

# CONFERENCE *connection*

Alabama • Georgia • Mississippi  
South Carolina • Tennessee • NW Florida



## SOUTHEAST UCC Conference

May 1, 2016

Southeast Conference  
50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

## CELEBRATING JUBILEE

### 50th Annual Meeting: June 10-11, 2016

We're excited for this year's annual meeting, our Jubilee year! We are pleased to be welcomed back to the lovely Piedmont College in Demorest, Georgia. Although the final details are still being arranged, [our online registration is now open](#).

It was intended that Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, UCC General Minister and President, would be with us for this celebration. The Conference office was notified last week that due to a schedule conflict, he would not be available to be with Southeast Conference. The Planning Task Force is working on revising the Annual Meeting agenda to focus on honoring our history and some of the key persons who were part of that history. This will fit into a three year theme arc that started in 2014 "For Such a Time as This," continued last year with "Building God's House," and this year will honor the laborers in the vineyard as we celebrate Jubilee.

We will be publishing a written history of the Conference and will have a printed program book that will include all the materials for the meeting as well as a lot of historical reference material. All churches should have received a communication about the opportunity to place an ad in the program book. We are also working on worship planning and preachers for the services.

There will be a Members in Discernment Retreat on Thursday-Friday. MIDS have received information about this retreat. There will be a Clergy Retreat on Thursday and Friday led by Rev. Kathy Clark, formerly staff to Southeast Conference and now on the national UCC staff as part of the Ministerial Excellence, Support, and Authorization Team (MESA).

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we rethink, retol, revise the annual meeting schedule. We will publish the full agenda and other materials as they become available on the Annual Meeting webpage: [secucc.org/news-and-events/50th-annual-meeting/](http://secucc.org/news-and-events/50th-annual-meeting/).

### Giving Survey: Please Respond by May 15

The UCC needs your help! A national Giving Task Force is trying to be responsive to the changing ways that churches and individuals make decisions about how to share their financial

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### Coming Events

**SEC Staff Meeting**  
Thu, May 5, 2016  
Conference Office

**LaCretia Bellamy Ordination**  
Sun, May 8, 2016  
Rehoboth Fellowship  
Atlanta, GA

**Valerie Coe-Lowder 4-Way Installation**  
Sun, May 8, 2016  
Kirkwood UCC  
Atlanta, GA

resources with the wider United Church of Christ. Your experience and opinions matter to our future so we invite you to complete this survey before May 15. We also hope you will share it with 4-5 leaders of your congregation who participate in decision-making. We hope to learn from your input to identify and create opportunities for more effective sharing of resources across all settings of the Church. Your input will inform our conversation and shape the future of the Church. Just click on this link to go to the survey:

<https://www.research.net/r/UCCGiving>

## From the Conference Office



We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2016. Each month, we will publish a weekly list for the month and post them weekly on our Facebook page. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

- [Click here to download the entire 2016 prayer list](#)

### Highlights:

- **LaCretia Bellamy** will be ordained and installed as associate pastor at Rehoboth Fellowship Atlanta UCC on May 8, 2016 at 3:00 pm during the regular worship service. Rehoboth worships at 816 Maynard Terrace SE Atlanta, GA 30316.
- **Valerie Coe-Lowder** will be installed as a specialized minister in a 4-way Covenant at Kirkwood UCC on May 8, 2016 at 5:00 pm during the regular worship service.
- Three churches in the South Central Conference sustained damage from April storms. **St. John's UCC in Rosenberg, TX** had roof damage and **Immanuel UCC in Spring, TX** had downed trees. The church hardest hit was **Christ UCC in Cypress, TX**, which had five feet of flood waters. With the help of numerous volunteers, the church contents have been packed in storage units, drywall has been cut, and the building is being dried out. South Central is one of the four conferences in the Southern Region of the UCC along with Southern, Florida, and Southeast.

### Churches in Transition:

Oak Grove Congregational Christian, Pine Mountain Georgia; Church of the Savior, Alpharetta Georgia; Pensacola UCC, Pensacola Florida; Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga Tennessee; Brookmeade Congregational UCC, Nashville Tennessee; Howard Congregational UCC, Nashville Tennessee; Beloved Community, Birmingham Alabama; First United Church, Belvidere Tennessee.

