



Go Out in Joy

**Vermont Conference, UCC
217th Annual Meeting**

June 2-3, 2012

Vermont Technical College

Program Booklet

**Vermont Conference
217th Annual Meeting
June 2-3, 2012
Vermont Technical College**

Welcome! Our worship services this weekend will be taking us from the lament of the blues to the joy of jazz. The wall behind our worship area is our version of a wailing wall. During the Saturday morning worship service, you will be invited to write prayers, especially prayers of lament, on the special paper included and place them in the wall. If you need more time to compose your prayer, you may place prayers in the wall at any time on Saturday. The prayers will be collected from the wall on Sunday morning to be used symbolically in our Sunday afternoon worship service.

SATURDAY – June 2, 2012

7:30 – 9:30 am Registration and continental style breakfast; Additional display set up
9:30 – 10:00 New Delegate Orientation

10:15

PLENARY I

Acknowledgement...Celebrate God's Embrace

*Anybody singing the blues is in a deep pit yelling for help.
—Mahalia Jackson*

*I merely took the energy it takes to pout and wrote some blues.
—Duke Ellington*

*The Blues are the true facts of life expressed in words and song,
inspiration, feeling, and understanding.
—Willie Dixon*

Gathering Music

“Steps Ahead”

by Chris Bakriges

Jazz Invocation

“Morning”

by Yusef Lateef

Invitation to a New Day

The Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak

A new day dawns – rise and welcome the morning.

God sets a new day before us.

Wake up! Pray and give thanks for this morning.

A day filled with limitless possibilities.

Blessings reach out before you.

A day filled with spectacular blessings!

Love calls out to embrace you.

A day filled with enormous hugs of love!

A new day dawns – rise and welcome the morning.

A day to sing praises to our wondrous God!

*Song to Sing

“Praise to God”

Booklet page #17

*Opening Prayer

Call to Order

The Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen, Moderator

Words of Welcome for Dignitaries, Officers and Staff

Roberts Rules and Parliamentarian

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.*

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.)

Election of Scribes

Approval of last Year’s minutes

Presentation, Discussion and Vote –Resolutions C & D

Resolution...Holy Grace Abounds

Grace Note

“The Weary Blues”
by Langston Hughes

The Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola

Prayer for Becoming

Ms. Leah Wilhjelm

Creator God, maker of dancing stars and awesome rainbows, sender of gentle breezes and swirling winds, finder of lost chances and mender of broken dreams, you bless our lives with holy possibilities even when we feel overwhelmed by the events of daily life ...even when the blues is the only song we sing.

Compassionate God, you know us inside and out. When the heart sighs with grief too large to carry – you are there. When tears flow like an angry stream – you are there. When doubts snare us like a trap – you

are there. When hope dwindles to a thin strand – you are there... even when the blues is the only song we sing.

Loving God, you know our comings and our goings. You know when we succeed and when we fail. You know the deepest longings of our hearts. Through it all, your love surrounds us, embraces us, sustains us, and opens our eyes to the wondrous possibilities you place before us...even when the blues is the only song we sing.

Gracious God in the promise of this moment, move us beyond the blues and help us to embrace the fullness of your love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Passing the Peace

Pursuance. . . Discern the Call

Holy Wisdom Jeremiah 8:15-22 Mr. Alan Parker

Meditation The Rev. Da Vita McCallister

Song to Sing "There is a Balm In Gilead" Booklet #18

Psalm...Live the Spirit's Promise

The Prayerful Path The Rev. Dr. Michele Rogers Brigham

Litany

As the children of Israel and people from all over the world bring their prayers to the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem,

we bring our prayers.

Confident that "weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5),

we bring our prayers.

Filled with gratitude and thanksgiving for the many blessings that fill our lives,

we bring our prayers.

Hear all of our prayers, O God, spoken and silent, written and written only in our hearts...

(All are invited to come forward and to place their prayers in the wall.)

Jazz Reflection "Jiangjing: Live the Way" by Cliff Aerie

Prayer of Jesus Re-imagined

Our Creator in heaven and earth, holy is your name.

May your way be ours, your Mystery revealed, throughout all the cosmos.

Provide us bread for our journey this day.

Forgive our missteps, miscalculations and mess-ups so that we might know how to forgive others who have mistreated us.

Be with us in the struggle of our egos, and free us from the bondage of powers and principalities.

