

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

The New York Conference

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August 1, 2013

Dear New York Conference,

I would like to thank everyone for your faithful support of our mutual ministry as the United Church of Christ in New York. Our Annual Meeting in June was a positive sign of common commitment to be a faithful witness in our place and time.

One of the most significant actions we took at the Annual Meeting was to initiate an annual All Church Offering called "UCC Covenant Share". Attached to this email is a full description of the UCC Covenant Share Offering. We would like to let you know what to expect from the Conference office over the next several weeks:

1. On August 19th we will be mailing a box of offering envelopes to each congregation in the New York Conference. Of course the number of envelopes you receive will depend upon the number of members we have on record for your congregation. You should receive this box the week of August 19th.
2. Like other all church offerings, UCC Covenant Share is a free-will offering. The envelope will state "The UCC Covenant Share supports the ministry of the United Church of Christ in New York. A donation of \$10 per person will allow the UCC to achieve our goal. More generous donations will encourage us to expand our ministries."
3. That same week we will be sending you electronically several items: a bulletin insert to be utilized in conjunction with the UCC Covenant Share Offering; a litany that you may want to utilize in worship that prays for and celebrates our ministry as the UCC in New York; and "sermon seeds" that you may choose to utilize if you lift up the ministry of the UCC in New York on a "New York Conference Sunday". (If you are unable to receive electronic communications, we will send via USPS.)
4. All information regarding UCC Covenant Share can be found at www.uccny.org/covenant-share.

In previous years churches have observed the third Sunday in September as "New York Conference Sunday". This would be an ideal time to lift up the "UCC Covenant Share" Offering. We recognize, however, that each church will need to do what most makes sense in your congregational context. It is our hope that one Sunday in September will be the time when you will promote the "UCC Covenant Share" offering and the ministry of the UCC in New York. The mechanics of this offering will be very much the same as how most all of our churches handle special offerings such as "One Great Hour of Sharing" or "Neighbors in Need". The Congregation will collect the offering and pass the proceeds along to the conference which will then administer it as has been agreed upon by the Annual Meeting. It is our hope that these offerings will be received by the conference office before the end of November.

Thank you in advance for your partnership in this endeavor and in our unfolding ministries together.

Sincerely,

David R Gaewski
Conference Minister