## Jottings from June

**Commission on  
Ministry Meeting**  
Sat, May 14, 2016  
*Chattanooga, TN*

**Executive Committee**  
Tue, May 17, 2016  
*Web Meeting*

**Board of Directors**  
Tue, May 17, 2016  
*Web Meeting*

**50th Annual Meeting**  
Fri, June 10 -  
Sat, June 11, 2016  
*Piedmont College  
Demorest, GA*

## Conference Staff

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## Connect with Us!



This past week I was reminded of the phrase, "The faster I go, the behinder I get." Due to other necessary planning for the 2016 year and the timing of Easter this year, the office and Annual Meeting Planning Task Force were way behind. When we were notified that John Dorhauer, UCC General Minister and President, would not be able to be with us, we had to go into crisis mode.



I stated in an email to his office that while disappointing, I understood the circumstances and would rely on the Holy Spirit to perfect all things. I am actually getting very excited about the opportunity for those who have been a presence in the history of the Southeast Conference to have a chance to share their stories and help all of us engage in a reflective time of remembrance, worship, learning, and fellowship. We will need volunteers to assist with meeting logistics and are planning a mass choir to perform an original musical offering.

The new Student Commons at Piedmont is a wonderful addition to our meeting and provides a fully accessible venue that is much closer to the dorms and Swanson where our plenary sessions will be held. The Piedmont staff continue to be extremely helpful and generous with their time so that we can ensure a good experience for all. Please know that all evaluations from the past two years have been read thoroughly and all effort has been made to address any concerns.

Our goal is to have every church in the Southeast Conference represented at Annual Meeting to celebrate our history and our fellowship. This is a significant event for any organization. Churches are invited to support the meeting in several ways: send your pastor and delegate(s), purchase an ad for the program book, bring a congregational grab bag to share during meal time, or purchase a calendar or history book. We will also be having a book sale to support the PATHWAYS program. Churches, pastors, and individuals are invited to bring books to add to the sale. We are also hoping that some of the authors among us will have an opportunity to sell and sign their books.

Workshops are being planned. Please let the Conference office know if you have an interest in presenting a workshop. The mass choir will be scheduled during a workshop time. And we will have our annual business meeting to elect leadership and approve a budget for 2016 and 2017.

As you can see, there is a lot in play. We just need to get the details worked out and put on paper so we can let you know all the wonderful activities planned as we gather together to praise, pray, take care of business, and celebrate this milestone in our faithful living together as the Southeast Conference. Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or wish to volunteer. Contact me at 404-615-2492 or [jboutwell@secucc.org](mailto:jboutwell@secucc.org).

Written with hope, expectation, and confidence that we can continue to rely on the Holy Spirit to perfect all things.

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## **Celebrating new Grant Recipients**

From January to March 2016, the Conference accepted grant applications from SEC churches seeking monies to accomplish stated goals in their congregations. The Committee has met and reviewed the many applications received this cycle.



They are pleased to announce the following Spring 2016 recipients:

- Bethany Congregational UCC, Thomasville
- Community Church Montgomery
- Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson
- Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga
- Rehoboth Fellowship, Atlanta
- United Church of Cookeville

The timetable for new applications this Fall will begin September 19, 2016. [Read more about each grant...](#)

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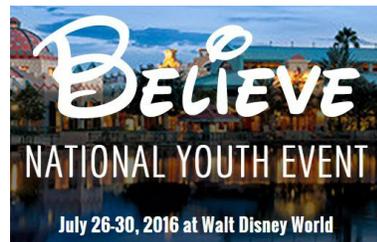
## Our History, Part 5: The Congregational Methodist Church

In 1852, a group of Methodists who complained about the burdens of circuit-riding itineracy and lack of participation in the government of their church met at a residence in Monroe County, GA to form the Congregational Methodist Church. Learn more about this fascinating branch of our UCC family tree on our website. [Read more...](#)

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## National Youth Event is July 26-30 at Disney

Mark your calendar to attend the most magical National Youth Event (NYE) of all! From July 26-30 join 4,000 UCC and Disciples youth from across the country and world at Walt Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort. [Read more...](#)



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## News from Around the Conference and Beyond

### Clothing for Migrant Farm Workers

Each summer, Central Congregational UCC, along with Emory University heads down to south Georgia to provide free health-care and clothing to the farmworkers. Are you cleaning out your closets? We want your stuff! We need men's long pants, long sleeved t-shirts, short sleeved t-shirts, hats, shoes, sunglasses, belts. We are also accepting women's clothing. Anything you want to give will be gladly accepted. You can drop clothing off at Central UCC (Monday-Friday) 9am-5pm. Address: 2676 Clairmont Rd NE Atlanta, GA 30329. Please feel free to call/text Rev. Lacey Brown with any questions 239-849-0846. Or email [lacey@central-ucc.org](mailto:lacey@central-ucc.org). We are accepting clothing until June 1. Thank you so much!

