

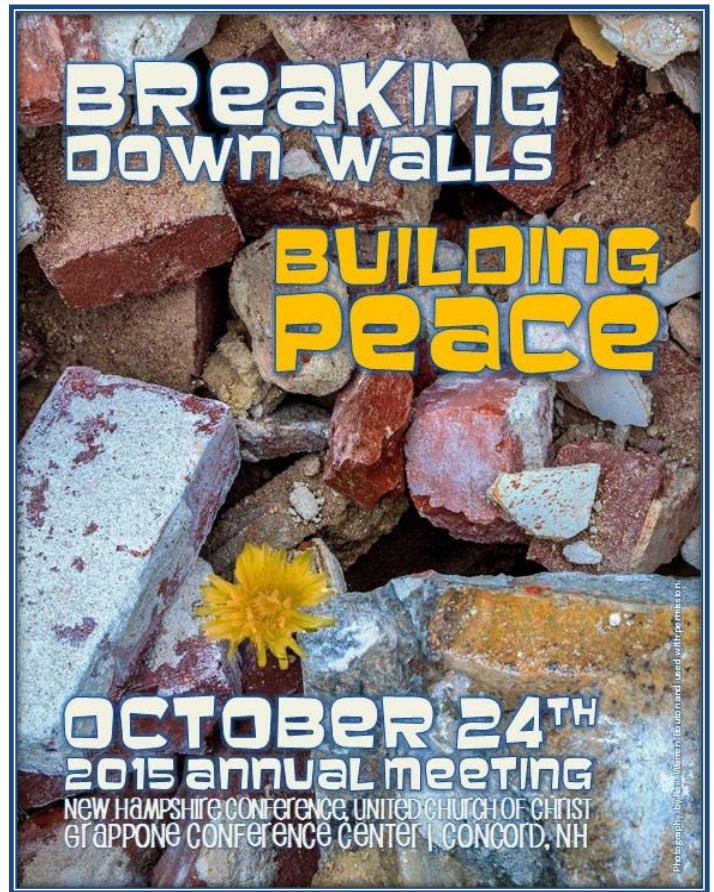
OFFICIAL CALL TO THE
2015 ANNUAL MEETING
New Hampshire Conference, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“BREAKING DOWN WALLS,
BUILDING PEACE”

EPHESIANS 2:14

Dear New Hampshire Conference Members:

You are officially invited to participate in the 214th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference, **United Church of Christ**, to be held on **Saturday, October 24, 2015** at the Grappone Conference Center, 70 Constitution Avenue, Concord, NH. **Registration will begin at 8:00am; the Annual Meeting will begin promptly at 9:00am.**



Photograph used by permission of owner, Rev. Warren Bouton.

THEME: The theme of our meeting this year is rooted in the peace-making work of Christ, described by the Apostle Paul as a ministry of breaking down walls and establishing peace between those who were formerly divided. The events of 2015 are compelling our nation to confront the racism that continues to divide humankind one from another. Often invisible to our eyes, racism has been discovered again and again lying just beneath the surface of countless social and institutional interactions experienced each day. The names of our cities – Ferguson, Baltimore, Cleveland, Staten Island, and Cincinnati – now represent in our minds frightening and deadly interactions that mirror the power of race to divide. Racism is a dividing wall we had imagined was broken down in the tremendous advances of the Civil Rights movement.

The keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting will be the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, the newly elected General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Rev. Dorhauer's Keynote Address will focus on '*White Privilege*' – a topic he explored in his doctoral dissertation. John describes his approach to the subject as one of Spiritual Autobiography – helping us to get inside the topic through the telling of stories taken from personal experience. Following his keynote address, delegates will continue to explore the topic in guided conversation, facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Leung, the United Church of Christ's Minister for Racial Justice. A noon-time discussion by Rev. Leung will offer guidance as to how we might take the conversation back to our congregations.

WORSHIP: Meaningful worship lies at the heart of our gathering. The Service of Word and Sacrament will begin at 9:15 AM and feature the keynote address by the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer. The Prodigals, a musical group led by the Rev. Bob Maccini and based in our church in Henniker, will provide spirited music to the service.

OFFERING: An offering will be received during morning worship for the support of the covenant we share in the United Church of Christ. We encourage churches to send your delegates with a special offering for Our Churches Wider Mission - Basic Support.

CHILD CARE: Offered by the Conference for a modest daily fee of \$20.00/child (between the ages of 1yr and 9yr), professional caregivers will be available, on-site for the children of delegates and visitors. Please indicate your need for childcare when you register, and additional information will be made available.

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 25th**.

For registrations processed **on or before Tuesday, October 11th at midnight**, when online registration officially closes, the Youth Delegate Rate will be \$60/person and the Delegates & Visitors rate will be \$75.00/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 \$75.00 per youth delegate, and \$100 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 25-October 11).

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 \$124.00 per night plus taxes, and must be reserved on or before October 3rd 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. CART Services of NH will be participating in this year's meeting, for the benefit of our hearing impaired delegates.

Please feel free to contact the Conference Office (603-225-6647 or nhcucc@nhcucc.org) with any questions regarding the Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing you on October 24th!

May God's Peace be with you,

Your 2015 Annual Meeting Planning Committee:

**Laura Sevigny (Chair), Rev. Eric Jackson, Rev. Gayle Whittemore, Neal Cass,
John Herbert, Rev. Martell Spagnolo, Jesse Evans, Cindy Bradley, Rev. Gary Schulte,
Rev. Richard Slater**