“...For the Healing of the Nations”

On either side of the river, is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. – Revelation 22

DATE: Saturday, October 20, 2012
TIME: 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. (registration begins at 8 A.M.)
LOCATION: Grappone Conference Center – Concord, NH

Dear Members of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ:

The Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference will be held on Saturday, October 20, 2012, at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH. Registration begins at 8 A.M. and the meeting at 9 A.M.

The theme of the Annual Meeting will be “For the Healing of the Nations.” This theme, building upon ideas and images expressed in Revelation 22, will be expressed in a variety of ways throughout the gathering. Once again, brief video vignettes will highlight the church’s commitment to the ‘Healing of the Nations.’ Our keynote speaker, the Rev. Shari Prestemon, is the Executive Director of the Back Bay Mission – a community ministry of the United Church of Christ, long known and highly respected for the gifts of ‘healing’ it offers to the ‘nations’, to the people of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and beyond.

As always, meaningful worship will lie at the heart of our gathering. The Opening Worship will frame the theme of the meeting in word and song, feature an anthem by the all-Conference choir, and be accompanied by Ms. Kim Vars Whitehead, Organist and Director of Music at Brookside Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Manchester. The afternoon Worship Service will feature a sermon by our Conference Minister, the Rev. Gary Schulte, and include a celebration of the Sacrament of Communion. Music for the worship service will be provided by the Rev. Robert Maccini and his sacred jazz band, The Prodigals.

We strongly encourage each church to include a Youth Delegate (under 25) as a member of your delegation. The Annual Meeting is an effective way to help our young people learn about the wider church, meet church leaders, and return with ideas about ways they too can become agents of healing for the nations. Please make sure that your congregation chooses a youth delegate, and let's do our best to have an abundance of future church leaders present at the Grappone Center on October 20!
Enclosed you will find the Annual Meeting Registration form along with directions to the Grappone Conference Center. Please fill out the form completely and ask your pastor, church clerk, or organizational leader to certify your registration. 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. (Bylaws, New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ)

Please send your registration form and check made payable to NH Conference, UCC by the deadline - Friday, October 5, 2012.

If you are in need of overnight accommodations, The Courtyard by Marriott Grappone Conference Center has rooms available at a discounted rate of $129 per night for attendees of the 2012 Annual Meeting. Rooms are limited and reservations must be made by calling (603) 225-0303 no later than September 28. Off-site housing in private homes of church members in the local area to the Grappone Conference Center is available on a limited basis. If you wish to have off-site housing for Friday and/or Saturday night, please indicate your preference in the section designated on your registration form.

Please feel free to contact the Conference Office with any questions or concerns regarding the Annual Meeting. We look forward to being with you in October!

God’s Peace in Christ be with you,

THE 2011 ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE