UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 1st, 2019

To the members of the United Church of Christ,

The changing landscapes of church and denominational life in the 21st century impact many aspects of congregations, including ways that congregations are formed, reformed, and live in covenant with one another. Consequently, our Manual on Church – the volume that has previously articulated the formation and function of a local church – needs intentional discernment and engagement, building off of and expanding the draft that was last examined in 2004.

The Manual on Church is and will be a multi-year denomination-wide conversation led by a working group. The Faith Education, Innovation and Formation (Faith INFO) Team within Justice and Local Church Ministries is tasked with facilitating the manual's transformation and presentation. We are seeking individuals represented by diverse facets of people and positions in the United Church of Christ; including but not limited to: lay people, clergy, church planters, conference staff, affiliated ministries, and beyond.

In addition to diversity and commitment, Faith INFO seeks persons with a sense of call and enthusiasm to this work of studying UCC understandings of ecclesiology (theological understanding of the nature and structure of church); function of the local church, and of listening for God's guidance and movement, and of blessing the denomination with an insightful resource for local churches of today and of tomorrow.

All nominations will be reviewed by the Faith Education, Innovation and Formation (Faith INFO) team, with a vision for a final working group that represents breadth in life experience, theological and ecclesial perspective, church roles, and voice. **Members of the working group will be asked to make a four-year commitment to this project, including an estimated 5 – 7 in-person gathering across those four years.**

All members of the United Church of Christ are welcome to submit nominations, including self- nominations. The following information is necessary for each nomination:

- Name and contact information (email, phone number, mailing address);
- Brief overview of United Church of Christ experience;
- Skills and perspectives that nominee would bring to the working group; and
- Two names of references for the nominee, with contact information;

Nominations are open now through **July 1st, 2019.**

To apply online, please visit www.ucc.org/MOC

Alternatively, completed nominations can be mailed to:
Manual on Church Nominations
c/o Faith INFO Ministry Team,
700 Prospect Avenue E,
Cleveland, OH 44115

Many thanks for your shared wisdom and insight through these nominations!

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Chris Davies,
on behalf of the Faith Education, Innovation and Formation team

Officers of the Church

Rev. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President

Rev. Traci D. Blackmon
Associate General Minister
Justice and Local Church Ministries

Rev. James A. Moos
Associate General Minister
Global Engagement and Operations
Co-executive for Global Ministries