

Edition 2 March 5, 2023

2023 Annual Celebration

Dear Beloved Rocky Mountain Conference,

There is a line at the end of a Margaret Wheatley poem that says simply: "Stay Together." I have meditated on those words many times in the last few months. Recognizing the pain, grief, and anger that is present in our conference I have wondered, "What does it take to stay together? Do we want to stay together? How do we stay together? What happens if we don't? What could happen if we do?"

I like the word "together" because it has room for all kinds of experiences. We can be together even if we disagree. We can stay together even if we are uncomfortable. Or if we are struggling. We can be uncomfortable together. We can model grace together. We can learn from mistakes together. We can grow in our love for our neighbor, together. We can discern God's spirit, together.

As we look towards our first in person/hybrid Annual Celebration since 2019 this opportunity to come together feels particularly important in the life of our conference. And that is what I hope we do, be Together. Listen Together. Learn Together. Grieve Together. Repair Together. Give thanks Together. Act Together. Worship Together. Break Bread Together.

And so it is with much anticipation and hope that I want to officially invite you to save the date for the 49th Annual Celebration of the Rocky Mountain Conference that will be held on June 15-17, 2023 at Doubletree hotel in Grand Junction, Colorado.

The schedule is purposefully not yet solidified as we want the agenda to come out of what is heard through furthering listening circles that will be scheduled across each association and throughout the conference. What we can tell you is that Registration will begin Thursday afternoon and there will be a happy hour/reception Thursday leading into a dinner and Opening worship service. Friday will include two or three opportunities for us to be in service together, most likely an international project and local project. Friday night we will be at First Congregational Church for dinner and an evening of story, play.

REGISTRATION & ACCOMMODATIONS

Registration will open later this month, so keep an eye on your inbox. In the meantime, you don't have to wait to book your hotel room! The RMC has reserved a discounted room block at the Doubletree, where the event will be held. Use the Online Group Booking Codes if you plan to book your room online click [here](#). If booking over the phone 970-241-8888, please ask for the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC rate when making your reservation. Make your reservation by May 24, to receive our special rate of \$129.95. We have also put together a list of budget hotels found close by to the Doubletree.

Please note: hotel room reservations and payments are the sole responsibility of the individual. The RMC will not book or pay for rooms for individuals, and hotel cost is not included in the Annual Celebration registration fee. All rooms are available on a first come, first served basis.

COST

Early Bird. Register before May 24 and receive early bird \$225, after May 24, price is \$275
Virtual Bird: \$100

NOMINATIONS

Each year at the annual celebration the gathered body elect members of the Rocky mountain Conference to serve on various teams, committees and boards to provide leadership and accountability to the ministries that we have collectively said are important to us as a conference. Keep watch for news from the Nominating Committee about the positions that will be open for nominations from across the conference.

STANDING RULES

Here is a [link](#) to the standing rules that outline the process and timeline for submitting resolutions to be considered at the Annual Celebration.