

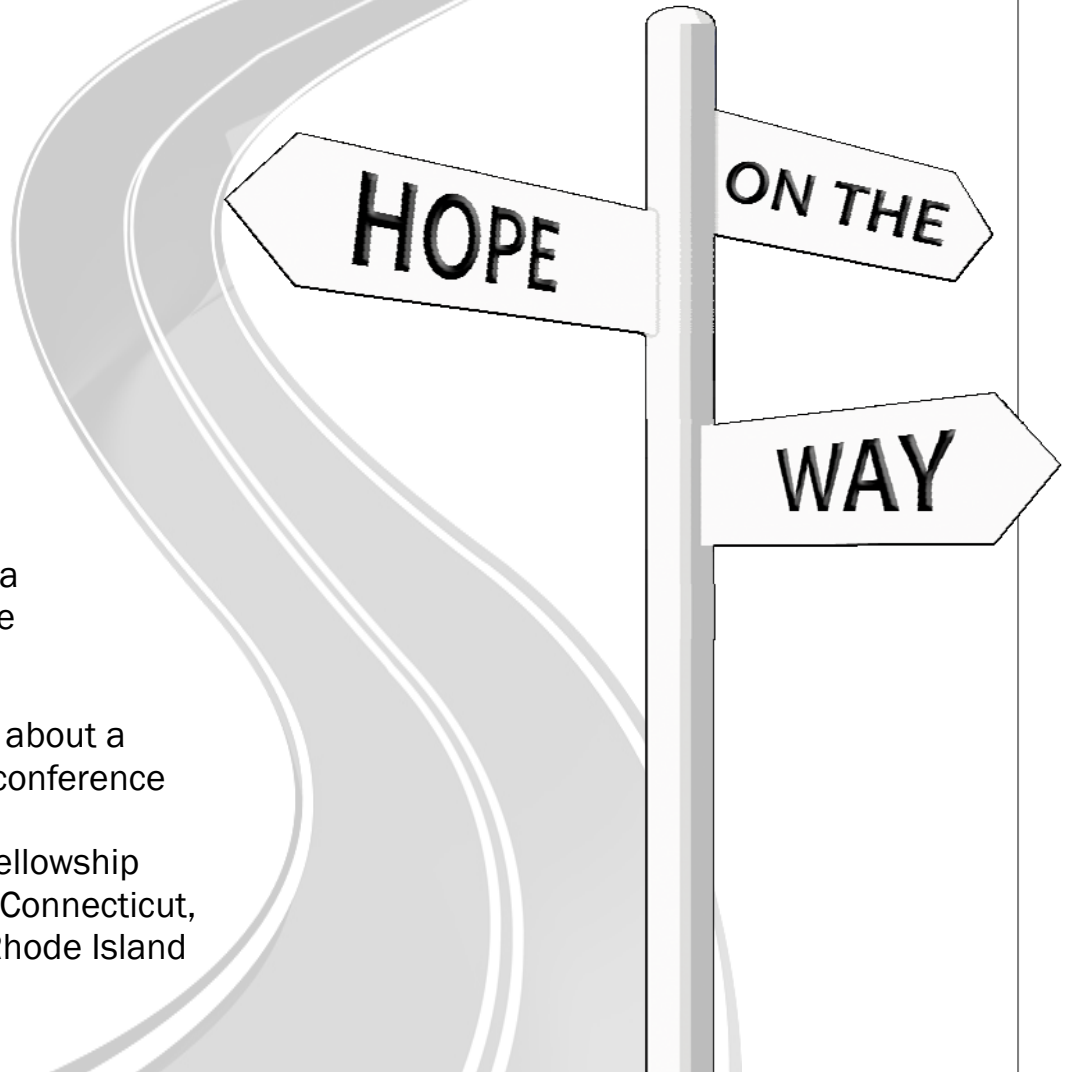
# Please Join Us For This Year's Tri-Conference Annual Meeting

June 15-16, 2018 | MassMutual Center | Springfield, MA



Don't miss it!

