

September 30, 2019

We're almost there! The Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island Conferences of the United Church of Christ will be gathering November 1-2, 2019 at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA for their third joint Annual Meeting – the last time they will gather as separate entities before joining together as a new Conference.

The keynote speaker for this historic gathering will be Valerie Kaur, founder of the *Revolutionary Love Project*. Kaur is a Sikh racial justice activist, civil rights lawyer, award-winning filmmaker, educator and author of *Revolutionary Love*.

In June of 2018 the three Conferences voted to create a new Conference in Southern New England. This past June the General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted overwhelmingly to approve the dissolution of the three individual Conferences and the joining together in the formation of a new Conference. As the Rev. Jocelyn Gardner Spencer, moderator of the newly forming Conference, stated: "I believe that the Holy Spirit is doing a new thing in our midst-provoking us into new forms of church for such a time as this." The theme for the gathering is "Cloud of Witnesses: UNBOUND" based on John 11:32-44.

The meeting will begin Friday, November 1st in the afternoon with small group conversations and new delegate orientation. After dinner on your own the delegates and visitors will gather for opening worship and plenary sessions. There will be a reception following the meeting for all who wish to stay for a time of fellowship. Saturday will begin with Worship/communion, the keynote speaker, lunch and the soon to be Southern New England Conference plenary session. At that time the SNEC board will update the Historic Conferences on the vision for January 1, 2020, transitional leadership and other information, as well as plans for 2021 that have been decided. Actions that need to be taken for the SNEC will happen at this time. The day will conclude with worship as one Conference.

A joint planning team has already begun meeting and setting up the agenda for our time in community. This will be a meeting you will not want to miss. Please plan on being present for a time of worship, community building and dialogue. We need one another!

Registration is now open at ctucc.org/2019AM. Also available online is more information about our Keynote speaker, hotel options and directions. Other information and documents will be posted on the website as they are available. Please note the cut off for the reduced rate for the hotel registration is coming soon.

Enclosed with this cover letter:

- Call to the Annual Meeting
- Actions of the Connecticut Conference
- Consent Agenda & Meeting Rules
- Proposed Bylaw revisions