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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Church of Christ offers nonpartisan Election Day Prayer Vigil and Convening

CLEVELAND, Ohio – On Election Day, Nov. 5, 2024, the Rev. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, General Minister and President of the <u>United Church of Christ</u>, together with other UCC leaders from across the nation, will offer a nonpartisan <u>Election Day Prayer Vigil and Convening</u>.

The event will be <u>held from 4-6 p.m. ET via Zoom</u> for those interested in attending a service that crosses all party lines.

The vigil — part of the UCC's <u>Our Faith, Our Vote</u> campaign — will highlight prayers and intentions collected from across the UCC, which will be woven together with music and prayers from UCC leaders.

"As this historic campaign season concludes, our prayer vigil will be an inclusive space to hold and share the complex feelings people carry on Election Day, "said the Rev. Michael Neuroth, director of the UCC Office of Public Policy and Advocacy in Washington, D.C. "We will gather as the Church to pray and remind one another that whatever the outcome of this election, our mission remains unchanged — to build a just world for all."

Following the time of prayer, there will be space for sharing and spiritual care in response to fears and anxieties many feel around the election. There will be separate breakout rooms for pastoral care concerns, spiritual grounding, and election protection tips.

In the days leading up to the election, individuals are invited to join this initiative by <u>contributing a prayer for Election Day</u>. The hope is to have representation from a variety of UCC pastors and leaders all over the United States, and to share these prayers across UCC social media platforms in the 24 hours leading up to and on Election Day.

Gather with others in this space on Nov. 5 to pray for the nation, for the democracy, and for justice and peace to prevail. People can register for the event <u>here</u> and submit prayers <u>here</u>.

The United Church of Christ National Setting office is located in Cleveland, Ohio.

The United Church of Christ, a mainline Protestant denomination, has 750,000 members and more than 4,700 congregations nationwide. Headquartered in Cleveland, it is a church of many firsts: the first mainline denomination to ordain a woman, the first to ordain an openly gay man, and the first predominantly white denomination to ordain an African American.