



Official Call to the 2023 Annual Meeting New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ

Dear Members of the New Hampshire Conference Family,

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee invites you to come together, as the Gathered Conference, for the 222nd Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ.

What: 2023 Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ

When: Saturday, October 21, 2023

Where: Hybrid Meeting to be held at the Grappone Conference Center 70 Constitution Avenue, Concord, NH 03301 and via Zoom Webinar, YouTube Livestream access information to be provided upon registration

THEME

The theme for the 222nd Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference is "Turning the Tables". We will spend our day reflecting on the lessons the Spirit will draw forth from Matthew 21: 12-16

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Our keynote speaker will be Bekah Maren Anderson. Bekah (she/her) is a queer disabled writer, theologian, and activist. She has been writing and speaking about disability Ministry and Theology since 2016, earned her master of divinity from Union Theological Seminary in 2021, and currently serves as co-chair for the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries Board of Directors. When not trapped in her inescapable desk, she can usually be found playing Dungeons and Dragons.

CONNECTING SESSIONS

Throughout the month of October there will be

opportunities to participate in educational sessions to prepare for the business meeting on October 21st and to reflect on the current and future work of the Conference.

- **October 10 (7pm): Review of the 2024 Mission Income and Spending Plan**
- **October 12 (7 pm): Envisioning the Future of Associations with our Association Capacity Task Force**
- **October 17 (7 pm): Reflections on General Synod 34 with your NHCUCC Synod Delegates**
- **October 24 (7 pm): Conversation with Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker Bekah Anderson**
- **October 22 (4 pm) & October 26 (7 pm): Conversations with the Conference Ministers**

BUSINESS

The Gathered Conference will convene to:

- Approve the Mission Income Spending Plan for 2024
- Elect Conference Officers and Members of the Board of Directors
- Install Ms. Tivvi Pare as the Executive Director of Horton Center.
- Much more.

WORSHIP

We will ground ourselves in the presence of the Holy Spirit through communal worship on multiple occasions during our day together. Our morning will begin with the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We will conclude our time together with inspirational reflections offer by our Conference Ministers: the Reverends Sara Marean and Gordon Rankin.

OFFERING

An offering will be received during our afternoon worship for the support of the Fannie Lou Hamer Scholarship Fund for Disabled Theologians of Color. By supporting these theologians, this scholarship will enrich the church through increased awareness of the intersections of race and disability in theology. We encourage churches to send a special offering with your delegates. Churches and individuals may also elect to make a [donation online](#) or send a special offering to NHCUCC, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH 03275.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

This year's hybrid Annual Meeting will utilize numerous forms of technology. Every effort is being made to allow delegates to select options for interactive participation via a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone. Many segments of the meeting will also be shared on YouTube to allow for visitor viewing without interactive participation. We will be providing educational resources, helpful tips, and technology stewards to assist you in this experience. Remote connection information will be emailed to all those registered for the meeting.

YOUTH DELEGATES

We strongly encourage each church to include a Youth Delegate (under 25) as a member of your delegation. 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 <https://www.nhcucc.info/annualmeeting> for up-to-date Annual Meeting Resource Materials and a link to the registration website – which officially opens September 5.

This year **all** registrations will be processed online **on or before Thursday, October 5 at 5 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 \$95.00/person. [Please note that the registration cost is the same regardless of attending in-person or virtually. While there are additional venue and meal expenses for in person attendees, there are also significant tech infrastructure and support expenses for those attending virtually.] Major credit cards and personal checks will be accepted for online registration. **Given our hybrid event format, we are unable to accommodate "walk-in" registrations.** 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 / September 5 – October 5).

Please feel free to contact the Conference Office with any questions regarding the Annual Meeting. We look forward to gathering with you on October 21st!

May God's Peace be with you.

Your 2023 Annual Meeting Planning Committee:

Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight (Chair)

Rev. Gail Doktor

Mr. Bruce Kinney

Rev. Gordon Rankin

Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen

Rev. Dr. Lynn Wickberg

Staff to the Annual Meeting Planning Committee:

Ms. Cindy Bradley

Mr. Thaddeus Sieverding