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## Kirkwood UCC is Growing and Moving

After five years in a leased storefront on Hosea Williams Drive in the Kirkwood neighborhood of Atlanta, KUCC has outgrown their space and have purchased new property on Rogers Street in Kirkwood. KUCC's last Sunday at 2033 Hosea will be May 29, 2016. Their first Sunday in our transitional place will be June 5 at Toomer Elementary. They will worship at the school every Sunday at 5:00 p.m. until their new sanctuary is completed in late fall. The ChurchHouse at 100 Rogers St NE will be their home for our day to day ministry beginning in June. Please stop by, visit, and sit on the porch with us.

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## Ecuador Earthquake Relief

The UCC and the Christian Church (DOC) issues an appeal for \$500,000 for Ecuador earthquake relief and recovery. You can read the latest article from the UCC Disaster Response Ministries [online here](#). You can donate directly through a link with the article or you are welcome to send the donations through Southeast Conference office and note "Ecuador relief."

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## Cornerstone Fund Leadership Search

After 15 years of exceptional leadership at the Cornerstone Fund by Gordon Gilles, the Board of Directors is planning the retirement of Mr. Gilles at the end of 2016. As a part of this planning process, the Fund is undertaking a formal search to find his successor. Might you be or know of that person? They are looking for a mission-driven banking executive - a candidate who is looking for a new challenge on a much broader scale - someone who can be committed to the well-established and highly-important ministry within the United Church of Christ. If you are a Lay Leader active at the local church level and feel you have the right drive and skill set, they would like to hear from you. Contact Brian Clarke at [cornerstone@kionline.com](mailto:cornerstone@kionline.com) for details.

## Conferences and Learning Opportunities

### General Synod 2017 in Baltimore

It is not too early to plan for General Synod 2017 scheduled June 30-July 4, 2017 at Baltimore Convention Center in Maryland. Standing Rules for Synod 31 in 2017 are available at UCC [website here](#). Also, nominations are being sought for persons interested in serving on the United Church Board. [Read more...](#)

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### Summer Intensive UCC History & Polity Course

Once again this year the six New England Conferences, in cooperation with Andover Newton Theological School, will be sponsoring an intensive summer class in UCC History, Theology, and Polity. The class will take place June 6-17 in Freedom, NH, on the shores of beautiful Lake Ossipee. [Read more...](#)

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### Social Justice Internships Available

The Justice Leadership Program in Seattle, Washington invites

young adults (ages 21-35) to make social change by working at the intersection of social justice and spirituality. This full-time internship features political advocacy and community organizing, faith-based service, and leadership development. It is affiliated with the United Church of Christ Young Adult Service Communities Network. They have four positions with 350Seattle.org, the Meaningful Movies Project, Unite Here Local 8, and the Women's Housing Equality and Enhancement League. More details at [justiceleadership.org](http://justiceleadership.org) or via email to Elizabeth Dickinson at [jlp.elizabeth@gmail.com](mailto:jlp.elizabeth@gmail.com).

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## **Healthy Boundaries for Clergy and Church Leaders**

The Southeast Conference, in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ ) in Georgia, are pleased to offer two Healthy Boundaries training sessions for clergy and church leaders. The first is April 23 in Atlanta. [Read more...](#)

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## **"Live & Learn" Lunches @ TACC**

Every third Tuesday of the Month from 11:30 to 1:00 join TACC staff and community experts for lunch, and to learn more about how to explore life's difficult conversations and challenging situations.

- May 17: Sustainability as a Spiritual Discipline with Rev. Kate McGregor Mosely, ED, GA Interfaith Power & Light
- June 21: The Importance of Receiving Love: Becoming Open and Appreciative of Love and Kindness From Others with Dr. Louis McLeod, Ph.D.
- July 19: Spirituality and Recovery: Exploring the Connection Between the Body and the Mind (Hint: Its more than just your neck!) with Dr. T. Albert Davis
- Aug 16: Understanding Trauma: What It Is; What It Does; What To Do About It with Stephanie Featherston, M. Div., Ed. S.

[Read more...](#)