- Dynamic worship and a keynote address by the Rev. Traci Blackmon
- Discussion and voting about a potential new, united conference
- Ministry sharing and fellowship with UCC members in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island



**READ details about how we might form a new conference of the United Church of Christ and REGISTER for the Meeting at:**

Connecticut Conference	<a href="http://ctucc.org/TriConAM">ctucc.org/TriConAM</a>
Massachusetts Conference	<a href="http://macucc.org/TriConAM">macucc.org/TriConAM</a>
Rhode Island Conference	<a href="http://ricucc.org/TriConAM">ricucc.org/TriConAM</a>

**Registration Deadline: Friday, June 1, 2018**

**TRI-CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING – June 15 & 16, 2018**  
**Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island Conferences of the United Church of Christ**  
**Hope On The Way**

“Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”  
~ *Romans 5:5.*

These are indeed times filled with hope as we – the Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island Conferences – consider voting to form a new, united conference with the hope of making our region a more just, loving, and compassionate place.

**Why, you ask?**

Our united covenant: Living the Love and Justice of Jesus.

We declare these values essential to our shared ministry together:

- We understand the local church exists to make disciples of Jesus
- We strive and commit to making God’s love and justice real
- We believe God is calling us to bring new life as agents of change
- We encourage the solidifying of current covenantal partnerships and the creation of new ones

**Didn’t we already do this?**

Last year’s historic first-ever joint meeting of our three conferences got the ball rolling when each conference voted in favor of pursuing the idea of joining together. Conference leaders have been working on the details ever since, and now it’s time to get down to the nitty gritty.

At this meeting, delegates of the three conferences will be asked to officially create the new conference by approving a set of new bylaws, establishing a unified Board of Directors, electing officers, and making minor changes to their existing bylaws. They will meet separately but simultaneously to conduct this and other business.

Details about these votes are still being worked out, but they will be publicized well in advance of the meeting and numerous opportunities to discuss them will be scheduled. By registering for the meeting, you will be sure to receive updates in your email inbox.

**What else?**

In addition to the business to be conducted at the meeting, there will be dynamic worship and a keynote address by the Rev. Traci Blackmon. The Rev. Blackmon serves as Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ, and as Senior Pastor of Christ The King UCC in Florissant, Missouri. She is a featured voice with many regional, national and international media outlets and a frequent contributor to print publications. (See a short bio of Rev. Blackmon on the next page.)

**Join us!**

Join your fellow UCC’ers and experience hope on the way, “because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” We hope to see you there!

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER and WORSHIP LEADER – The Rev. Traci Blackmon



*Traci D. Blackmon,  
Executive Minister  
Justice and Witness  
Ministries*

The Rev. Traci Blackmon is the Executive Minister of Justice & Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ in the national setting, and Senior Pastor of Christ The King UCC in Florissant, Missouri. The Rev. Blackmon co-authored the newly-released White Privilege curriculum through the United Church of Christ and has received several awards and recognitions.

Initially ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Rev. Blackmon served in various ministry capacities for nine years prior to becoming ordained in the United Church of Christ and installed as the first woman and 18th pastor in the 159-year history of Christ The King United Church of Christ. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Birmingham - Southern College (1985), and a Master of Divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary (2009).

As pastor, the Rev. Blackmon leads Christ The King in an expanded understanding of church as a sacred launching pad of community engagement and change. This ethos has led to a tripling of both membership and worship attendance over the last seven years.

The Rev. Blackmon currently resides in both St. Louis, MO and Cleveland, OH and is the proud mother of three adult children.

## HOTEL INFORMATION



### **Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel**

1 Monarch Place, Springfield, MA 01144  
(413) 233-9161 – Reference UCC

- Online reservations: <https://goo.gl/zXhFK8>
- \$142.95 (includes taxes and fees)
- Parking is \$10.00
- Hotel is within walking distance (.2 miles) of MassMutual Center
- Reserve by May 15, 2018



### **Hampton Inn West Springfield**

1011 Riverdale St.,  
West Springfield, MA 01089  
(800) 426-7866 – Code: UCC

- \$145.06 (includes taxes and fees)
- No Parking fee
- No reservation deadline

## Children's Programming at Annual Meeting

Once again, the Annual Meeting Committee will offer a program for children ages 4-10. Based upon a Vacation Bible School model, the program will be led by experienced MACUCC Certified Christian Educators and will feature Bible story activities such as games, crafts, music, snacks, and a service project.