Let our prayer of praise ring true;

the universe in glorious majesty belongs to You -infinitely!

Amen.

Offering of Gifts Mr. Jim Thomas

"All Blues"

by Miles Davis

(our offering will go to Vermont Conference Irene Relief Fund and The Henderson Scholarship for Dillard College)

Prayer of Dedication

The blessings we receive from your hand, O God, remind us of our calling to live as disciples of the Christ, sharing your bounty of love and grace. Accept our humble offerings today as a symbol of our deeper commitment—to be your hands and feet and voices throughout the globe as we partner with others to heal a hungry and hurting world.

Give us the courage and conviction to let our light shine to illuminate your entire global village. Amen.

*Song to Sing "Awake, Awake To Love and Work" Booklet #19

*Benediction

Sending Song "Footprints" by Wayne Shorter

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 12:15 – 1:15 pm | Lunch | |
| 1:30 -2:45 | Workshops | |
| 3:00 – 3:45 | PLENARY II | |
| | Speak outs Presentation of Conference Bylaws Change Treasurer’s Report Budget and Financial Resolutions Motion Adopt Printed Reports and Financial Documents | |
| 4:00 – 5:15 | Workshops | |
| 5:30 – 6:30 | Dinner | |
| 6:45 – 8:30 | PLENARY III | |
| | Speak outs State of the Conference Visioning for the Future | The Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak & Board of Directors |
| 8:30 | Jazz Vespers with the Oikos Ensemble | |

*Stories have power.
They delight, enchant, touch, teach, recall, inspire, motivate, challenge.
They help us understand.
They imprint a picture on our minds.
Consequently, stories often pack more punch than sermons.
Want to make a point or raise an issue? Tell a story.
Jesus did it. He called his stories ‘parables’.
— Janet Litherland*

*My whole life, my whole soul, my whole spirit
Is to blow that horn. What we play is life.
— Louis Armstrong*

Pause . . . Listen for God’s Story

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Gathering Music | “Equinox” | by John Coltrane |
| Invitation to the Story | | The Rev. Kathy Eddy |
| One: | This is the place and now is the time. Through prophets, poets, musicians, artists, scientists, philosophers, theologians and all the wonders of creation, God has spoken and continues to speak in many ways: | |
| Left: | Like a whisper that awakens the imagination, | |
| Right: | Gentle as a prayer that eases pain and heartache. | |
| One: | God is still speaking. | |
| Left: | Loud and boisterous, even rollicking with hearty laughter, | |
| Right: | Lyrical, melodious and yet sometimes prophetically dissonant. | |
| One: | God is still speaking. | |
| Left: | Clearly, creatively, compassionately, | |
| Right: | Even in moments of deepest silence. | |
| One: | God is still speaking. | |
| All: | We gather to worship the God who speaks anew to us each day, no matter where we are on life’s journey, calling us to be a holy people! | |

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| *Song to Sing | “Gathered Here” | Booklet # |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|

Imagine . . . Stories of Transformation

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Holy Wisdom / Holy Word | Psalm 126 | The Rev. Cliff Aerie |
| Grace Note | “In the Beginning Was the Story By Margie Brown | |
| Searching for the Way | “Up the Downspout” | by Cliff Aerie |
| Blessing Far From Home | “Song for My Father” | by Horace Silver |
| Home At Last | “Hassan’s Dream” | by Benny Golson |

Become . . . God’s living Story

Prayer for Becoming

Ms. Rachel Cleary

Holy God, with every dawn you beckon us, calling us to welcome each new day as a story to be lived. But today brings with it uncertainty and challenges, and we are hesitant to step forward into a story unknown. Instead we prefer to cling to the old chapters—choosing the easy pathway, wandering down safe lanes, and missing holy moments. But in those moments when we give in, step forward in faith to embrace your holy story; you are there with blessing beyond measure. Loving God, help us to surrender to your Spirit, take the leap of faith that propels us into the heart of life, and live into the faithful story of Jesus. Amen.

