Beloved local churches of the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ:

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ! We sincerely thank you for participating enthusiastically in the geographical gatherings in Venice and Fort Lauderdale. It was a delight to gather, to Connect, to Empower and to Engage with one another.

In 2025 it was decided that we would postpone our annual gathering and instead hold geographical gatherings. These geographical gatherings were to be a “bridge” leading us into 2026. At that point, our hope was to hold our Annual gathering in February out of hurricane season. We are grateful to First Congregational UCC, Sarasota, for their hospitality to host the gathering.

After listening to concerns from our local churches and clergy, pondering dates that do not interfere with liturgical seasons, and considering lodging cost and financial stewardship, conference leadership recognizes the challenges of moving the annual gathering to February. Therefore, it has been decided to *reschedule* the 2026 in-person annual gathering for **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 BEGINNING AT 9 AM *VIA ZOOM*** in order to address the business of the conference. Though the main focus of this meeting will be to discuss and vote on important issues relating to conference, there will be time allotted for moments of spiritual formation and growth as well.

During this time of transition, we are grateful for your patience and understanding. As we open ourselves to the future, we look forward to scheduling special gatherings later in the year to introduce and welcome our candidate for settled Conference Minister!

Blessings and peace,
Nayiri Karjian
Transitional Conference Minister of the Florida Conference United Church of Christ

Rev. Vonshelle Beneby
Moderator, Board of Directors for the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ

Rev. John Barnette
Vice-Moderator, Board of Directors of the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