- Safe Conduct Policies will be followed at all times.
- Programming will be offered during hearings, plenary sessions, worship, and breakout meeting times on both Friday and Saturday. Programming will **not** be offered during meal periods. Parents will be expected to bring their children with them to all meals.

**Note Location:** Due to space restrictions, the Children's Program will be held offsite from Annual Meeting at the Sheraton Hotel.

**Costs:** While child care costs will be subsidized by the overall Annual Meeting budget there will also be a cost to parents as follows: | Friday afternoon and evening: \$30 per child | Saturday: \$30 per child | Full meeting (Friday and Saturday): \$60 per child|. We regret that we are unable to offer discounts for partial days.

# TENTATIVE SCHEDULE ~ Annual Meetings - RI, MA, and CT Conferences, UCC ~ June 15-16, 2018

~ MassMutual Center ~

<b>FRIDAY, June 15, 2018</b>	
<b>2:00 – 3:00 PM</b>	<b>New Delegate Orientation</b> 1st floor, Meeting Room 1
<b>2:30 – 7:30 PM</b>	<b>Registration Open</b> 1st floor
<b>2:30 – 10:00 PM</b>	<b>Commons Open</b> 1st floor
<b>3:30 – 4:45 PM</b>	<b>Hearings</b> 1st floor Meeting rooms 1-5; 2nd floor Ballrooms A-C; additional breakout rooms at Sheraton Hotel
<b>5:00 – 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Dinner on Your Own</b>
<b>7:15 – 9:00 PM</b>	<b>Welcome: Opening Worship/Keynote/Sermon</b> 1st floor, Exhibition Hall B
<b>9:00 – 10:30 PM</b>	<b>Reception to Honor Retirements of the Rev. Barbara Libby and the Rev. Jim Antal</b> 2nd floor

<b>SATURDAY, June 16, 2018</b>	
<b>Breakfast on Your Own</b>	
<b>7:30 AM – 1:30 PM</b>	<b>Registration Open</b> 1st floor
<b>7:30 AM – 4:00 PM</b>	<b>Commons Open</b> 1st floor
<b>8:30 – 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Tri-Conference Plenary Session</b> 1st floor, Exhibition Hall B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:30-9:00 AM – Worship</li> <li>• 9:00-10:00 AM – Together, As One Proposal Presentation</li> </ul>
<b>10:15 AM – 12:15 PM</b>	<b>Individual Conference Plenary Sessions</b> Exhibition Hall B, Meeting Room 1-4; Meeting Room 5
<b>12:30 PM – 2:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch –</b> <b>All MassMutual Lunches Require Pre-Registration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal Community-Building Luncheon (1st floor, Exhibition Hall A)</li> <li>• Networking Luncheon (2nd floor, Ballroom B-C)</li> <li>• MA Recognition Luncheon (2nd floor, Ballroom A)</li> <li>• Lunch on your own (for those not pre-registered) (Local restaurant list to be provided)</li> </ul>
<b>2:15 – 2:45 PM</b>	<b>Tri-Conference Plenary Session</b> 1st floor, Exhibition Hall B
<b>3:00 – 4:15 PM</b>	<b>Tri-Conference Listening Sessions</b> Living the Love and Justice of Jesus Together – What’s Next? All Exhibition Halls, Ballrooms, Meeting Rooms
<b>4:30 – 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Regathering; Closing Worship</b> 1st floor, Exhibition Hall B

## EVENT PARKING INFORMATION

The Civic Center Parking Garage is located directly across from the MassMutual Center and is offering event attendees a discounted rate of \$8.00 per day.

There are no in and out privileges for the garage. On-street parking meters are free after 4:00 PM on Friday and all day Saturday.

