



January 1, 2018

**Happy New Year from your
Conference Minister and Staff**

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were restful and enjoyable. As 2018 begins we in the SECUCC have an opportunity to dream. Life inside and outside the Church are still uncertain, and yet, with the promises of Epiphany and the beginning of a new year, we have the opportunity to dream, think, pray, and discern where God is leading us for the coming year. This invitation is for us as individuals, local congregations, and the conference as a whole. I invite you to join me as we seek to find God's way for 2018.



In the coming newsletters you will hear more about this chance to dream, to discern about God's vision for our collective life together. I invite you to enter this process with hope and joy. Our God is a God of new beginnings and hope in the midst of uncertainty.

May 2018 hold bounteous blessings for all of us.

Blessings and peace,
Marie

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 December 31

- Kirkwood UCC; Atlanta, GA
- Jennifer Crane
- Sarah Kim
- Bill Lawrence
- Sharon Temple

Week of January 7

- Beloved Community Church; Birmingham, Alabama
- Ginnie Ferrell
- Samantha Snellgrove
- Kate Stulce

Churches in Transition

- Pilgrimage UCC, Marietta, GA; Virginia-Highland Church, Atlanta, GA; Garden of Grace, Columbia SC; United Church of Cookeville, Cookeville TN; Peace Congregational Church, Clemson SC

Important Generosity and Giving Information

Greetings and Blessings,

We made it through Advent and the Christmas season with new expectations and blessings for a better 2018. Thank you for all that you have done personally and for all the congressional support that had been given.

Gentle reminders:

- **We will close our books on January 12, 2018.** Please ensure that any 2017 Our Churches Wider Missions (OCWM) pledges are received in the Conference office by that date. If you have already completed your pledge, THANK YOU! If you still need time, please feel free to contact me directly or contact the conference office. (Please note the new address for the SECUCC is: P. O. Box 1950, Decatur, GA 30031-1950.)
- If you received a pledge card for 2018 OCWM giving, **please complete and return at your earliest convenience.**

Our leadership and our vision continue to be our greatest gifts to this conference and I look forward to working and serving with you.

Special thanks to Debbie Spearman and the entire Conference staff for your support, prayers and guidance during this transition. I'm grateful.

As we go forth in 2018, I solicit your prayers and support, AS WE JOURNEY...

Peace and Blessings,
Carrole Moss
Generosity Coordinator

Grant Recipients Announced

Congratulations to the 2017 capital campaign cycle 2 grant recipients:

- Emmanuel UCC, Greenville, SC
- Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga, TN
- Phoenix Christian UCC, Wildersville, TN



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- Montgomery Community UCC,
Montgomery, AL
- Pathways Theological Education Program

News from our Local Congregations



Crèches Displayed at PHCC

Over Christmas the Pleasant Hill Community Church, United Church of Christ displayed fifty crèches from around the world in the PH Community House. Dorothy Faunce and her team organized and arranged these symbols of the season. [View some of them and learn more on our website.](#)

Training, Retreat and Other Opportunities

UCC History and Polity Offering Begins Jan 10, 2018

The Center for Progressive Renewal is offering a spring semester online UCC History, Polity and Theology class beginning on January 10, 2018 and ending April 18, 2018. The class has met the polity requirements of most Committees on Ministry in the UCC. Students may register for the class at <http://www.progressiverenewal.org/courses/>. The cost is \$629.

PATHWAYS Announces Three New Course Offerings

PATHWAYS Theological Education announces three course offerings to begin the new year. With a start date of January 10, 2018, these courses will provide local church leaders and Members in Discernment with knowledge and expertise needed for ministry today. The January courses include "Dynamics of Difference," "Christian Faith Formation," and "Small Church Administration."

These PATHWAYS courses are online using an asynchronous format, allowing participants to access the course room based on each person's schedule. The courses are six-weeks in length and require six to eight hours of work each week. Learning objectives for each course are reflective of the Marks of Faithful and Effective Ministers in the United Church of Christ. The tuition for each course is \$375. [Learn more.](#)

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