*Song to Sing

"Give Me a Clean Heart"

Booklet #21

*Benediction

Sending Song

"Afro Blue"

by Mongo Santamaria

9:15 – 10:30

Reception and Informal Time

SUNDAY- June 3

7:00 – 8:30

Breakfast and Peacemaker's Breakfast

8:00 – 9:00

Check out; Move out of rooms, browse bookstore & displays

9:00 – 9:15

Gathering Worship

Call to Worship

The Rev. Debbie Ingram

Anthem

"Hush, Hush Somebody's Calling My Name" African-Board of Directors Choir American Spiritual

Prayer

9:15 – 10:30

PLENARY IV

Speak outs
OCWM & 5 for 5 recognition

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Ms. Florence Coppola

Executive, National Disaster Ministries

Nominating Committee Report, Presentation & Movement
Ministerial Compensation Report
Necrology & Moment of Silence

10:30 – 10:45

Break

10:45 – 12:00

Reconvene Plenary

Voting on the Budget & Financial Resolutions
Confirmation of Covenant Hills Agreement – Document K
Vote on Conference By-Laws Change – Document B
Vote on UCC Constitution Change – Document L

12:00 – 1:15

Lunch

1:30 – 2:15

PLENARY V

Presentation of Associate Conference Minister Position Description
Confirmation of Associate Conference Minister
Election of Officers and Committee Members
Presentation of Gifts
Presentation of Gavel to New Moderator
Resolution of Thanks

2:15

CLOSING WORSHIP

Acknowledgement...Celebrate God's Embrace

*In this circle of earthly existence you shine so finely,
It surpasses understanding. God hugs you.
You are encircled by the arms of the mystery of God.*
—Hildegarde of Bingen

*My music is the spiritual expression of what I am:
my faith, my knowledge, my being.*
—John Coltrane

Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy.
—Abraham Joshua Heschel

Gathering Music "Earth Walk" by Cliff Aerie

Jazz Invocation "Prayer" by Keith Jarrett

Invitation to the Journey Mr. David Durfee

Wondrous God, we open ourselves to you:

**Gather us in—with all our talents and abilities;
our exuberance, joy and laughter.**

Awesome God, we open ourselves to you:

**Gather us in—with all our frailties and needs;
our fears, shortcomings and hang-ups.**

Loving God, we offer ourselves to you:

**Gather us in—that we may be renewed and transformed;
nurtured, inspired and challenged to live as faithful witnesses.**

Compassionate God, we offer ourselves to you:

**Gather us in—that we may be bearers of your love and mercy;
and so blessed may we become a blessing to others in search of
healing and wholeness.**

*Song to Sing "Gather Us In" Booklet #22

Resolution...Ponder Holy Possibilities

Grace note "If God Speaks to Us" The Rev. Amy Pitton
by Frederick Buechner

*Prayer For Becoming

**God of history and hope—Creator of aardvark and atom, zebra and
zorapteran—we gaze upon our world and see your wondrous
imagination in all creation. You bless us beyond measure with the
bounty of your abundance and grace us with the deep wellspring of
your love. Each moment is filled with holy possibility, if we but pause to
recognize your presence and hear your inviting word.**

**God of sound and silence—open us to your still speaking voice—
whispered in the nooks and crannies of daily tasks, or shouted in the
chaos and cacophony of life. Empower us to live as your comma
people, offering time and space to others in need of your renewing
Spirit, in the fullness of Jesus our Christ. Amen.**

Choral Anthem Annual Meeting Choir

Pursuance...Discern the Call of Christ

Holy Wisdom Isaiah 55:12-13
Nehemiah 8:10

Meditation The Rev. Da Vita McCallister

Jazz Punctuation "Contemplation" by McCoy Tyner

Psalm...Live the Spirit's Promise

The Prayerful Path The Rev. Dr. Michele Rogers Brigham
Mr. Ned Davis

Litany

We, who are God's children and have been washed in the waters of
baptism, have offered our prayers for ourselves, our communities, our
church, and our world.

God hears our prayers and we trust in God's mercy and grace.

Carrying our burdens and our joys, none of which are too big or too
heavy,

God hears our prayers and we trust in God's mercy and grace.

As individuals and as God's community of believers who together seek
God's presence in our lives, we are bold to believe:

God hears our prayers and we trust in God's mercy and grace.

Our prayers that have been offered at our wailing wall have been
gathered and collected.

Now as the water is poured out, we are reminded of God's abundant
grace and love, compassion and care, that is poured out over us, our
communities, our church, and our world.

As they dissolve before us, may we go out in joy filled with the knowledge that God hears our prayers and surrounds them all with mercy and grace.

