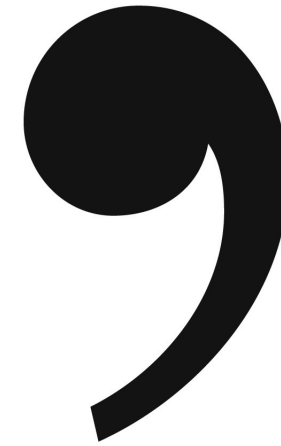




Connecticut Conference, UCC  
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**Connecticut Conference, UCC  
137th Annual Meeting  
Friday & Saturday, October 15 - 16, 2004  
Suffield High School, Suffield**



**God is still speaking,  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

June 23, 2004

TO: All Delegates of Connecticut Conference Churches including Youth Delegates  
Authorized Ministers: Ordained, Commissioned, Licensed  
Officers, Board of Directors, Moderators of Associations  
Former Moderators of Annual Meetings  
Nominating Committee of the Conference  
Members of and Nominees for Ministry Teams  
In-Care Students

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

This comes to you as the first of three e-mailings or mailings for the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The Moderator, the Rev. David Spollett of Fairfield; the Assistant Moderator, Mr. Jay Krusell of Newington; the Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree; and the Chair of the Board of Directors, Ms. Joan Kratzert of Old Lyme join in inviting you to the 137th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. Our hosts for the weekend will be UCC churches in the Hartford Association. The Rev. Karen Bailey-Francois, Moderator of the Hartford Association, and the churches and pastors look forward to welcoming us all!

In response to evaluations for changes for Annual Meeting, the Steering Committee has designed a two-day meeting beginning earlier on Friday afternoon and changed the workshops to Friday instead of Saturday. A full agenda will be mailed/e-mailed at the end of August.

☞ **Setting:** Our setting this year will be the Suffield High School in Suffield, CT. The facility is a new fully accessible high school; it has a large auditorium and many breakout spaces with room for snack bars. Because the hallways are wide, some displays will be in the hallways as well as the gym. As you enter the school, there is an area for sitting and visiting. Meals will be served from the cafeteria with specially prepared menus. The Suffield High School is located on Sheldon Street. Access is from Route 75 to Suffield (which goes past Bradley Airport) and Route 168, or from East Granby, Route 187 toward West Suffield. Directions will be provided in the August mailing.

☞ **Housing:** Commercial lodging reservations should be made this summer if you plan to stay overnight in the Windsor Locks/Suffield area (please see paragraphs in this flyer). The August mailing will have a form to complete if you desire to stay with a host family in the Suffield/East Granby area.

☞ **Youth Delegates:** Youth Delegates will be involved in the meetings again this year as regular delegates. Please remember that every church has a youth delegate in addition to their other delegates.

**God is still speaking,  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
www.ctucc.org**



If you have not signed up for e-mail announcements and wish to receive future Annual Meeting mailings by e-mail, please contact Jan Bitner, janhb@ctucc.org or 860-233-5564 or 866-367-2822 toll-free in CT.

**Connecticut Conference, UCC  
137th Annual Meeting  
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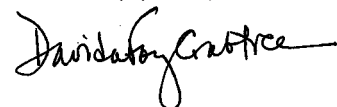
☛ Other highlights this year:

- Displays will be up Friday afternoon through Saturday afternoon, including the Hartford Seminary Bookstore.
- Youth groups will be selling snacks and sandwiches on Saturday.
- UCC identity items will be available for sale.

☛ **Child Care:** Suffield High School has a beautifully equipped room and play area for child care. Childcare workers will be available. A full agenda will be mailed/emailed in August, along with forms for registration, housing, special needs, and child care.

## Please plan now to attend the Annual Meeting on October 15-16!

Faithfully yours,



Davida Foy Crabtree  
Conference Minister

P.S. If you have any questions about this mailing, please contact Peggy Wright or Barbara Mansfield at the Conference Office by e-mail (peggyw@ctucc.org or barbam@ctucc.org) or phone (860-233-5564 or toll-free 866-367-2822, outside Hartford). If you are a delegate and you are unable to attend the meeting, please let your church know **immediately** so an alternate delegate may be named, and let us at the Conference office know so the late August and September mailings will be sent to the correct delegate.



