



# Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Hartford Office – 125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105

Framingham Office – 1 Badger Road, Framingham, MA 01702

Dear Friends of the Southern New England Conference:

***Paul chose Silas and set out, the brothers and sisters commending him to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.*** (Acts 15:40-41).

The early apostles placed great value in community and invested time affirming the local church. We too seek to develop resources for common good and provide programs that respond to needs of congregations in our conference.

We invite you to join us for a special offering to *Strengthen the Church* on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Your gift will fund the ministries that reflect the four pillars of the Southern New England Conference vision: Make Disciples of Jesus, Make God's Love and Justice Real, Bring New Life as Agents of Change, and Form Covenant Partnerships.

Last year, the *Strengthen the Church* offering was used to support three ministry areas: our newly formed Center for Transformational Leadership, Faith Formation Ministries, and Outdoor Ministries including Silver Lake.

Please know that your generosity enables programs which have lasting impact, and we will target those same ministries with this year's offering. The Center for Transformational Leadership has designed a process to shepherd our congregations seeking transformation to discern a path toward a sustainable future. ADAPT (Assess, Discern, Align, Plan, and Transform) will be piloted in the fall of 2022! Your Faith Formation team is working to equip and nurture resilient leaders for changing times, and our Outdoor Ministry programs are giving children and youth the opportunity to experience God in nature and create beloved community.

The Southern New England Conference will retain 80% of this year's *Strengthen the Church* offering and the other 20% will be used to support ministries in the national setting as a way to honor our covenantal partnership with the wider church.

As we begin to emerge from this time of unprecedented challenge and change, the need to strengthen our churches for the sake of the world is greater than ever. The Southern New England Conference is responding to your expressed needs for reliable, innovative resources that assist you to do the prophetic, relevant, and transformative work that we are called to do - in our churches, our communities, and our world. Your gift to *Strengthen the Church* makes this possible.

Donations can be made:

- Online: by visiting: <https://www.sneucc.org/strengthen-the-church>
- By check payable to the SNEUCC with "STC 2022" in the memo line.

Checks can be mailed to either the Hartford or Framingham office:

SNEUCC  
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Hartford, CT 06105

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We have attached a flyer that you can share with members of your congregation. If you have any questions about the *Strengthen the Church* offering, please feel free to contact Elisa Wilson at [wilsone@sneucc.org](mailto:wilsone@sneucc.org).

We encourage every congregation to participate in this special *Strengthen the Church* offering. Churches that make their Proportional Giving contributions and who also participate in all four other special offerings (*Strengthen the Church, One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors In Need, and the Christmas Fund*) are recognized as "5 for 5" churches.

We are grateful for your support of the *Strengthen the Church* offering that will, in turn, support these important ministries.

Blessings,

Rev. Darrell Goodwin  
Executive Conference Minister  
SNEUCC

Rev. Dr. David Cleaver Bartholomew  
Director of Stewardship and Donor Relations  
SNEUCC