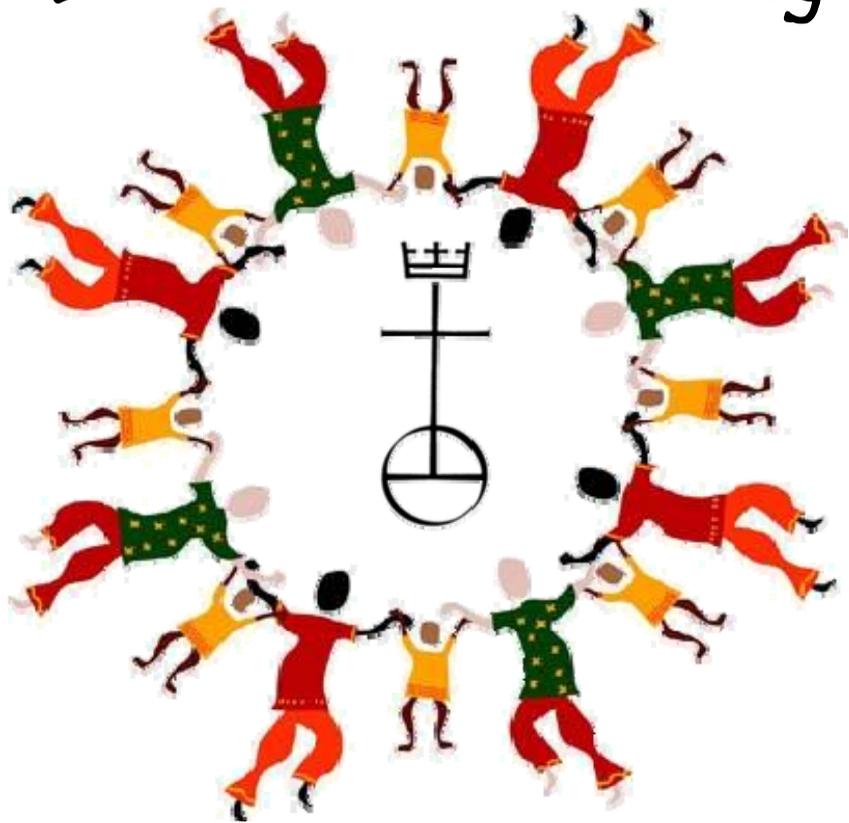


Vermont Conference, UCC 215th Annual Meeting



Changing Lives:
Fearless Discipleship in Action

June 3-5, 2010 - Lyndon State College
Program Booklet

**Vermont Conference
215th Annual Meeting
June 3-5, 2010
Lyndon State College**

THURSDAY – June 3, 2010

3:00 - 6:00	Registration	Alexander Twilight Theatre Lobby
3:00 - 5:30	Board of Directors Meeting	Vail Conference Room
4:00 - 5:30	Choir Rehearsal	Alexander Twilight Theatre
4:00 - 5:30	Displays set up	Gym
6:00 - 7:00	Dinner	Dining Hall

7:15 **PLENARY I**
Twilight Theatre

WELCOME

PRELUDE Rev. Anthony Acheson

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Susanna Griefen, Rev. Roger Daly,
Rev. John Weatherhogg, Rev. Carra Bradt

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of
the deep;
and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:1-2)

**The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, upon many waters.** (Psalm 29: 3)

The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.
So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (John 3: 8)

**The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in God's temple all cry, "Glory!"** (Psalm 29:9)

* Please stand if able

1

When you send forth your Spirit all living things are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (Psalm 104:30)

**The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and those who live in it.** (Psalm 24:1)

I baptize you with water; but one more powerful than I is coming
who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. (Luke 3:16)

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

**The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.** (Psalm 29: 7-8)

May God give strength to the people!

May God bless the people with peace! (Psalm 29:11)

OPENING PRAYER

Mr. Stan Amadon

(adapted from Pamela Wilding, Kenya - *Prayers Encircling the World*, p. 62)

PREPARE

CALL TO ORDER

Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, Moderator

WORDS OF WELCOME FOR DIGNITARIES, OFFICERS AND STAFF

***COVENANT FOR DIALOGUE**

Leader: "...speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way
into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body,
joined and knit together by every ligament in which it is equipped, as
each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building
itself up in love." (Ephesians 4:15-16)

**Left: We covenant with one another to sustain a congregational
culture in which we will communicate with integrity and mutual
respect, and in which our creative energy – both individual and
collective – will be free to flourish.**

*Center: We will repeat in our own words what the other has said to
confirm that we have understood them, and ask them to do the same if
we feel we have not been understood.*

*Please stand if able

2

Right: We will *communicate directly* with each other, using the first person, using “I.”