### CLERGY EVENT—Presentation by Attorney Don Clark, Special Counsel for the United Church of Christ

Friday 11 am – 12:30 PM, followed by lunch  
First Church of Christ, Congregational  
81 High Street, Suffield  
Cost is \$8 for the Luncheon

*“Emerging Legal Issues In Contemporary Parish Ministry: An overview of recent judicial and legislative developments with implications for parish ministry, including a legal primer on confidentiality and best practices to ensure safe and effective church ministry.”*

Donald C. Clark, Jr. serves as Nationwide Special Counsel for the United Church of Christ. A litigator with 25 years of experience in courtrooms throughout the country, Mr. Clark spent the first half of his career at two multi-national law firms. After he established his own law firm, Mr. Clark was in a position to integrate his strong commitment to the United Church of Christ. For over a decade he has regularly been advising various settings of the denomination on legal issues confronting the church. Earlier this year, Mr. Clark successfully convinced the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court that congregational churches are entitled to the same constitutional rights of religious freedom as are afforded to hierarchical churches.



## SUFFIELD AREA HOTELS

Connecticut Conference, UCC Annual Meeting for the night of October 15, 2004

Listed here are three Suffield area hotels for commercial housing for the Annual Meeting. Each is holding a block of rooms for us at a discounted rate. You are responsible for making your own reservations. Mention “Connecticut Conference, UCC” and make your reservations by September 15 to obtain our group rate. In the August mailing, you will receive a form to request private bed and breakfast housing in homes of UCC people living in the Suffield area. Each hotel is about 7.2 miles from Suffield High School (1060 Sheldon Street, West Suffield).

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### Ramada Inn (25 rooms available)

5 Ella Grasso Turnpike (Rt. 75), Windsor Locks, CT 06096

No-smoking double rooms: \$79.00 plus 12% tax per night, includes full gourmet breakfast buffet; free parking.  
Phone: (860) 623-9494. Fax: (860) 627-7462. [www.RamadaInnBradley.com](http://www.RamadaInnBradley.com)

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### Days Inn Bradley (25 rooms available)

185 Ella Grasso Turnpike (Rt. 75), Windsor Locks, CT 06096

No-smoking double rooms: \$70.00 plus 12% tax per night; continental breakfast included; full breakfast is available at several restaurants nearby; free parking.  
Phone: (860) 623-9417. Fax: (860) 623-5268. [www.DaysInnBradley.com](http://www.DaysInnBradley.com)

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### DoubleTree Club (25 rooms available)

16 Ella Grasso Turnpike (Rt. 75), Windsor Locks, CT 06096

No-smoking rooms, choice of bed size: \$89.99 plus 12% tax per night; full breakfast buffet available (\$10.95 per person) or you can order à la carte; free parking.  
Phone: (860) 626-5171. Fax: (860) 627-7029. [www.DoubletreeHotels.com](http://www.DoubletreeHotels.com)

## 2004 ANNUAL MEETING WORKSHOPS AND FORUMS

(Partial Listing)

Please note that workshops are being handled differently this year:

- In addition to the workshops, there will be several large-group forums.
- Workshops will be on Friday afternoon, October 15, from 1:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m..
- All or most workshops will be held at East Granby Congregational Church; room assignments will be posted there.
- When you go to the workshop site, you will also be able to sign in for the Annual Meeting, to save time when you get to the high school.
- **You will need to pre-register for workshops**—watch the August mailing for information about that.

An updated list with more workshops and details will be in the August mailing.

