Dear New Hampshire Conference Members:

You are officially called to participate in the

215th Annual Meeting of
The New Hampshire Conference
United Church of Christ
Saturday, October 22, 2016

Grappone Conference Center
70 Constitution Avenue
Concord, New Hampshire

A Hot Breakfast Buffet will be served, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.
Registration opens at 8:00 a.m.
The Annual Meeting will begin promptly at 9:00am.

THEME:  The 215th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ will provide a wonderful opportunity for opening our hearts and minds to the music that flows from our faith and changes the world.

Our keynote musician will be the Rev. Bryan Sirchio, a United Church of Christ minister from Madison, Wisconsin. Bryan is a contemporary Christian singer/songwriter, who creates original music in a variety of styles and sings from the heart. He will encourage us to sing. There will indeed be “Music in the Air” at this Annual Meeting. You learn more about Bryan and his latest book, The 6 Marks of Progressive Christian Worship, at http://sirchio.com/.

WORSHIP: Inspirational worship will be central to our gathering as Christ’s church. A Service of Word and Sacrament will begin at 9:15 a.m. Rev. Bryan Sirchio will present his musical keynote during this 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 a special offering for Our Churches Wider Mission Basic Support with your delegates.

LUNCHETIME FOCUS GROUPS: Six focus groups being planned for the lunch period. These sessions will be facilitated by the Rev. Bryan Sirchio, the Outdoor Mission Group, the Racial Justice Mission Group, the Syrian Refugee Mission Group, the Rev. Paul Nickerson, and the Rev. Gary Schulte. You will be invited to sign up for the group of your choice as you register.
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: Each local church is expected to include a youth delegate (under 25 at the date of election) in its delegation. Youth Delegates may register at a reduced rate (see below). The New Hampshire Conference encourages youth to be the Church today and in the future.

DELEGATES: The New Hampshire 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 always welcome at meetings of the New Hampshire Conference and are invited to experience the totality of the meeting, including the worship, plenary sessions, focus groups, exhibits, and fellowship with others who share in this expression of the Church.

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 22nd.

For online registrations completed on or before Tuesday, October 10th, the Youth Delegate Rate will be $50/person and the Adult Delegate & Visitor rate will be $85.00/person. Major credit cards and personal checks will be accepted for online registration. After October 10th when the online registration closes, registrations will be received at the Annual Meeting. The rate will increase to $75 per youth delegate and to $100 for all others. Cash, personal checks, and major credit cards will be accepted. If you do not have access to the internet or have questions about registering, please contact Cindy Bradley at the Conference Center at 603.715.9521.

ACCOMMODATIONS: A discounted block of rooms has been reserved at the Courtyard by the Marriott, a hotel connected 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 October 1st 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 a fully 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 with any questions regarding the Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing you on October 22nd as we listen for “Music in the Air.”

Your 2016 Annual Meeting Planning Committee:
Laura Sevigny (Chair), Neal Cass, John Herbert, Rev. Gayle Whittemore, Rev. Robert Marrone, Rev. Maren Tirabassi, Rev. Eric Jackson, Rev. Martell Spagnolo