



let it shine

The UCC at 50 Years

**“No matter who you are or where you are
on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”**

For the past two years, we have used these words to let the world know that the United Church of Christ extends an extravagant welcome to all who are searching for the liberating and transforming power found in Jesus Christ.

Our national “God Is Still Speaking” campaign has evoked discussions, brought tears of joy to many on the margins, and provoked others into expressing concerns about how and to whom we bring the Good News.

Next week, the 139th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference will celebrate our ministry and mission together through the theme “Let It Shine...Around the World.” On All Saints Sunday, November 5th, we will begin the 50th Anniversary year of our United Church of Christ. The centerpiece of this celebration will be General Synod 26, to be hosted by the Connecticut Conference in Hartford in June 2007.

In anticipation of this celebration we have prepared 36 bulletin inserts to help us reflect, remember and renew our life together as people of faith. We offer these in that hope that you will discover anew that both our desire to emulate Jesus’ extravagant welcome and our affirmation that God indeed is “still speaking” are not new to us, but are deeply rooted in the history of our United Church of Christ and its four predecessor denominations.

That common history continues to inform our discernment and action to this day. We bear witness to it in many ways, such as empowering the leadership of women, removing the obstacles to full participation in the life of the church by people with disabilities, our support for public education, our commitment to being a multi-racial, multi-cultural church, the growing number of Open and Affirming congregations in our Conference, and our deepest respect for the freedom of religious expression. As their pastor, John Robinson, said to our Pilgrim forebears as they set off to the New World nearly four hundred years ago,

Series Introduction

“God hath yet more light and truth to break forth from God’s holy Word.” As the United Church of Christ, we seek to live faithfully in the light of that holy Word.

Clergy and lay members of our Church are writing these inserts, which will be distributed across the land as the Conference’s gift to the Wider Church. They are organized in five major categories:

- Our Heritage and History
- Our Theological Roots
- Our Mission and Ministry Legacy
- Our UCC Polity – How our Church Works
- What is unique about the United Church of Christ

The inserts will not be presented in sequence by category, but with attention to the liturgical seasons of the church year. Each insert will include several discussion questions and we hope that many congregations will provide opportunities for people to respond and reflect on what is being shared. You also will find this information on our website (www.ctucc.org) in a special section devoted to this project.

We hope they will provide a fresh new resource for many groups such as new member classes, confirmation classes, adult discussion forums and Sunday School groups. For further information or to ask questions, please contact Jim Morgan, the general editor for this series, at jimm@ctucc.org.

Reflections:

- How did you know that you were welcome here?
- What “more light and truth” have you understood to break forth from God’s holy Word?
- In what ways might God be still speaking?

The Connecticut Conference
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105
www.ctucc.org 866.367.2822

