



South Central Conference
United Church of Christ

growing stronger together

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Featured Articles

2026 Tessmann Scholarship Funds Now Available

The application process to apply for the 2026 Tessmann Scholarship Funds is open.

If you are interested in applying, please see the [Fund Notification Letter](#) here and complete the [application form here](#).

- Return your application to the Conference of by Wednesday, September 30th
- Funds for successful applications will be disbursed on October 31st

New Orleans Association Announces Fall Association Meeting

THE NEW ORLEANS ASSOCIATION
OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

invites you to

FALL MEETING 2026

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

WORSHIP • 9:00 AM	BUSINESS MEETING • 9:30 AM
Tech UCC Sanctuary 106 Church Street • New Iberia, LA 70560	Camp Knighton Center 114 Camp Knighton Road

Followed by Lunch & Fellowship

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Rev. Paul Godfrey, Pastor • Rev. Peter Scie, Moderator • Rev. Molly Carson, Interim Conference Minister

CONVERGENCE MUSIC PROJECT

MUSIC FOR A JUST AND GENEROUS CHRISTIANITY

"Converging 2026: Sing Through It!"
October 7-10, 2026 Louisville, KY

The Convergence Music Project (CMP) invites you to "Sing Through It!"

[Click Here for More Information](#)



Save the Date for the 2026 North Texas Association Fall Meeting

The Fall Meeting will be a Co-led event with St. John UCC of Robinson and St. Paul's UCC of Gerald.

- **Where:** St. Paul's UCC of Gerald, @ [117 Gerald Lane, Elm Mott, TX. 76640](#)
- **When:** Saturday, October 17, 2026

Registration opens at 9:30 am, followed by the Business meeting at 10:00 am

Conference News

St. Paul's E & R Summer Movie Matinee This Saturday!

Join St. Paul's E & R for "The Sheep Detectives" this Saturday, **August 29, 2026 @ 2:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall.

Admission is free and Popcorn & Drinks will be provided.

Church address is 6464 E. Lover's Lane, Dallas, TX. 75214





Join SCC Youth Director, Brooke Dooley, for the Youth Ministry Support gatherings every second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm.

The next meeting will be **September 8** [Join meeting here](#). Contact Brooke for more questions at brooke@scucc.org



Join the SCC Conference Minister and Conference Clergy for fellowship and conversation every Wednesday morning @ 9:30am

[Join the September 2nd Cafe' Here](#)

SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE GATHERING
Coming Together. Looking Ahead.

NOVEMBER 6-7, 2026

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 COLLEGE STATION, TX

Strengthening relationships is both the purpose of this gathering and the foundation for whatever comes next.

EVERY CHURCH. Brings wisdom. | EVERY VOICE. Matters here. | EVERYONE BELONGS. Together we grow.

Worship. Conversation. Learning. Fellowship. Service. Reflection.

South Central Conference Gathering: Coming Together. Looking Ahead.

Join clergy, lay leaders, and youth this November in College Station for worship, learning, and fellowship November 6-7, 2026.

[Register](#)

[Reserve Hotel Room Here](#)

RESCHEDULED TO SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2027

ROOTED AND RISING TOGETHER

2026 Southern Regional UCC Women's Retreat
October 9-11, 2026
 Location: The Wesley Center, Woodworth, LA
 Check in: 3:00pm October 9th

Cost: \$290 Double Occupancy
Registration Deadline: Sept 1, 2026
Registration QR Code:

**Mark your calendars for an important update
regarding our upcoming gathering.**

The Southern Regional Women's Retreat originally scheduled for October 9–11, 2026, has been officially rescheduled to **September 17–19, 2027**.

This decision was made by leadership due to the passing of the original Planning Team chair, a venue change, the delayed start of the planning & advertising campaigns, and lower-than-expected registration numbers for the 2026 dates. Pushing the event back allows us to rethink our strategy, broaden our outreach, and ensure we deliver the high-quality, impactful weekend our community deserves.

What Happens Next?

- **Registration Adjustments:** If you have already registered for the 2026 retreat, look for a separate email shortly regarding automatic transfers or full refunds.
- **Planning Committee:** The committee will pause operations for the remainder of the year and reconvene in **January 2027** to begin fresh preparations.
- **Get Involved:** If you are interested in joining the planning team or sharing ideas for the 2027 program, outreach will open when meetings resume in the new year.

We appreciate your patience, flexibility, and continued support as we work to make the 2027 retreat our best one yet. Save the new dates, and stay tuned for more details early next year!

Learning Opportunities



August is National Make-A-Will Month.

We're inviting you to put your love into action by creating or updating your will at no cost! In 2024, the Pension Boards-UCC and National Ministries launched Together for Tomorrow, a shared legacy campaign that provides our UCC community with access to **FreeWill**.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Paul at 212-729-2738 or pramsey@pbucc.org or Michelle at 216-736-2109 or carverm@ucc.org with any questions about writing your will or leaving a planned gift.