Left: We will try to make our meaning clear and *say what we mean* and *mean what we say*.

Center: We will *identify merit in another person's idea or suggestion before we identify its deficiencies*.

Right: We will be willing to *inquire* into another person's reasons and reasoning.

Left and Right: We will *listen to understand*, but we don't necessarily have to agree.

Center: We will *not say outside the meeting what we are unwilling to say inside the meeting*.”

(used by permission; RiverRun Communications.)

ROBERTS RULES AND PARLIMENTARIAN

ELECTION OF SCRIBES

APPROVAL OF LAST YEAR'S MINUTES

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Rev. Carra Bradt

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Carra Bradt

As your disciples found themselves paralyzed by fear, behind closed doors- we confess that, too often, we also are fear-filled disciples hiding behind the doors of our churches with those who look and think like we do. It is not easy being your church in this time and place. The message of hope and good news finds much competition in our world.

Silent Prayer

Free us from our fear and fill us with your Spirit that we might be the fearless disciples that you have called and empowered us to be.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Carra Bradt

* HYMN

Yours is the Glory, Resurrected One

LISTEN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Elizabeth Myer Boulton

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-23

OPENING MESSAGE

Rev. Elizabeth Myer Boulton

RESPOND

ANTHEM

All Sad Songs Rev. Matthew Myer Boulton
(Revs. Matthew and Elizabeth Myer Boulton)

LITANY

Rev. Lynn Bujnak

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life:

At the beginning of time you moved over the face of the waters;
and yet, even now, you breathe into every living being, the breath of life.

Come, Creator Spirit, and renew the whole creation.

Holy Spirit, voice of the prophets:

You enflame men and women with a passion for your truth,
and through them, you call your people to the ways of justice and compassion.

Come, Spirit of Righteousness, and burn in our hearts.

Holy Spirit, Spirit of Jesus:

By your power, Jesus came to bring good news to the poor and release to those held captive.

Come, Liberating Spirit, and free us from the powers of sin and death.

Holy Spirit, Advocate, Teacher:

You speak to us of our Lord, and show us the depth of his love.

Come, Spirit of Truth, abide in us and lead us in the way of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit, wind and flame:

You filled disciples with joy and courage,
empowering them to preach your word and to share your good news.

Come, Spirit of Power, make us bold witnesses of your redeeming love.

Holy Spirit, Spirit of Peace:

You break down barriers of language, race, and culture, and heal the divisions that separate us.

Come, Reconciling Spirit, and unite us all in the love of Christ.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life:

At the close of the age, all creation will be renewed to sing your praises.

Come, Creator Spirit, and make us new creations in Jesus Christ.

*HYMN

LET IT BREATHE ON ME

* EVENING BLESSING

Rev. Elizabeth Myer Boulton

POSTLUDE

Rev. Anthony Acheson

9:00 Social Time, Snacks, & Entertainment

Vail Student Center

LET IT BREATHE ON ME

(TUNE: SHINE ON ME)

Let it breath on me, Let it breath on me,
Let the breath of the Spirit breathe on me.

Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me; let the breath of God now breathe on me.

While I'm working, God, in your vineyard here,
I cannot serve without you near;

O come, blessed Spirit, so close to me that I may feel you breathe on me.

When the pathway, God, I cannot see, when the way is hard, O breathe on me;
Give me grace to know when you are near, then, I pray, O Spirit, breathe on me.

FRIDAY, June 4 - Morning

7:00 – 8:30	Peacemakers' Breakfast	Stevens Dining Hall
7:45 – 8:45	New Delegate Breakfast and Orientation	Alumni Dining Room
7:30 – 8:30	<i>Regular Breakfast</i>	<i>Dining Hall</i>
8:00 – 9:00	Registration	Twilight Theatre Lobby

9:00 **PLENARY II**
Twilight Theater

COME AND PREPARE

WELCOME GATHERING HYMN SING Rev. Carra Bradt
Morning Has Broken
I Woke Up This Morning
To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

*** CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 66)** Rev. Tracy Fye Weatherhogg

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of God's name;
give to God glorious praise.
Say to God,
**"How awesome are your deeds!
Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.
All the earth worships you;
they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name."**

Come and see what God has done:
God is awesome in deeds among mortals.
God turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river on foot.
There we rejoiced in him, who rules by might forever,
whose eyes keep watch on the nations –
let the rebellious not exalt themselves.
Bless our God, O people, let the sound of God's praise be heard,
who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.
Come and hear, all you who fear God,

and I will tell what God has done for me.
Say to God,
**"How awesome are your deeds!
Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.
All the earth worships you;
they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name."**
May we this day, through worship and work, through our
conversations and fellowship, give glory to God's name!

