



### **The United Church of Christ**

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a mainline Protestant denomination with nearly 1 million members and more than 5,100 congregations nationwide, with more than 150 UCC congregations throughout the state of North Carolina. Headquartered in Cleveland, Oh., the UCC is a church of many firsts, including the first mainline denomination to ordain a woman, the first to ordain an openly gay man, and the first predominately white denomination to ordain an African American. The UCC's motto ("That they may all be one," (John 17:21)) and tagline (God is still speaking,) support the Church's long-standing commitment to social justice issues and its extravagant welcome to all, no matter who they are, or where they are on life's journey.

### **Locations**

The National Offices of the United Church of Christ are located at 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, Oh. There are 38 UCC regional Conference Offices throughout the U.S., and more than 5,100 local congregations located in all 50 states.

### **At a Glance**

- 5,154 United Church of Christ congregations across the country, including 155 churches in N.C.
- 10,058 ordained ministers in the United Church of Christ, including more than 400 in N.C.
- The oldest UCC church dates back to the mid-1600's, and the oldest church in N.C. was founded in 1748.

### **Leadership**

The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black serves as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, alongside three national officers of the church including the Rev. Dr. J. Bennett Guess, the Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo, and the Rev. Dr. James Moos. Rev. Bernard Wilson serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors. For a full listing of church leadership, visit [ucc.org](http://ucc.org).

### **Historic United Church of Christ Milestones**

- 1620: Seeking spiritual freedom, forebears of the United Church of Christ prepare to leave Europe for the New World. Later generations know them as the Pilgrims.
- 1700: Congregationalists are among the first Americans to take a stand against slavery. The Rev. Samuel Sewall writes the first anti-slavery pamphlet in America, "The Selling of Joseph."
- 1785: Lemuel Haynes is the first African American ordained by a Protestant denomination.
- 1810: America's first foreign mission society, the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions, is formed by the Church.
- 1853: Antoinette Brown is the first woman since New Testament times ordained as a Christian minister.
- 1957: The United Church of Christ is formed when the Evangelical and Reformed Church unites with the Congregational Christian Churches.
- 1972: The UCC ordains the first openly gay person as a minister in a Protestant denomination, the Rev. William R. Johnson.
- 1973: The Wilmington Ten – ten civil rights activists—are charged with arson. Convinced the charges are false, the General Synod raises more than \$1 million for bail. (All 10 were pardoned in 2012).
- 2005: The United Church of Christ becomes the first mainline Christian denomination to support same-gender marriage equality.