



DATE: October 11, 2016

TO: United Church of Christ Thirty-first General Synod Optional Dining Event Host Invitees

FROM: Jan Gomoll, Optional Dining Events Coordinator

RE: Optional Dining Event Host Invitation, Information and Request Form

You are invited to host an Optional Dining Event at the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ! Over 3000 participants from across the country will gather for this major biennial event in the life of the Church June 30 – July 4, 2017 at the Baltimore Convention Center, located right in the heart of the city’s historic Inner Harbor seaport and tourism area.

Optional Dining Events have become a much loved Synod tradition. Many UCC affiliated and associated ministries, seminaries, colleges, and constituency and other groups opt to offer a lunch or dinner to General Synod attendees as an alternative to dining in restaurants or the Convention Center food concessions. The meals often include a program, speaker or entertainment. It is the responsibility of each host entity to completely plan and coordinate the event, select the menu, determine the ticket price, and directly pay the Convention Center Catering Company, Centerplate, for catering services. Centerplate is the sole caterer for the Baltimore Convention Center. The General Synod registration site supports Optional Dining Events by providing the opportunity to purchase tickets at the time of visitor and delegate registration, or to add ticket purchases to existing registrations, up until the date online ticket sales close. Groups may choose to sell their tickets at General Synod as well. The attached Optional Dining Event Information Sheet provides more details.

Please note that all Optional Dining Event hosts who hold a dining event at the Baltimore Convention Center on any day but Sunday, and their attendees, must register for General Synod (see information sheet). I am looking forward to welcoming you and your Optional Dining Event participants to the Thirty-first General Synod!