

# CONFERENCE *connection*

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

**SOUTHEAST UCC Conference**



June 15, 2017

## From the Conference Office

### Annual Meeting 2017: A Wonderful Time of Connection

Thank you to those who joined together from June 8-10, 2017 for the 51st Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference.

Over our three days together our authorized clergy met for retreat, some folks participated in Healthy Boundaries training, and our MIDs and PIEs met for their annual retreat and explored pastoral issues in addiction.



We were fortunate to have a number of well-attended and well-received workshops, including "Exploring Social Justice in Churches," a panel discussion "Welcoming the Immigrant," "Not Your Mother's Youth Ministry: How 60 LGBTQ Teens Became a Youth Group," "Local Church as a Spiritual Center," and "The Local Church and the MID Process.," and "Clergy Community of Practice." Thank you to all our workshop leaders for facilitating such insightful sessions!

Our keynote speakers, SharRon Jamison and Scott Shirai, each enlightened and informed everyone during their presentations about our vision for the future as local church leaders.

Many thanks to our Conference staff and volunteers for their hard work organizing the weekend, and to those who traveled from near and far to help us plan our next new thing!

[View photos from Annual Meeting on our Facebook page.](#)

## From the Interim Conference Minister

### The State of the Conference: A New Vision

My Dear Friends,

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## Coming Events

### ONA Gathering

Tuesday, June 27 -  
Thursday, June 29  
Baltimore, Maryland

### General Synod

Friday, June 30 - Tuesday,  
July 4  
Baltimore, Maryland

### SECUCC Staff Meeting

Monday, July 10  
Atlanta, Georgia

## OCWM Giving

What a wonderful annual meeting we had! Your "official" welcome to me was so overwhelming. I am so blessed to be here among you for this interim time. Like I said in my shortened state of the conference, the priorities for our time together are listed below (with more [details on our website](#)). Please read them and ask me about them. These priorities are based on what I have heard and seen in my three months with you, but they can and should be adapted through our shared life and wisdom.



1. Continue to put policies and best practices into place. This is most easily translated into: organization
2. Discerning and articulating a vision that enables you to form a search committee and call your next conference minister.
3. Strengthen the relationship among the SEC churches, authorized ministers, and lay leaders.
4. Have fun celebrating all that God does in our midst.

**[Please read all the details on our website.](#)**

Blessings and peace,  
Marie



### Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2017. 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 2017 prayer list.](#)

#### Week of June 4

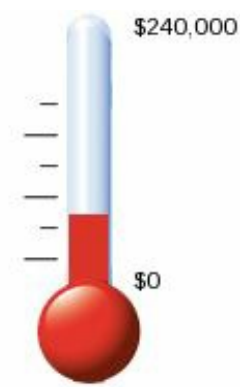
- Real Inspiration Ministries; Decatur, Georgia
- Christy Bonner
- Andrew Frierson Jr
- Glenna Shepherd
- Winthrop Stone

#### Week of June 11

- Virginia Highland Church; Atlanta, Georgia
- Members in Discernment and Persons in Exploration
- 51th Annual Meeting, Southeast Conference
- Adrian Boone
- Dorothy Gager

#### Week of June 18

- Union UCC; Tougaloo, Mississippi
- Vaughn Crowe Tipton
- John Gill
- Jean Norton
- Katie O'Dunne



To Date: \$56,112

Our Church's Wider Mission provides for programs, resources, and tools to keep our churches strong, effective, and growing. Our goal for 2017 is \$240,000.

**[Donate today!](#)**

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**Connect with Us!**



Week of June 25

- Midway Congregational UCC; Midway, Georgia
- 31st General Synod of the United Church of Christ
- 60th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ
- Dorinda Broadnax
- Brenda Green
- Dorothy Owen

### Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Savannah; Garden of Grace, Columbia, SC; Holy Trinity Community Church, Nashville; Howard Congregational, Nashville; Oak Grove Congregational Christian, Pine Mountain, GA; Pilgrim Congregational, Chattanooga, TN; United Church, Huntsville, AL

## News from Around the Conference

### Going to General Synod? Let us know!



As you may know, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ will be in Baltimore this year. This event is open to everyone as a visitor. The Sunday afternoon worship service is open to all at no charge.