***HYMN** HOLY SPIRIT, EVER DWELLING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Rev. Matthew Myer Boulton

SCRIPTURE Acts 2:1-12

KEYNOTE ADDRESS Rev. Matthew Myer Boulton

***HYMN** LIKE THE MURMUR OF THE DOVE'S SONG

LISTEN

9:45 **WORK OF THE PEOPLE** Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, Moderator
Announcements
Speak Outs
State of the Conference
Treasurer's Report
2011 Budget and Financial Resolutions Motion

10:45 – 12:15 **Forum I & Workshops** *Check lobby for schedule and assignments*

12:15 – 1:30 **Lunch** *Dining Hall*

1:45 - 3:15 **Forum II & Workshops** *Check lobby for schedule and assignments*

3:30

PLENARY III
Twilight Theater

3:30 WORK OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, Moderator
Speak Outs
Recognition of 10 Years of Uprooting Racism Task Force
Mission Department Presentation: URTF Speakers
(Ms. Edith Rasell & Mr. Ervin Milton)
Proposed Resolutions and Vote
National Constitution Change Resolution Presentation
Conference Family Celebrations

5:15 – 6:30 *Dinner* Dining Hall

6:45
PLENARY IV
Twilight Theater

6:45 WORK OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, Moderator
OCWM & 5 for 5 Recognition
Nominating Committee Report
Ministerial Compensation Report and Vote
Recognition of VAST

BREAK

7:35 GATHERING MUSIC Butterflyfish

7:45 WORSHIP AND COMMUNION

GATHER

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Roger Daly

Like the wind swaying through mountain trees or surging through the meadows,
so, Lord, is your presence with us; your power filling our lives.
You sweep away our petty worries and shake us free from fears.
At your leading, we move and sway together, as if we were of one mind.

* Please stand if able

Sometimes you are as strong as winter storms, at others as soft as the rustling of ferns.

We are taught to bend and not be broken, to be flexible without shifting ground. You test the strength of our feet and whatever proves shallow is uprooted.

Holy Spirit of God, all-powerful as the wind, you came to the church on the day of Pentecost to quicken its life and empower its witness. Come to us now as the Wind of Heaven and breathe new life into our souls. Revive your work among us, that in all things you might be glorified.

Come Holy Spirit and inspire us as together we join in worshipping you!

***HYMN** COME, O SPIRIT, WITH YOUR SOUND

INVITATION TO CONFESSION Rev. Susanna Griefen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Susanna Griefen

God of life, sometimes the unpredictable fire of Pentecost is unsettling to us.

We confess that we feel more comfortable with the familiarity of Christmas and the joy of Easter.

We confess that we are sometimes reluctant to trust in passion!

Like the first Pentecost witnesses, we worry about appearing foolish or out of control.

God of Pentecostal excitement, we admit that your very wind and fire is frightening to us.

We often try to put out fires and contain the burning heat of the Spirit.

Forgive us and pour out your Spirit upon us, O God.

Help us to trust you and your passion for us, for one another, and for all the earth.

Pour out your Spirit and set us on fire with your Good News!

SILENT CONFESSION

*Please stand if able

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Susanna Griefen

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Susanna Griefen

Awakened, forgiven, renewed,
we are freed to dance with the Spirit.
Let us greet each other in the name of Jesus.
May the peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.
Let us share Christ's peace!

