

September 10, 2004

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

**TO: LAY DELEGATES from LOCAL CHURCHES
YOUTH DELEGATES from LOCAL CHURCHES
ALL AUTHORIZED MINISTERS OF THE CONFERENCE
ALL OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE
MODERATORS OF ASSOCIATIONS
FORMER MODERATORS OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES NAMED IN THE BYLAWS
MEMBERS OF THE MINISTRY TEAMS**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

This comes to you as the Call to the One Hundred Thirty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ (Connecticut Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches) to be held at

**Suffield High School
1060 Sheldon Street
Suffield, CT
October 15 – 16, 2004**

The meeting is hosted by the churches and ministers of the Hartford Association. This is the third mailing/emailing on the Annual Meeting.

Remember that all sessions are open to registered visitors as well as delegates, so be sure to tell others about the events of the weekend!

Registration will begin at 3:30 p.m. at Suffield High School. Registration will also be available at the site of the workshops and forum. Hearings on the Resolutions will be at Suffield High School at 3:30. The Call to Order and Opening Prayer (first plenary) will be at 4:30 P.M. followed by dinner at the High School. The Conference Minister's Address will be at 7:00 followed by our major worship service. *(See the "What's Happening..." guide for the schedule sent in the second mailing.)*

A change for this year: Ordained ministers celebrating their 25th anniversaries of ordination will be honored at the Friday Noon lunch at First Church of Christ in Suffield. The 50th year celebrants will be our guests for the Friday night dinner and honored during the first plenary session. *(Their names were listed in the second mailing.)*

A Worship Committee led by our Conference Preachers and Chaplains, the Revs. Joshua and Bette Anne Crowell, retired Pastors of the Essex Church, have planned our worship experiences. We hope members from congregations of area churches will attend the major celebrative worship service on Friday night. On Saturday afternoon there will be a closing Taizé Worship with Communion. Offerings will be

received at each service, one for Conferences with challenging geographies and membership, and one for Our Church's Wider Mission.

Our keynoter on Saturday morning will be the Rev. Dr. Park Jong-Wha, Senior Minister of the Kyung-Dong Church of Seoul, Korea. Rev. Park serves on the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches and is the former General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea.

On Saturday during the lunchtime, there will be optional opportunities for people from the following associations to participate in listening sessions to help define the needs and unique identities of the new regions as the Search Committee for the three new Regional Ministers begins its work:

Eastern Region: New London, Tolland and Windham Associations

Northwest/Valley Region: Naugatuck Valley, Litchfield North and Litchfield Associations

North Central Region: Farmington Valley, Hartford and Hartford East Associations

Those from other associations and those who choose not to go to listening sessions will be eating their lunch in classrooms as informal gatherings with no agenda. If the weather is good, there are picnic tables available outside of the school also.

In addition to hearing and acting on Social Resolutions and reports from the Board of Directors the following business will be discussed and acted upon:

I. Actions Recommended by the Board of Directors of the Conference

A. Consent Agenda

Our Board of Directors uses a method in their meetings called the "Consent Agenda." Attached to this Call are the items on the Consent Agenda with an explanation about a Consent Agenda.

B. Proposed Bylaw Revisions – see the enclosed bylaws with the markings as to the revisions

C. Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

OCWM Goal for 2005

Suggested Action: The Board of Directors recommends to the Conference the adoption of a Basic Mission Support Goal of \$2,406,519 for 2005.

D. Distribution of Monies

Suggested Action:

The Board of Directors recommends that the Conference take the following action:

The Conference adopts the following distribution of monies received for the Connecticut Conference and the ministries of the United Church of Christ during 2005:

1. Basic Mission Support monies to be divided on the basis of **37%** for the Conference and **63%** to the United Church of Christ nationally for distribution among the ministries according to the payment schedule adopted by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ;
2. Investment income to be used entirely for Conference work unless otherwise stipulated by the donor;
3. Special Support, capital and emergency appeal monies to be designated entirely to the purposes for which they were authorized.

E. Per Capita Contributions

Suggested Action: The Board of Directors recommends that the Conference take the following action:

The Conference, upon recommendation of the Board of Directors, establishes the per capita contribution request for 2005 at **\$4.00** per member to be used entirely for Conference work.

F. The budgets will be adopted for 2005. The budgets will be presented and acted on Saturday.

1. Proposed 2005 Budget for the Missionary Society of Connecticut

Suggested Action: The Board of Directors recommends that the Conference take the following action: The 2005 Proposed Budget of **\$5,174,074** for the Missionary Society of CT is adopted, and the Conference grants to the Society the privilege of revising the budget during the year as funds are available and needs arise.