1. Breaking Down the Walls: A Workshop on Combating Racism—Rev. Jeanette Olmsted Sawyer
2. Behavioral Covenants—Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine and Rev. Lindsay Fulmer
3. On Being a Delegate AFTER the Annual Meeting is Over—Rev. Kent Siladi
4. Interpreting Our Church’s Wider Mission—Charlie Kuchenbrod and Jim Morgan
5. Introducing Adults to Theology—Rev. Joe Callahan
6. Interfaith Relations—Rev. Jamie Harrison

Forum 1. Reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula, Rev. Dr. Park Jong-Wha, Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker

Forum 2. The “God Is Still Speaking” Campaign

A Resolution Encouraging Civil Dialogue Regarding  
Opposing Views on Issues Concerning Sexuality and Marriage

WHEREAS, scripture states “God created humankind in his image, in the image of God created he them; male and female, he created them” (Genesis 1:27, NRSV); and “God said to them be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:28); and God considered creation “very good” (Genesis 1:31); and

WHEREAS, many are drawn to Christ’s teaching on marriage (Matthew 19: 3-9; Mark 10: 2-9); and

WHEREAS, tradition in the United Church of Christ does not discourage, but rather welcomes discussions concerning matters of faith among people of faith; and

WHEREAS, the delegates to the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ in 1989 voted to make the Conference “Open and Affirming;” and

WHEREAS, many find homosexual activity to be contrary to Scriptural teaching; and

WHEREAS, the issue of homosexual activity within loving, exclusive, and committed relationships is a matter requiring continuing discussion among people of faith; and

WHEREAS, the Basis of Union of our denomination states, “The faith which unites us and to which we bear witness is that faith in God which the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments set forth, which the ancient Church expressed in the ecumenical creeds, to which our own spiritual fathers gave utterance in the evangelical confessions of the Reformation, and which we are in duty bound to express in the words of our time as God Himself gives us light. In all our expressions of that faith we seek to preserve unity of heart and spirit with those who have gone before us as well as those who now labor with us;”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT We, the delegates to the 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference, request the Conference Minister, staff, and ministries of the Connecticut Conference to encourage continuing civil, age-appropriate, and faithful discourse among those holding various views within the Conference on the topics of sexuality, including homosexuality and marriage.

Presenting Group

- Robert Albretson, Delegate, First Congregational Church, Watertown, Naugatuck Valley Association
- Stephen Robey, Delegate, First Congregational Church, Watertown, Naugatuck Valley Association
- Rev. Thomas Dean, clergy, First Church of Christ, Unionville, Farmington Valley Association
- Rev. Bill Hawley, clergy, New Preston Congregational Church, Litchfield South Association
- Rev. Dianne Easdon, clergy, Bunker Hill Congregational Church, Naugatuck Valley Association
- Rev. John Stamsvick, clergy, Hartford Association
- Rev. Lloyd R. Thompson, clergy, Poquonock Community Church, Hartford Association
- Rev. James Stirling III, clergy, First Congregational Church of Plymouth, Litchfield South Association
- Barbara Piscopo, delegate, First Congregational Church, UCC, Thomaston, Naugatuck. Valley Association
- Rev. Peter J. Smith, clergy, First Congregational Church, UCC, Thomaston Naugatuck Valley Association
- Rev. David G. Christensen, Jr., clergy, Berlin Congregational Church, Central Association
- Rev. Joan Osgood, clergy, Stanwich Congregational Church, Greenwich, Fairfield West Association
- Rev. Wendy Sue (Earle) Kissa, East Granby Congregational Church, Hartford Association
- Mark W. Dost, delegate, First Congregational Church, Watertown, Naugatuck Valley Association
- Rev. David I. Thomas, clergy, New London Association
- May Miller, delegate, First Congregational Church, Torrington, Litchfield North Association
- Earl Skokan, delegate, First Congregational Church, Torrington, Litchfield North Association
- Rev. Gordon Vought, clergy, First Congregational Church, Torrington, Litchfield North Association