If you plan on going to Baltimore this year, please let [Heather](#) and [Marie](#) know. This way you can be invited to our meetings and fun stuff and feel a part of our merry band from the Southeast Conference!

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### A Message from PATHWAYS Dean

*by Rev. Sarah Kim*

Dear participants, colleagues, and friends of the PATHWAYS community,

As many of you already have been informed, my last day with PATHWAYS is June 30, 2017.

While I am scheduled to be traveling in Korea from 6/19 for vacation and research for a book that I'm working on, I do plan to check my email box whenever possible during this time through the 30th.



After 6/30/2017, please send your PATHWAYS Program related inquiries to [pathways@secucc.org](mailto:pathways@secucc.org) to contact the new PATHWAYS Administrator, Rev. Valerie Coe Lowder. The PATHWAYS Theological Education ministry will continue as scheduled on the 2017 Academic Calendar. Rev. Valerie and the PATHWAYS Advisory Committee -- chaired by Rev. Ginnie Ferrell -- have been working hard for the past several months to make this transition as smoothly as it can be.

Thank you, everyone, for the years of work and dedication you have contributed to the ministry of PATHWAYS. It is very exciting to hear that many of our graduates are scheduled to become ordained this year alone—a proof that we are doing an important work in the life of the wider church and the denomination.

As I reflect on my walk with PATHWAYS, I can't THANK YOU ALL enough for making this ministry possible—the commitment of the learners with clear vocational goals and vision, and the selfless dedication of the facilitators who have served beyond the call of duty, have been the key factors for the success of the program.

I also thank God and God's guiding Spirit for moving us forward, and allowing miracles to happen whenever we most needed them.

Blessings for your continued journey,  
Sarah

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### **Thomas Mitchell '18 Wins Nationally Competitive Truman Scholarship**

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation has announced the names of 62 exceptional college students (out of 768 candidates) selected as 2017 Truman Scholars. Thomas Mitchell, a political science and educational studies double major from Knoxville, TN, is among those winning a Truman Scholarship. Thomas is one of our delegates to General Synod in Baltimore and a member of Church of the Savior in Knoxville. [Read more.](#)



### **Training, Learning and Retreat Opportunities**

#### **Joyful Expectation! Peaceful Inspiration!**

UCC Sisters in Christ are welcome to experience JOY and PEACE unspeakable at the **2017 Southern Region Women's Retreat**, October 20-22, 2017, at Mo Ranch, Hunt TX. Hosted by women from the South Central Conference, women participating from other UCC Conferences are Southeast, Southern and Florida. Register soon on line for early bird discounts! <https://srwr.sccucc.org/>

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#### **Seventh Annual Retired UCC Servants Retreat**

Mark your calendars for Monday - Wednesday, October 2-4, 2017 and join us at Blowing Rock Conference Center for an event for intellectual stimulation; spiritual enlightenment and reflection and renewing friendships and/or making new friends for Retired UCC Clergy, Missionaries, Volunteer Ministry Workers and Spouses of the Southeast and Southern Conferences of the United Church of Christ. More details on our website:

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#### **Free Webinars for Your Church**

The Insurance Board is pleased to offer the following online presentations:

- **Fire Prevention and Protection for Churches** Wednesday, July 12, 2017  
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM (Eastern Time)

- **Keeping your Ministries Safe: 5 Things Churches Can Do to Prevent Abuse** Wednesday, September 13, 2017  
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM (Eastern Time)

Register online: [anymeeting.com/insuranceboard](http://anymeeting.com/insuranceboard)

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## Justice advocates, here's a devotional just for you!

Whether you're leading a justice effort at church or headed to the nearest protest, resistance work can be spiritually exhausting. Rise Up is a year's worth of devotions to keep you burning bright without burning out.

Devotions written by 30 pastors, faith leaders, and activists.

Click [here](#) for PREVIEW.