[Get Started Here](#)



Courses beginning September 1 Biblical Studies Project
Sermon Writing Project

Courses beginning September 9
Professional Boundaries and Ministerial Self-Care
Indigenous Theology

[CLICK HERE FOR FALL 2026 COURSE OFFERINGS](#)

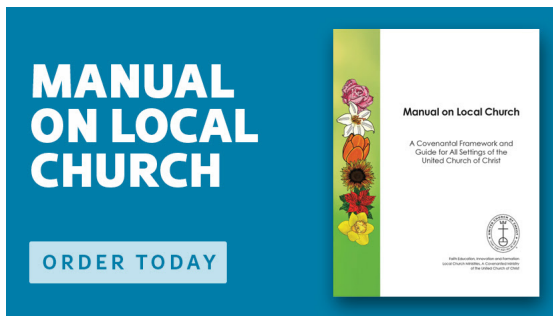
Are you ready to get started?
STEP 1: [APPLY NOW](#)



Each month, UCC experts unpack an issue through our **Getting to the Root series**. This August, the UCC Office of Public Policy & Advocacy team reflect on how to make the most of August Recess, such as meeting with your elected officials locally, gearing up your congregation for the midterm elections, and prioritizing rest.

You can read the [full reflection here](#).

National UCC News



[Order Here](#)

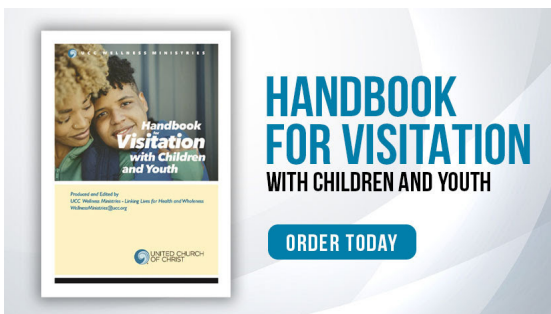
Manual on Local Church

Why a Manual on Local Church? Our covenantal structures and practices make the United Church of Christ unique. Since its inception, the United Church of Christ has sought to clarify how we live out covenant in community. Today, The Manual on Local Church is part of this ongoing work to discern and define our structure so that we can engage more fully in our faithful witness in the world.

Handbook for Visitation: Children and Youth

Visiting youth with family members present differs from visiting adults. Meeting the needs of these two distinct age groups simultaneously can be challenging. Some visits will occur in a hospital, while others in pediatric rehabilitation, and many more will happen in family homes.

Steps for preparing for these visits are outlined with activities that engage the child, such as Bible stories, children's literature, songs, and blessings. Prayer options range from simple three-line prayers for younger children to those for youth with specific requests.



Pediatric chaplains and faith leaders are the primary contributors to this book.

[Order Here](#)

Upcoming UCC MESA Trainings

Thursday, September 10, 1:00pm – 3:00pm ET MESA Introduction

Judicatory staff will cover topics including theological grounding in the work of COMs, the Manual on Ministry, the Marks for Faithful and Effective Ministers and the Ministerial Code, best practices for working with COMs and other topics. Facilitated by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley and Rev. Melanie Oommen.

APC Endorsement Deadlines

Final materials and the Letter of Endorsement written by the Committee on Ministry should be submitted via email to glaser-bacona@ucc.org for certification no later than three weeks before the deadline.

- **October 31, 2026** for interviews in March 2027

Advocacy & Mission



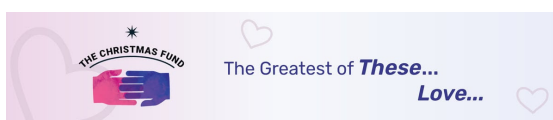
For more than half a century, the United Campus Ministry at Texas State has partnered with the United Church of Christ to fully welcome for ALL students. With a diverse school enrollment of 39,000 students, including 40% first-generation in college, the UCM provides a loving and inclusive ministry caring for individual students while working for a just and peaceful world in the love of Jesus.

If you know a student at Texas State, or want to make a positive impact with emerging young adult leaders of the church, please contact Todd Salmi (todd@ucmtxstate.org) and visit www.ucmtxstate.org.



Join the UCC in Urging Congress to Hold Data Centers Accountable

Take Action Here



It may be the middle of summer, but the spirit of Christmas is already in the air as we prepare to celebrate Christmas in July. This month, we're celebrating the powerful ways The Christmas Fund community supports the financial, physical, and spiritual wellbeing of those who serve the UCC.

Donate



Faith Response Immigration Gathering October 4-6, 2026

You're invited to join with people of faith from across Texas for training and resource building to faithfully respond to attacks on immigrants in our communities. [Click Here for More Information](#)

Support the Ministry of the Conference



Stronger Together Through OCWM Monthly Giving

Our shared ministry across the wider church is made possible through OCWM.

Contributions allow for consistent, faithful stewardship. Reliable giving helps sustain staff support, pastoral care, and leadership development throughout the year.

OCWM is a living expression of our covenant—reminding us that we are **stronger together.**

[Donate](#)



Become a Friend of the Conference!

[Donate](#)

Resources



[View the NEW SCC E-news Calendar.](#)



Email: sccm@sccucc.org

Schedule an Appointment
<https://calendly.com/sccm-sccucc>

Would you like to submit an Article for the eNews? Email your information to Stacey at office@sccucc.org or call the office at 830-313-5855

Our Contact Information

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