

# CONFERENCE *connection*

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



**SOUTHEAST UCC Conference**

**September 15, 2017**



## **From the Conference Minister**

Dear Friends,

My goodness, what a couple of weeks we have had: two hurricanes, a third making its way across the Caribbean, out of control wildfires in the west, an earthquake in Mexico, and a couple of other natural disasters that I am forgetting. All of these disasters can make us feel quite helpless. There is way too much and we are way too little. But, this is when the message of the gospel reminds us that when we work together, we can do so much more than when we work alone.

I have been getting questions about how we in the Southeast Conference can help, especially in Florida. Right now, the conference staff of the Florida Conference has just regained power. They are still trying to figure out what is what, and how to begin to think about picking up the pieces. I know you want to help, I do too. It may be a while before our brothers and sisters in the Florida Conference even know what they may need. In the meantime, there are things we all can do.

UCC Disaster Ministries is accepting monetary donations. Please send your donations there. They will be put to very good use in Texas, Florida, the US Virgin Islands, and everywhere else Harvey and Irma wrought destruction. Church World Service is in desperate need for more Clean Up Buckets, Hygiene Buckets, and School Bags. Your physical and monetary donations will be critical during this time. And, your prayers are needed. So many times, we forget just how important and powerful prayer is. Prayer keeps us connected to one another and to God when the power is out and our phones don't work. Prayer is what we all can do to support our brothers and sisters through all of these disasters.

Thank you for your generosity, thank you for your love shown, thank you for your faithful and powerful prayers.

Blessings and peace,  
Marie

**DONATE TO UCC HURRICANE RELIEF**

## News from Around the Conference



### 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 September 20

- Oak Grove Congregational Christian; Pine Mountain, Georgia
- Pamela Canzater
- David Hooker
- Dan Rosemergy
- Wayde Washburn

#### Week of September 27

- Church of the Savior; Knoxville, Tennessee
- Gregg Carlson
- Douglas Hunt
- Carlin Rushing
- Susan Webeler

### Prayer Requests

- Our hearts and prayers are with **Conference Minister Marie Bacchiocchi** as we received word that her father, **Gino Luigi Bacchiocchi**, passed away Friday, September 15, 2017 from complications from COPD. There will be a memorial service at Homewood Retirement Community in Maryland later this week with a family interment of ashes at a later date. (Please note that Marie will be out of the office through Sunday, September 24, 2017. Contact Heather Bardole at [registrar@secucc.org](mailto:registrar@secucc.org) for any conference matter.)



### **Next Transforming Churches- Transforming Lives Grants Open**

Starting Monday September 18 thru Tuesday October 31, 2017, the *Transforming Churches-Transforming Lives* application process will be open for accepting applications. If you have a project in your church that meets the criteria of furthering the



mission or ministry in your community, send in an application. Awards are reviewed and awarded for up to \$5,000.00 in November.

If you have any questions, please email Debbie Spearman, Generosity Coordinator at [dspearman@secucc.org](mailto:dspearman@secucc.org).

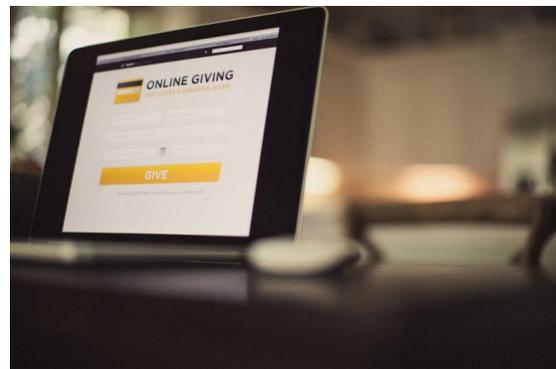
## News from around the United Church of Christ

### Scholarships Available to Current Seminarians

The Milnes Fund of Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC (Chattanooga) was established in 1996 through a bequest from Jack and Marjory Milnes to provide scholarships for individuals studying to become ministers in the United Church of Christ or to provide support for missionary efforts in the United States or abroad.



The award amount may be up to \$2,500. Applications should be submitted by October 1, for the spring semester. [Download the application here](#)



### Back Bay Mission Statement on Hurricanes Harvey and Irma

Over the last several weeks, our friends at Back Bay Mission have watched as friends and neighbors have been pummeled by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Our hearts are broken by the heavy losses that people have suffered, and we are praying for everyone who has been affected by these storms.

As residents of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, a place that was all but forgotten in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Back Bay Mission knows first-hand that every natural disaster is also a human disaster.