*Sung Response

Alleluia

PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE

MARK 2: 1-12

SERMON

Rev. Elizabeth Myer Boulton

OFFERING

(DILLARD SCHOLARSHIP FUND)

Mr. Jim Thomas

ANTHEM

HOW BEAUTIFUL
(Conference Choir)

Twila Paris/Lloyd Larsen

RESPOND

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rev. Lynn Bujnak, Rev. Pam Lucas,
Mr. Ned Davis, Mr. Jim Thomas

THE CONFESSION

ALL: O God, we are the rest of them too.
One: Huddled behind the locked doors of our hearts
ALL: Comfortable in our safe sanctuaries
One: Afraid of change in our well-ordered ways

* Please stand if able

ALL: Comfortable with our faith

One: That doesn't rock boats
One: Or stir up controversy
One: Or change our attitudes
One: Or our taste in music

ALL: Comfortable with what we already know...

One: And WHO we already know.
One: Fearful of letting anyone know what we believe.

ALL: O God, we are the rest of them too.

Huddled behind the locked doors of our hearts
One: Fearful...
One: Of financial failures
One: Of ecological devastation
One: Of nuclear face-offs
One: Of polarities that paralyze and terrorize
One: Of escalating violence in our own neighborhood and around the world...

ALL: O God, there is nothing new under the sun...

One: But the rest of them became disciples

ALL: Is that what you want of us?

Sing: The Lord's Prayer

THE CONSECRATION

THE SHARING OF ELEMENTS

(Communion Music by Butterflyfish)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Sing: Thank You (to the tune of Amazing Grace)

Unison Prayer:

For this foretaste of your heavenly banquet we say THANK YOU!
May what we have shared seep into every crack and cranny of our living.
Blow open the doors of our hearts.
Breathe into us the courage to truly be your body.

*Please stand if able

Move us from doubting to daring;
From silence to speech;
From passive to passionate;
From wary to welcoming.

Holy Spirit dance upon our heads.
Empower us to set the world on fire with your love.

Move us from being huddled to hospitable;
From being defensive to discipleship;
From being watchers to witnesses;
From being fearful to fearless.

Holy Spirit, break in upon us.
May these gifts seep into every pore of our being.
Grant us power...grant us courage for the living of our days.
So be it...AMEN

GO OUT

*HYMN WOMB OF LIFE, AND SOURCE OF BEING

BLESSING Rev. Elizabeth Myer Boulton

SUNG POSTLUDE THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

9:15 – 10:15 Contra Dance

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

This little light of mine, I'm goin' let it shine
this little light of mine, I'm goin' let it shine,
this little light of mine, I'm goin' let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Everywhere I go....

all around the world....

hide it under a bushel? no!....

this little light of mine....

SATURDAY, June 5

7:00 - 8:30	Peacemakers Breakfast	Stevens Dining Hall
7:00 - 8:30	Pastors Conversation with Rev. Matthew Boulton	Alumni Dining Room
7:30 - 8:30	<i>Regular Breakfast</i>	<i>Dining Hall</i>
8:00 - 9:00	Check-Out	Twilight Theatre Lobby
	<i>Move out of Room, Browse Bookstore & Displays</i>	

9:00 **PLENARY V**
Twilight Theater

COME AND PREPARE

GATHERING MUSIC Butterflyfish

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Carra Bradt

Spirit of the Living God, dance with us on this day.

Come, Whirlwind of Wonder!

Sing to the groaning of creation.

Come, still small voice of Hope!

Enflame us with your passion for justice.

Come, Liberator of the least!

Purify us of our grasping greediness.

Come, Advocate of selfless living!

Silence our gossiping tongues.

Come, Harmony of God's Heart!

Wind of God, blow through us;

Fire of God, burn within us;

Tongue of God, speak to us on this day of renewal and birth
and transform us into active disciples!

*HYMN LOVING SPIRIT

OPENING PRAYER Rev. Elizabeth Myer Boulton

* Please stand if able

WORK OF THE PEOPLE	Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, Moderator
Speak Outs	
Conference Family Celebration	
Vote on 2011 Budget and Financial Resolutions	
Vote on National Constitution Change Resolution	
Election of Officers, Board and Committee Members	

ANTHEM TAKADAMU (SWAHILI) Sally Albrecht/Jay Althouse
(Conference Choir)

TAKADAMU
(LEAD THE WAY)

HATUA MBELE
(STEP FORWARD)

NENDA MOJA KWA MOJA.
(GO STRAIGHT AHEAD)

UKO KWENYE BARABARA SAWA.
(YOU'RE ON THE RIGHT ROAD)

HATUA BAADA YA HATUA.
(STEP BY STEP)

BREAK **LISTEN**

*HYMN Community of Christ

SCRIPTURE Acts 2:43-47

CLOSING MESSAGE Rev. Matthew Myer Boulton

*Please stand if able

RESPOND

SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING

Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, Moderator

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE ELECTED LEADERS

Leader: There are those who have said “YES” to serve on the Vermont Conference Board of Directors, Departments and Committees – both newly elected and those continuing in service. As their names are read, I invite each one to rise in place.