2. Proposed 2005 Budget for the Trustees of the Fund for Ministers

Suggested Action: The Board of Directors recommends that the Conference take the following action: The 2005 Proposed budget of **\$509,573** for the Trustees of the Fund for Ministers is adopted, and the Conference grants to the Trustees the privilege of revising the budget during the year as funds are available and needs arise.

II. Officers and the Nominating Committee will be elected on Saturday afternoon followed by commissioning.

III. Such other actions that may come before the meeting.

When we assemble at Suffield High School in Suffield, we will be the Body of Christ worshipping, praying, deliberating, and making a witness to Jesus Christ. Come prayerfully, thoughtfully, and enthusiastically to seek God's wisdom for our common mission as the United Church of Christ in Connecticut.

Sincerely in Christ,



**The Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree
Conference Minister**

Enclosures:

- Consent Agenda (attached to this letter)**
- Proposed Bylaw Revisions**
- Proposed 2005 Budget for the Missionary Society of CT**
- Proposed 2005 Budget for the Trustees of the Fund for Ministers**

Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ

October 15-16, 2004

Explanation of a "Consent Agenda"

Purpose: To make more efficient and effective the way information is presented and votes are taken during the meeting; to free the agenda for more substantive considerations.

Mechanics: all agenda items that are conducive to being understood and decided without discussion (because they are self-explanatory or repetitive from meeting to meeting) are voted as a cluster. Instead of multiple individual votes, a single vote is taken, and the individual suggested actions are recorded in the minutes at the point in the agenda where the item appears. Any voting member has the opportunity to remove any item from the consent agenda and place that item on the regular agenda. No reason for the removal from the consent agenda has to be given.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Committees of the Annual Meeting

Suggested Action:

The Conference establishes the following Committees for the 2004 Annual Meeting:

- a. The Executive Committee of the Conference shall act as the Business Committee at the Annual Meeting.
- b. The Program Committee for the Annual Meeting will act as the Committee on Amenities and present resolutions in appreciation for action by the Conference.

B. Rules of Procedure

Suggested Action:

The Conference adopts the Rules of Procedure for the Annual Meeting as presented.

C. Adoption of Annual Meeting Agenda

Suggested Action:

The Conference adopts the Agenda as printed and distributed to the delegates in their packets.

D. Minutes of the 136th Annual Meeting

Suggested Action:

The Minutes of the 2003 Annual Meeting as printed in the Annual Report, volume 2, pages _____ are approved.

E. Receipt of the Treasurer's Report

Suggested Action:

The Report of the Treasurer, as printed on Pages ___ of the Annual Report, Volume 2, is received.

F. Formula for allocation of delegates to General Synod

Suggested Action:

The Board of Directors recommends the Conference take the following action: The Conference, in addition to General Synod Delegates and alternates fulfilling unexpired terms, elects for a period of four years, beginning in 2005, those persons nominated prior to the Annual Meeting of the Conference by Associations according to the following pattern:

Association	Class of 2007
Central	1 ordained (Rev. David Christensen)
Fairfield East	1 ordained; 1 lay (1 under the age of 30)
Fairfield West	1 lay, 1 ordained (1 under the age of 30) (Rev. M. Ashley Grant)
Farmington Valley	1 lay (Mary Fuller)
Hartford	1 ordained, 1 lay (Rev. Tamara Moreland Winters and Kevin Ewing)
Hartford East	1 ordained (Rev. Robert Faulhaber, Jr.)
Litchfield North	1 lay (under the age of 30) (Sarah Keck)
Litchfield South	1 ordained (Rev. Bonnie Bardot)
Middlesex	1 lay person
Naugatuck Valley	1 ordained (Rev. Stanley Youngberg)
New Haven	1 ordained; 1 lay (1 under the age of 30)
New Haven East Conso.	1 lay
New London	1 ordained (Rev. Linda Barnes)
Tolland	1 lay under the age of 30 (Chrissy Davies)
Windham	1 ordained (Rev. Alice O'Donovan)

In addition to those nominated by Associations, the Nominating Committee of the Conference will nominate delegates-at-large to fill out our delegation as authorized by General Synod.

Further, the Conference authorizes the Board of Directors to elect delegates and alternates to the General Synod to fill any vacancies existing at the close of the Annual Meeting of the Conference or any vacancies that may occur subsequent to the Annual Meeting of the Conference before or during the meeting of the General Synod.

G. Acceptance of Annual Reports

Suggested Action: The Annual Reports in Contact Volume 1, and in Volume II, pages _____ are received as printed.