# SATURDAY LUNCHEON CHOICES

## Pre-Registration Required

All luncheons will take place at the MassMutual Center. Lunch will be a cold buffet of salads, soup, and sandwiches. Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options will be available as part of the buffet. **Please help us to plan by indicating these dietary needs on your registration form.**

### Networking Luncheon

Our second-annual tri-conference Annual Meeting is the perfect place for UCC ministers and delegates to meet others with similar passions of faith. For lunch on Saturday, all are invited to a networking luncheon. Themed tables will offer unique opportunities to gather informally and share ideas and contacts. **In order to attend, you must select the Networking Luncheon as your option when registering for the meeting.** Please indicate your first three table preferences when you register. Maximize the time you have in the company of hundreds of people of faith and strengthen relationships that will last long after the meeting convenes. Register soon, space is limited! Youth delegates are encouraged to attend this lunch!

**2018 Tri-Conference Annual Meeting Networking Luncheon Table Topics**

<b>1. Moderators</b>	<b>2. Music</b>	<b>3. Deacons and Lay Pastoral Ministries</b>	<b>4. Mission/ Outreach</b>	<b>5. Economic &amp; Housing Justice</b>	<b>6. Children's Ministries (0-12)</b>
<b>7. Racial Justice</b>	<b>8. Interfaith Ministry</b>	<b>9. Mental Health Ministries</b>	<b>10. Social Media</b>	<b>11. Smaller Congregations</b>	<b>12. Politics in Church?</b>
<b>13. Immigration/ Sanctuary Church</b>	<b>14. Integrating New and Longtime Members</b>	<b>15. Open and Affirming</b>	<b>16. Experimentation In Worship</b>	<b>17. Preaching!</b>	<b>18. Youth Delegates to Annual Meeting (22 &amp; younger)</b>

### MACUCC Recognition Luncheon

The Recognition Luncheon will honor those in the Massachusetts Conference who have made special contributions to ministry and mission, including those celebrating 50 years of ordination, Haystack and Green Church award recipients, those who have completed Christian Education certification, and Our Church's Wider Mission Recognition recipients. **In order to attend, you must select the MACUCC Recognition Luncheon as your lunch option when registering for the meeting.**

### Informal Community-Building Luncheon

This will be an unstructured time to converse and relax with clergy and delegates from all three conferences, catching up with old friends or making new ones. Please indicate this preference when you register.

**Together, As One**

**Contact Information**

Please print or type and use a separate form for each person registering. **(\*required information)**

Pronouns are almost as important as names in being able to refer to people, so we're including pronouns as well as names on our name tags this year. What would you like on your name tag? Please check only one option:

She/Her/Hers    He/Him/His    They/Them/Their    Something else (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Name Title \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

\*Name as you would like it printed on your name tag : \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ \*State \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Address Type:    Home Address    Church Address    Work Address

\*Email \_\_\_\_\_ \*Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_ \*Church Town/City \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that the Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island Conferences, UCC will be taking photographs and recording video for use in conference publicity materials in print and online. Please contact Tiffany Vail, Associate Conference Minister for Communications, at [vailt@macucc.org](mailto:vailt@macucc.org) if you have concerns about appearing in these materials. The Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island Conferences will not share your private information with outside organizations. We may contact you via email or mail in the future to tell you about other resources and opportunities being offered by the Conferences. You may opt out of these mailings at any time.

**Type of Registration**

Registration for **voting** participants:

- (1)  Lay delegate\*\*1  
 (must indicate church and location above)  
*\* Church Clerk or Pastor sign here:*

Are you a first-time delegate?    Yes    No

- (2)  Ordained MACUCC clergy  
 (3)  MACUCC Commissioned or Licensed Minister  
 (4)  Elected member of MACUCC Board, Program Council or Committee

Registration for **NON-voting** participants:

- (5)  \*\*2Ex-officio (voice without vote) - see next column  
 (6)  Visitor (includes non-UCC clergy)  
 (7)  MACUCC Staff  
 (8)  Seminarian or Member in Discernment

- This is my first Annual Meeting in this Conference  
 I am a youth delegate (18 or younger)

**NOTES:**

\*\*1 The number of lay delegates for each church is determined by the number of church members reported to the Conference as of the previous December 31st