***Please Bring this Section to the Annual Meeting!***

**ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

**Friday, October 15**

- 11 – 12:30 Authorized Ministers Event: First Church Suffield; includes honoring those ordained 25 years
- 1:45 – 3:15 Workshops: East Granby Congregational Church  
(Registration for Annual Meeting at workshop site and Suffield High School.)
- 3:30 – 4:15 Hearings on Tabled and Group A Resolutions: Suffield High School
- 4:30 Opening Plenary, Session I: Suffield High School Auditorium
- 5:30 Dinner: Honoring those ordained 50 years
- 6:45 Plenary Session II: Conference Minister’s Address and worship service.  
Praise Singers, Conference Celebration Choir, handbell choirs, brass musicians and the music ministry teams of Faith Congregational Church, Hartford; Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Esperanza, East Hartford; and First Church of Christ, Congregational, Suffield. Jim Rogers, Minister of Music in Suffield is coordinating the creative efforts of many in worship this year. Co-Conference Preachers, Revs. Bette Anne and Josh Crowell, will preach.

**Saturday, October 16**

Today’s activities include:

- Keynote Address and open dialogue; Rev. Dr. Park Jong-Wha of Seoul, Korea.
- Rev. Parks serves on the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches and was General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea.

Business Meetings will include:

- Reports from the Board of Directors including Bylaw revisions
- Update on the proposed capital campaign
- 1:15 Action on Tabled Resolution from 2003 Annual Meeting
- Action on Group A Resolution
- Presentation and Action on 2004 proposed budget
- Two Speak-out sessions
- 5:15 Closing Taizé Worship with Communion



CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE 137th ANNUAL MEETING

The goal of these rules is to allow for maximum participation by our constituency while keeping the meeting within reasonable time limits.

1. All Resolutions or Affirmations transmitted to the Resolutions Committee by May 1 (Group A) will be sent to the delegates for information and discussion before July 1, prior to the Annual Meeting of the Conference.  
  
Those Resolutions or Affirmations submitted between May 2 & October 1 to the Resolutions Committee will be placed in Group B. These resolutions or affirmations should be a response to a compelling or urgent event, issue or concern that could not be adequately addressed before the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The decision to bring Group B resolutions before the body assembled at the Annual Meeting resides with the Resolutions Committee.
2. Any Church or Association may bring any other matter to the attention of the Conference for action. The request should be placed in the hands of the Registrar by August 17. If the Board of Directors deems it appropriate to the goals of the Annual Meeting, it will be placed on the agenda for the Annual Meeting.
3. All proposals described above, plus regular reports of the Board of Directors, and Affiliated Organizations of the Conference, plus any proposals presented by the Board, will be included in the Call to the Annual Meeting and placed on the Agenda.
4. In order to receive consideration, any matters not included in the call should be placed in the hands of the Registrar before the meeting convenes, or up until 9:00 A.M. on Saturday. The matters will then be referred to the Business Committee by the Moderator for consideration, or later as time allows.