[Read the full statement on the Back Bay Mission website](#)

### Job Opening: Generosity Coordinator

The Southeast Conference United Church of Christ is currently seeking candidates for the position of Generosity Coordinator. Interested parties should send a cover letter and resume to the Conference Minister at [mbacchiocchi@secucc.org](mailto:mbacchiocchi@secucc.org).

The Generosity Coordinator will foster stewardship in the Conference by enabling congregations to strengthen their giving through education, best practices, and stewardship awareness. This person will build, develop, and continue relationships with local churches and pastors around the areas of Stewardship Development, OCWM, and Church Financial Development. [More details on our website.](#)



## Coming Together at General Synod in Baltimore

The United Church of Christ General Synod in Baltimore was jam-packed with justice, for our neighbors, our immigrant brothers and sisters, and planet Earth. [Relive the experience with this wrap-up video.](#) You may even see folks you know and love!

## Training and Retreat Opportunities

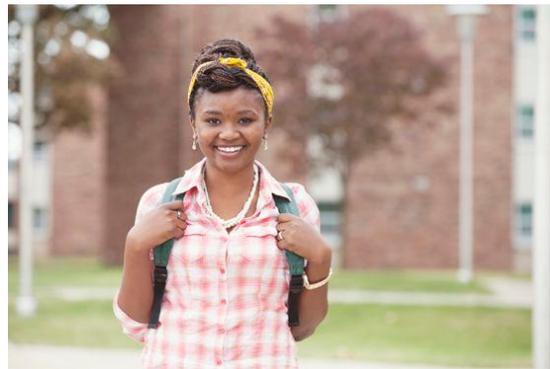


### PATHWAYS Explorer Series Course "What About the Bible?" Starts October 4

PATHWAYS is offering a course that invites participants to think about how they relate to the Bible. They will be introduced to progressive perspectives on biblical authority and interpretation. They will experience the application of these principles in Bible studies shared with their peer group.

The desired outcomes for this course are that:

- Participants will clarify their own theology regarding the authority and power of the Bible for directing their own lives



### Mediation Skills Training

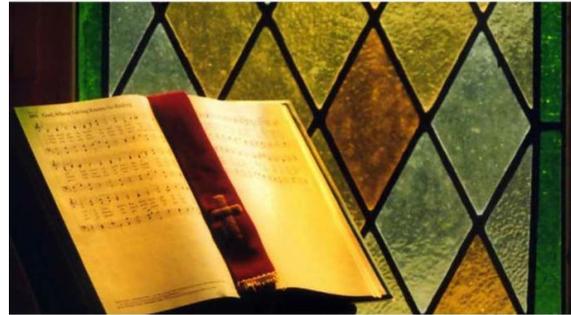
The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is pleased to announce that their upcoming "Mediation Skills Training Institute" will proceed as planned on October 2-6, 2017 in Lakeland, Florida. For those who were unable to finalize their plans due to the stress and uncertainty caused by the approach of Hurricane Irma, please note that the deadline for registering with an "early-bird" discount of \$200 has been extended to Friday, September 22, 2017. [Learn more on their website.](#)

- Participants will have an asynchronous online learning experience and be able to decide about engaging further with the PATHWAYS Theological Education program.

Course Dates: October 4 – 31 (4 Weeks)  
 Register by: October 2  
 Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Trish Greeves

This is an Explorer Series Course designed with a four-week long curriculum. All are invited to participate. Tuition is \$99.

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## Emory University Candler School of Theology Upcoming Events

### Lecture: “Racial Realities and the Beloved Community”

Oct. 11 • 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Cannon Chapel Sanctuary • Free; registration required

Guest lecturer The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry is 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church. A panel discussion featuring Candler’s Associate Professor of Christian Ethics Ellen Ott Marshall, Bishop of Atlanta the Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, and Associate Rector of All Saints’ Episcopal Church the Rev. Kimberly Jackson will follow the lecture. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/Presiding-Bishop-Curry>. Cannon Chapel is located on the campus of Emory University at 515 South Kilgo Circle, Atlanta, GA 30322.

### Lecture: “The Moral Injuries of a Country: War’s Legacies and the Agonies of Now”

Oct. 13 • 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Cannon Chapel Sanctuary • Free; registration required

Guest lecturer the Rev. Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock is the author of *Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury After War* (Beacon, 2013) and senior vice president for moral injury programs at Volunteers for America. Register at <http://engage.emory.edu/moralinjury>. Candler School of Theology is located on the campus of Emory University at 1531 Dickey Drive, Atlanta, GA 30322.

View all the coming events on the [Candler website](#).

## Southeast Conference Staff

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