# of members	# of delegates	# of members	# of delegates
300 or less	2	901-1200	5
301-600	3	201-1500	6
601-900	4	1501-1800	7

\*\*2 *Ex-officio members include:*

- Moderator of each Association
- Associate Conference Ministers
- Delegates from corresponding bodies
- Persons appointed to speak before the Meeting
- Persons made honorary members by vote of the Meeting

■ Your Planning Committee would like to know your age range; this information will assist us in planning future events. Please check the appropriate box (optional). My age is:

22 & younger    23-34    35-44    45-54    55-64    65+

<b>Registration Options –</b> Please read ALL information regarding dining choices before completing this section <b>NOTE: Lodging is NOT included.</b>			
Selection	Amount Due		
<b>I. REGISTRATION FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY</b>			
<p><b>A.</b> The registration fee of \$85.00 includes both Friday and Saturday events.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Friday includes access to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commons (Marketplace/Vendors)</li> <li>• Hearings</li> <li>• Joint Evening Welcome and Worship</li> <li>• Reception</li> </ul> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Saturday includes access to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commons (Marketplace/Vendors)</li> <li>• Morning Worship</li> <li>• Tri-Conference &amp; Individual Conference Plenary Sessions</li> <li>• Lunch</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Friday includes access to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commons (Marketplace/Vendors)</li> <li>• Hearings</li> <li>• Joint Evening Welcome and Worship</li> <li>• Reception</li> </ul>	<p><b>Saturday includes access to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commons (Marketplace/Vendors)</li> <li>• Morning Worship</li> <li>• Tri-Conference &amp; Individual Conference Plenary Sessions</li> <li>• Lunch</li> </ul>	<p><b>A.</b>  <b>\$85.00</b></p>
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<p><b>B. Saturday Lunch Options</b> (Please choose only one Saturday lunch option):</p> <p>Please indicate if you need food which is:   <input type="checkbox"/> vegetarian   <input type="checkbox"/> vegan   <input type="checkbox"/> gluten-free</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Networking Luncheon. Please indicate your first three table preferences (Refer to page 5.)</p> <p>Preference 1: _____ Preference 2: _____ Preference 3: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MACUCC Recognition Luncheon                      <input type="checkbox"/> Informal Community-Building Luncheon</p>	<p><b>B.</b>  <b>included</b></p>		
<p><b>Total Amount Due With This Form</b> Make check payable to MACUCC and mail with form to 1 Badger Rd., Framingham MA 01702. Payment must accompany form in order for registration to be processed.</p>	<p><b>TOTAL</b>  <b>\$85.00</b></p>		
<b>REGISTRATION DEADLINE is FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018.</b>			

<b>Additional Information</b>
<p><b>ACCESSIBILITY</b></p> <p>We wish to be welcoming to all. Please note any special needs with which we may assist, to enable you to more comfortably and completely participate in our 2018 Tri-Conference Annual Meeting. Pam Roberts, our Accessibility Coordinator, will be in touch to work out ways in which we can work as a whole to welcome ALL and maximize your contribution and participation at the event as a child of God.</p> <p>1. Describe your visual needs here: _____</p> <p>2. Describe your hearing needs here: _____</p> <p>3. Describe any mobility or endurance needs here: _____</p> <p>4. Describe any other needs that will help you emotionally and cognitively to participate fully: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>Yes, I can help!</b> Please contact me!</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greeter    <input type="checkbox"/> Usher/Teller    <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Scribe</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a medical professional willing to offer First Aid in a medical emergency.</p>



*Nurturing local church vitality and the covenant among our churches to make God's love and justice real.*

Massachusetts Conference  
United Church of Christ  
1 Badger Road  
Framingham, MA 01702-5517

Return service requested

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MA  
Permit No. 177

# Annual Meeting Registration Materials



# Hope On The Way

## TRI-CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

Connecticut ~ Massachusetts ~ Rhode Island  
Conferences of the United Church of Christ

June 15-16, 2018  
MassMutual Center | Springfield, MA



*Featuring Keynote Speaker and  
Worship Leader Traci D. Blackmon,  
UCC Executive Minister Justice and  
Witness Ministries*