5. A process shall be followed during the morning session on Saturday whereby the Conference, by its own vote, shall determine the order in which Resolutions or Affirmations will be considered.
6. No new matters may be introduced on Saturday after 9:00 AM; unless there is a two-thirds vote to place such matters on the Agenda.
7. The following shall be the procedure for considering Resolutions and/or Affirmations coming to the floor of the Conference:
  - a. A designated sponsor shall be allowed five minutes to speak to the Resolution or Affirmation.
  - b. A designated reactor shall be allowed five minutes to respond.
  - c. The names of the sponsor and the reactor shall be given to the Moderator at the beginning of the session in which the concern will be addressed. If the name of a reactor has not been given, the reactor's time is forfeited and the Moderator shall call for discussion to begin starting with a con speaker.
  - d. The ensuing discussion shall alternate between pro and con speakers, each being allowed two minutes for their statements.
  - e. Pro and con speakers will be identified by standing at microphones designated as such.
  - f. Amendments shall be in writing in triplicate. No amendments shall be made to "whereas" sections.
  - g. Only one amendment to a main motion shall be considered at a time.
  - h. No speaker shall speak to the same issue twice until all that wish to speak have been heard once, except to answer questions addressed to him/her from the floor.
  - i. The Moderator may call for a motion to close debate when discussion is deemed as revealing no new light.
  - j. When a Main Motion, Resolution, or Affirmation, has stimulated pro and con discussion, at the end of the debate the Moderator may call for a moment of silent prayer and reflection before taking the vote.
  - k. In the event that a translation is needed, the Moderator will recognize a translator for equal time for the movement of a motion or responding to a motion.
8. A Resolution or Affirmation may be declared out of order by the Moderator if its sponsor is not present when it comes up for discussion and action.
9. The Proposed Budget will be presented Saturday and voted at the same time. Before the budget has been moved and opened for debate, any motion pertaining to a definite appropriation in the budget will be ruled out of order by the Moderator, but all matters relating to the budget will be in order when that time comes.
10. The Conference will stay in session on the final day (Saturday) until all matters described above have been dealt with, or until 5:30 p.m., whichever is earlier. If at 5:30 p.m. there is still unfinished business, the Moderator will call for a vote on whether or not to continue for 15 minutes. If the vote carries by a two-thirds majority, the meeting will continue. If it does not carry, all matters remaining on the Agenda will be referred to the Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting will then adjourn following worship.
11. If the Conference votes to stay in session, the process described in #10 above will be repeated at 5:30 p.m. and every 15 minutes thereafter until all business is completed, or the meeting is adjourned with items leftover for later consideration.

## RESOLUTIONS

The Hearings for the Resolutions will be held at 3:30 pm at Suffield High School. Both resolutions are included in this brochure to be used at the Annual Meeting. Just a reminder the first resolution to be considered on the floor will be the resolution entitled "A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGAL MARRIAGE FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES" that was tabled at the last Annual Meeting. The new resolution entitled "A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING CIVIL DIALOGUE REGARDING OPPOSING VIEWS ON ISSUES CONCERNING SEXUALITY AND MARRIAGE" and any "B" resolutions that may come in will be discussed and acted upon subsequent to that discussion.



### A Resolution In Support Of Legal Marriage For Same-sex Couples

Resolution introduced by: First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, CT and The First Church in Windsor

WHEREAS Jesus, throughout his short ministry, emphasized God's compassion for and inclusion of all humanity (Matt. 20: 30-34, Luke 17:11-19 and Gal. 3: 28); and

WHEREAS Jesus overturned purity laws which maintained cultural walls between Jews and others around them (Matt. 22: 34-40 and 12:9-14); and

WHEREAS one purity law in Leviticus is often cited in opposition to same-sex relationships (Lev. 20:13) while other acts equally condemned are ignored, such as eating creatures of the water that do not have fins and scales or wearing clothes made of two blended fabrics (Lev. 11:9-12; 19:19); and

WHEREAS we understand many of Jesus' teachings require the church and society to welcome people whom others shun; and

WHEREAS legal marriage, which strengthens the union of committed couples by adding to their economic, emotional and social stability, is a civil right currently denied to same-sex couples; and

WHEREAS a partial precedent has been set by individual congregations within many religious communities (American Baptists, Buddhists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Reform Jews, the Society of Friends, Unitarian Universalists, and the United Church of Christ) which already allow "holy unions" or "commitment services" of same-sex couples even though Connecticut law has yet to recognize such unions; and

WHEREAS the principle of separation of church and state assures that no law passed by the Legislature would require a particular religion or a particular congregation to perform marriages for same-sex couples;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to this 136th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, declare that the denial of the civil right of marriage of same-sex couples is an unwarranted act of exclusion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we ask our Conference staff and church leaders to urge our congregations to prayerfully consider and support legislation to legalize marriage of same-sex couples; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our Connecticut Conference staff and public policy advocate be instructed to communicate this resolution to our representatives in the state legislature, urging them to adopt marriage of same-sex couples as public policy for the State of Connecticut.