



South Central Conference
United Church of Christ

growing stronger together

Table of Contents ~ Click the Link for Fast Navigation

- [Conference News](#)
- [Learning Opportunities](#)
- [National UCC News](#)
- [Support the Ministry of the Conference](#)
- [Resources](#)

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 by **Wednesday, September 30th**
- Funds for successful applications will be disbursed on **October 31st**

SCC Helping Sponsor the Faithful Response Immigration Gathering October 4-6, 2026

The SCC is proud to announce that we applied for and received a MIRA grant from Global Hope to help sponsor the Faithful Response Immigration Gathering being held at Slumber Falls Camp October 4-6, 2026.

If you are interested and able, we encourage you to attend this event. [Please click here for programming and registration information.](#)

Embrace UCC Launches the Every Day Signs Project

Embrace UCC is excited to share with the wider SCCUCC community that it is one of the recipients of the microgrants to implement the **Every Day Signs** project.

This grassroots interfaith movement aims to transform front yards and public spaces across the Mid-Cities region of North Texas into visible reminders of our shared values.

Embrace UCC members and friends will distribute two-hundred-yard signs and companion bookmarks featuring five universal principles—kindness, generosity, justice, community, and peacemaking—rooted in faith traditions worldwide.

Here are the finalist designs:



You're Invited to Join Bethel UCC in Celebration Sunday, October 27, 2026

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF LEADERSHIP

Join us for us on Sunday, October 25, 2026
as we commemorate the past 10 years
and thank Rev. Vanessa for her faithful
service, her deep compassion, and the
profound difference she has made in
our lives and the life of our church.

Worship Service at 10:30AM
Bethel Church UCC
13210 Land Road, Houston, TX 77047

Luncheon to follow at
Journey Conference & Retreat Center
3219 Alameda-Genoa, Houston, TX 77047



For more information:
Call: (832) 915-2355
email: admin@bethelhouston.org

Mark your Calendars!!

Save the Date for the
2027 Conference
Youth Service Trip



Why did I lower my prices
when hundreds of churches
were still subscribing at the
higher price? THIS... 

Worship Design Studio Slashes Yearly Subscription Price

Marcia McFee has announced a reduction in the yearly subscription prices from \$299 to \$100 for access to EVERYTHING in her library of resources.

View the video to find out WHY!

Conference News

Rev. Ernest S. Dean, Jr. Memorial Service Announced

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.

A memorial service for Rev. Dean will be held on Friday, October 9, 2026 at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd at [3201 Windsor Rd., Austin, TX 78703](#) @ 11:00am

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



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 **October 13th**, [Join meeting here](#). Contact Brooke for more questions at brooke@sccucc.org.



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

[Join the September 16th Cafe' Here](#)

North Texas Association

Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 17th

Check-in 9:00am	Worship 9:30am	Business Meeting 10:00am
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Hosted by St. Paul's UCC of Gerald
117 Gerald Lane, Elm Mott, TX. 76640

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

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.

If you haven't done so already, please register for the November 6-7, 2026 Fall Gathering.

This gathering is an opportunity for clergy, lay leaders, youth, and members from across our Conference to come together for worship, conversation, learning, fellowship, and relationship-building.

Whether you've participated in Conference events for years or this would be your first Gathering, we hope you'll join us. Together we'll strengthen relationships, share wisdom across congregations, and experience the wider church in ways that simply aren't possible from within our own local communities.

This year's Gathering has been intentionally designed to encourage conversation, create opportunities for new connections, and help us look ahead together as the South Central Conference continues its journey.

Registration will remain open through October 23rd @ 5:00pm. Registering by that date helps us prepare meals, seating, materials, and hospitality so we can welcome everyone well.

We hope you'll make plans to join us.

[Register](#)

[Reserve Hotel Room Here](#)

Learning Opportunities



New Testament Hermeneutics - Course Begins October 21

In this course, participants will explore the New Testament using historical critical methods and other tools of Biblical interpretation. Participants will learn the interpretive tool of sanctified imagination and apply Biblical insight to 21st century issues.

Are you ready to get started?

STEP 1: [APPLY NOW](#)

STEP 2: Our staff will help guide you in enrolling in courses through our academic system, Populi. Returning students may enroll in courses through Populi using their individual login.

National UCC News

Upcoming UCC MESA Trainings

[Thursday, September 17, 1:00 – 3pm
ET, Search and Call](#)

Judicatory staff will cover topics related to the United Church of Christ search and call process, including ecumenically ordained ministers and lay ministry. Facilitated by Rev. Jeff Nelson and Mr. Darrell Ludwig.

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

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

South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ

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