokenness of the world. Yet you gathered us and fed us anyway. Thank you. At this table, we have encountered community. We shared a meal with many people, each with their own unique story, yet those stories are interwoven in the tapestry of faithfulness. Thank you. From this table, you now send us forth to be a people who put our feet in the places where Divine love is needed the most and who offer with bold voices proclamations of justice and righteousness. Thank you. Thank you for reminding us how deeply you believe in us and our ability to be the people you call us to be. Amen.

Adjournment
Rev. Carolyn Keilig

Closing Prayer/Benediction
Rev. Gordon Rankin

Postlude
I Am One Voice

Don Eaton
© Don Eaton

We are two voices, we are singing
we are two voices, we are singing
we are not alone

We are ten voices, we are singing
we are ten voices, we are singing
we are not alone

We are a hundred voices singing
we are a hundred voices singing
we are not alone

We are ten thousand voices singing
we are ten thousand voices singing
we are not alone

We are ONE voice and we are singing
we are ONE voice and we are singing
we are not alone

Written and copyrighted by Don Eaton. All rights reserved. License fee paid. Use by any other group without permission from the composer is a violation of copyright laws. Email Don Eaton at Eatonsong@aol.com for permission to use.
1. Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
moving the faithful spirits at the call divine
for it we must labor, till all strivings cease.
in our steps and speaking, following God’s call.

2. Wide grows God’s communion reign of love and peace;
gifts in differing measure hearts of one accord,
Prophets have proclaimed it, teachers testified.
Bound by God’s far purpose, in one living whole.

3. Not alone we journey not alone we fall;
manifold the service one the sure reward
poets sung its glory martyrs for it died.
move we on together to the shining goal.
Refrain

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,

move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

Text: by Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908; public domain.
Tune: ST. GERTRUDE by Arthur S. Sullivan, 1871, key Eb, public domain.
Score: www.hymnary.org
Adapted July 16, 2019 – NHCUCC Worship Planning Committee for 2019 Annual Meeting
Answering Your Call

1. We are stepping up with courage, We are stepping up with
   courage, We are stepping up with courage, Answering Your call.

2. We are giving with new boldness, We are giving with new
   boldness, We are giving with new boldness, Answering Your call.

3. We are speaking out with Spirit, We are speaking out with
   Spirit, We are speaking out with Spirit, Answering Your call.

Tune: JACOB’S LADDER, African American spiritual, public domain.
Score: www.hymnary.org
Take My Gifts And Let Me Love You

Words and Music by Shirley Erena Murray and Colin Gibson

F C/E Dm
1. Take my gifts and let me love You, God who first of
2. Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree Your
3. Take whatever I can offer, gifts that I have

Am/C C7sus Bb F/A C/E Gm
all loved me, gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and
Spirit sowed, harvest of Your own compassion, juice that makes the
yet to find, skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the

Bmaj7 C F C/E
set me free; Now because Your love has touched me,
wine of God; Spiced with humor, laced with laughter,
hand and mind; Things made beautiful for others

Dm Am/C C7sus Bb Am7 Dm/G Gm
I have love to give away, now the bread of
favor of the Jesus life, tang of risk and
in the place where I must be. Take my gifts and

Bb Am7 Dm/G Gm Gm/Bb Am Gm7 C2 F
love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!
new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief
let me love You, God who first of all loved me.
Let Us Break Bread Together

Text: African American spiritual, public domain.
Tune: African American spiritual, public domain.
Score: www.hymnary.org
PARTICIPANTS

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.

The Rev. Gordon M. Rankin
Conference Minister, New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ

The Rev. Richard N. Slater
Associate Conference Minister, New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ

Ms. Kristin Forselius
Director of Faith Formation, Community Church of Durham, United Church of Christ

The Immigrant and Refugee Support Group (IRSG), New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ

The Rev. Eric Jackson
President, Manchester NAACP and an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ

Ms. Lynne Wilby and Mr. Daemian Allen
Musicians, Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Brentwood-Kingston

Rev. Dr. Ruth Shaver
Song Leader, Interim Pastor, First Church of Christ, Congregational, United Church of Christ, North Conway

The Annual Meeting Worship Planning Committee
Rev. Gail Doktor, Rev. Eric Jackson, Rev. Deborah Knowlton, Rev. Dr. Robert Marrone, Rev. Gordon Rankin, Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Ms. Laura Sevigny, and Rev. Dr. Lynn Wickberg (Chair)

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee
Ms. Laura Sevigny (Chairperson), Mr. Neal Cass, Rev. Gail Doktor, Rev. Eric Jackson, Rev. Carolyn Keilig, Rev. Deborah Knowlton, Rev. Dr. Robert Marrone, Ms. Marcie Miller, Rev. Gordon Rankin, Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, and Rev. Dr. Lynn Wickberg

Credits
Special thanks to Mr. James Allan for overseeing the sound technology for this gathering, to Mr. Timothy Griffin for sharing his expertise in technology and projection, to Ms. Joan Prue for serving as our parliamentarian, to Ms. Kit Devries for serving as the Speakout coordinator, to Mr. Victor Rubdi for serving as our photographer, and to Ms. Denise Gracia for providing CART services to make our meeting more accessible to all.
Our Mission is to worship, work, and pray with the congregations of our Conference and with mission partners in our denomination and throughout the world, so that together we practice the love of Jesus Christ.

Our Vision is a world that seeks compassion, justice, and peace for all people, a faith that celebrates the Holy Spirit as the source of joy, growth and healing, and a church that offers to all a dwelling place with God and for God.

www.nhcucc.org