



South Central Conference
United Church of Christ

growing stronger together

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Featured Articles

Passing of Rev. Ernest S. Dean, Jr.

Rev. Ernie Dean of the Heart of Texas Association passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 29th in Austin. Please keep his wife Shirley and the entire Dean family in your thoughts & prayers.

Rev. Dean served a number of SCC churches including Weimar UCC, St. Peter's Church of Coupland, and Frieden's UCC of Geronimo.

Memorial service arrangements are pending.

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**
-

Conference News

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 Tech UCC Sanctuary 106 Church Street • New Iberia, LA 70560	 BUSINESS MEETING • 9:30 AM Camp Knighton Center 114 Camp Knighton Road
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Followed by Lunch & Fellowship

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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



"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](#)



Join the North Texas Association
Saturday, October 17th
Fall 2026 Association Meeting

This will be a co-led event with St. John UCC of Robinson and St. Paul's UCC Gerald.

Registration begins at 9:30am | Business Meeting at 10:00am

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



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 9th Cafe' Here](#)



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](#)

Learning Opportunities



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](#)

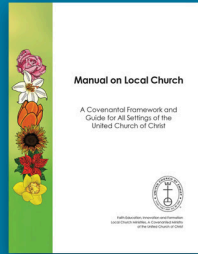


Each month, UCC experts unpack an issue through our [Getting to the Root series](#). This August, the UCC Office of Public Policy & Advocacy team reflect on how to make the most of August Recess, such as meeting with your elected officials locally, gearing up your congregation for the midterm elections,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

National UCC News

MANUAL ON LOCAL CHURCH

ORDER TODAY



Manual on Local Church

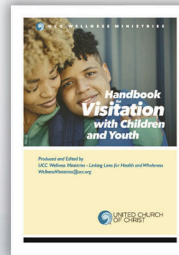
Why a Manual on Local Church? Our covenantal structures and practices make the United Church of Christ unique. Since its inception, the United Church of Christ has sought to clarify how we live out covenant in community. Today, The Manual on Local Church is part of this ongoing work to discern and define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

Order Here

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.



HANDBOOK FOR VISITATION WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ORDER TODAY

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

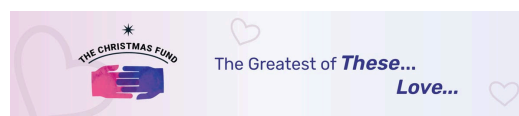
Judicatory staff will cover topics including theological grounding in the work of COMs, the Manual on Ministry, the Marks for Faithful and Effective Ministers and the Ministerial Code, best practices for working with COMs and other topics. Facilitated by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley and Rev. Melanie Oommen.

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



Hold Data Centers Accountable

[Take Action Here](#)

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



Let's Connect!

Email: sccm@sccucc.org

Schedule an Appointment

<https://calendly.com/sccm-sccucc>



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

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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