

**214<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference, UCC**  
**Special eMailing to Delegates**  
**May 9, 2013**

Dear Delegates to the 214<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting is fast approaching! We trust you have received your Advance Materials by now. If you are a lay delegate, these were sent to your church office. They are also available on line [here](#) .

We hope, also, that you have made a reservation at the Sturbridge Host Hotel if you need one. Instructions for making the reservation are on page four of the Advance Materials.

This email is to alert you to two further elements of our upcoming Annual Meeting: an additional item of business which will come before you, and festivities in honor of Associate Conference Minister Peter Wells.

**I. Honoring the Rev. Dr. Peter Wells**

After 11 years of ministry with and among us, the Rev. Dr. Peter Wells will be retiring from his service as Association Conference Minister with our Conference on August 1st of 2013. Peter's vision and voice have helped heal, guide, and inspire pastors and churches across the Commonwealth, nation and globe. On Friday evening of our Annual Meeting Peter will offer his reflections and insights at our closing worship time. This worship will include a "Liturgy of Blessing and Farewell" to celebrate and recognize his impact on all of us. There will be a reception in Peter's honor following the worship service. We hope you will join us as we gather in recognition and appreciation of all Peter has accomplished among us.

**II. Additional Votes – Closing Churches**

From time to time, the Massachusetts Conference is asked by one of its congregations to assist that church in closing its doors. While pastoral attention is always offered, the kind of technical assistance given varies with the circumstances of the local church.

This year, there are two churches which would like to close by merging with the Conference. For the local congregation, this process is simpler and quicker than working with the Attorney General's office to dissolve a church. If approved by a vote of the Annual Meeting, each church will merge with the corporation that is the Massachusetts Conference, and the local church will no longer exist as a separate legal entity.

The two churches who have made this request are the All People's United Church in Belmont, and the North Congregational United Church of Christ in Amherst. Both have disposed of their real estate, so the Conference will not need to manage or sell property as a result of a merger. Each congregation hopes to transfer significant financial assest as part of the merger, so that the ministry of each congregation may be carried forward through the wider United Church of Christ.

Therefore, the following votes will be proposed by the Board of Directors to the delegates. There will be a hearing on the proposed mergers at 10:15 on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> for those who would like to learn more about this matter before voting.

*I. The Board of Directors recommends to the 214<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting:*

*The 214<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ approves an agreement of merger as follows:*

- 1. This merger is between the All Peoples United Church of the United Church of Christ, Belmont, Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, being non-profit Massachusetts corporations formed for religious purposes.*
- 2. The surviving corporation will be the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ.*
- 3. The purpose, by-laws and Articles of Organization of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ will remain unchanged by this merger.*
- 4. The effective date of the merger will be the date Articles of Merger are approved and filed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.*
- 5. The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Conference are authorized to execute all documents necessary to effectuate said merger.*

*II. The Board of Directors recommends to the 214<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting:*

*The 214<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ approves an agreement of merger as follows:*

- 1. This merger is between the North Congregational Church, UCC of the United Church of Christ, Amherst, Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, being non-profit Massachusetts corporations formed for religious purposes.*
- 2. The surviving corporation will be the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ.*
- 3. The purpose, by-laws and Articles of Organization of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ will remain unchanged by this merger.*
- 4. The effective date of the merger will be the date Articles of Merger are approved and filed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.*
- 5. The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Conference are authorized to execute all documents necessary to effectuate said merger.*

Grace and Peace,

Kelly Gallagher, Moderator

Ian Holland, Vice-moderator

Nancy Lawrence, Chairperson, Annual Meeting Planning Committee