God has called you by name. We have called you by name.

People: **Let go of the fear that binds you and be free to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ.**

Leader: You have been called to participate in one of the covenantal responsibilities required to be the church – the living body of Jesus Christ on earth.

People: **Let go of the fear that binds you and be free to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ.**

Elected Ones: We will respond to God’s call and God’s activity in the world through this service to the Vermont Conference.

People: **Trust in God, in God’s abundant grace and mercy, and your efforts will not return to you empty.**

Elected Ones: We will participate in our responsibilities knowing that together we are working toward a world where love, justice, and mercy will one day abound – a world where all will have enough – and none will have too much.

People: **Trust in God, in God’s abundant grace and mercy, and your efforts will not return to you empty.**

Elected Ones: We are committed to nurturing a new quality of relationship among and between our churches, our Associations, the Vermont Conference and the United Church of Christ.

People: **Trust in God, for the way God works surpasses the way we work. The way God thinks is beyond the way we think.**

THE COMMISSIONING OF ALL

Leader: You have been called to participate in one of the covenantal responsibilities required to be the church – the living body of Jesus Christ on earth.

People: **We will respond to God’s activity in the world by sharing our time, talent, energy and faithfulness in the places where we live and work and worship.**

We will covenant to pray and to discern the dreams and visions God has for the Vermont Conference. We are committed to the common life of our churches – that individually and gathered together our life will be enriched and enlivened by the love of God and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Leader: God invites each one of us to venture out into God’s world, to devote ourselves to God’s teaching and to commit ourselves to caring for God’s people. Inspired by the Spirit, God transforms us into God’s people that we might live and love and be Jesus’ active body in the world.

EVERYONE: **Holy God, the privilege is ours to be called to share in your loving, healing, and reconciling mission and ministry. Since without you we can do no good thing: may your Spirit make us wise; may your Spirit guide us; may your Spirit renew us; may your Spirit strengthen us so that we will be strong in faith; discerning in proclamation; courageous in witness; persistent in good deeds. Amen.**

*HYMN

I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

*RESOLUTION OF THANKS

Ms. Carrie Youngblood, Moderator

GOING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Matthew Myer Boulton

POSTLUDE

Butterflyfish

12:00 - 1:45 *Lunch*

12:00 Board of Directors Meeting

Alumni Dining Room

Abundant thanks to:

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee: Mr. Stan Amadon, Chair, Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, Moderator, Ms. Carrie Youngblood, Vice-Moderator, Rev. Carra Bradt, Rev. John Weatherhogg, Mr. Hal Drury, Ms. Theresa Lever, Mission Dept Rep, Mr. Ned Davis, Rev. Kathy Clark, Rev. Dereen Vanderlinde-Abernathy, Registrar, Ms. Lynn Thomas, Staff Rep. and Rev. Lynn Bujnak, Conference Minister ... for their many long hours spent in preparing for this year's gathering.

Our keynote speaker, the Reverend Matthew Myer Boulton, and our preacher, the Reverend Elizabeth Myer Boulton... for their leadership and inspiration.

For our UCC National Staff: **Edith Rasell and Ervin Milton** ... for sharing this year's celebration with us!

The Worship Planning team: The Rev. Carra Bradt, Chair; Mr. Ned Davis, stage settings; Rev. Tracy Weatherhogg, liturgy; ... for the creation of this year's worship celebrations that frame our time together.

Rev. Mark Pitton for making the various communion breads

Rev. Pam Lucas: for celebrations and communion liturgy

The lobby floral display is an interpretative concept of the Vermont Conference Annual Meeting Changing Lives: Fearless Discipleship in Action logo. The stage setting is an abstract interpretation of the Pentecost theme and the fifty days between Easter and Pentecost. The displays were designed and created by Mr. Ned Davis, Minister of Liturgical Floral Design.

The Reverend Anthony Acheson, Greensboro United Church of Christ, Greensboro, and *Butterflyfish* band: Zoe Krohne, Charlie Rose, Amanda Kowalski, and Fatmira Broka ... for their ministry of music!

Ms. Anne Collins for being the photographer for the weekend.

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