(Silent Reflection)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4:4-7)

*A Song to Sing

"I Come with Joy"

Booklet #24

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Rev. Lynn Bujnak
The Rev. Pamela Lucas
Mr. Jim Thomas

We are Invited

Leader 1: This is the place; now is the time. Here and now God breaks into our lives and we are invited to share in this feast of love.

Leader 2: In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, Jesus was always the guest.

Leader 1: The guest – at the meal tables of the wealthy, where he pled the case of the poor.

Leader 2: The guest – upsetting polite company, befriending the isolated, welcoming the stranger.

People: Jesus was always the guest.

Leader 1: But here, at this table, he is our host.

Leader 2: Here, at this table, he is our hope.

Leader 1: If you seek hope and wholeness in a shattered world, come to the table. Jesus heals broken lives in such a time as this.

People: We seek healing, hope and wholeness.

Leader 2: If you yearn for purpose and direction in life, come feast with us here. Jesus is courage and truth. His way is peace for such a time as this.

People: We seek truth, purpose and direction.

Leader 1: If you hunger for justice, break this bread;

Leader 2: If you thirst for justice drink from this cup.

Leader 1: Jesus hears our cry for peace and reconciliation.

Leader 2: We are welcome here; all are welcome here!

People: Jesus is our host.

We Respond

"Santo, Santo, Santo"

Traditional Argentina

¡San-to, san-to, san-to, mi cor-a-zón tea-do-ra!
Mi cor-a- zón te sa-be de-cir: santo e-res Dios.

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy God.

We Praise God for this Feast

One: Praise God for this feast: for the bread and the cup, for the music and the joy, for the friends near and far who share it with us!

All: Praise God for Jesus: for his passion and his grace, for his daring and his courage, for his forgiveness and his mercy.

One: Praise God for the sweet taste of the realm of God, for the drumbeat of justice, for the promise of peace.

All: For Jesus and this feast of joy, praise God!

We Remember Jesus

Merciful and gracious God, send now your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and cup and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. And let that same Spirit rest on us, transforming us from the patterns of this passing world, until we are like the One whose food we now share. Amen

We Share the Feast

"Nada Te Turbe"

by Jacques Berthier

Text: The Taizé Community
Additional Lyrics: Cliff Aerie

Nada te turbe, nada te espante.
Quien a Dios tie ne nada le falta.
Nada te turbe, nada te espante.
Solo Dios basta.

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
God alone, fills us.

Broken and helpless, doubtful and wounded.
Those who seek God shall find their renewal.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Scarred or scared, God loves.

Follow the pathway, walk in the Spirit.
Those who seek God shall live in the promise.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Lost and found, God cares.

Lift up your prayers, feast on the Spirit
Those who seek God shall rise up like eagles.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
God alone, leads us.

We Offer Thanks (unison)

Amazing and wondrous God, we give thanks for this holy meal shared in your spirit of love. May this bread and cup be more than a foretaste—but an ever-present reminder of Jesus' call to live out your holy story of redemption and grace. May this feast fill us with renewed courage, commitment and compassion to put fear aside, risk the impossible and transform the world. Amen.

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.

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

Elected Ones: We commit ourselves to serving God through our work

together as the Vermont Conference, its associations, and congregations. We will be open to the leading of God's Spirit as we serve in love and faith.

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 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.

*Song to Sing "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" Booklet #25

*Benediction

Sending Song "Up the Downspout " by Cliff Aerie

Abundant thanks to:

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee: Ms. Carrie Youngblood, Chair, Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen, Moderator, Mr. Alan Parker, Vice-Moderator, Rev. John Weatherhogg, Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola, Mr. Hal Drury, Mr. Ned Davis, Rev. Dr. Michele Rogers Brigham, Rev. Abby Gackenheimer, Rev. Martha Peck, Ms. Lynn Thomas, Staff Rep. and Rev. Lynn Bujnak, Conference Minister
... for their many long hours spent in preparing for this year's gathering.

The Worship Planning team: The Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola, Chair; Mr. Ned Davis, stage settings; Rev. Tracy Weatherhogg, liturgy; Rev. Dr. Michele Rogers Brigham, Rev. Cliff Aerie, music ... for the creation of this year's worship celebrations that frame our time together.

Our keynote speaker, The Rev. DaVita McAllister, Associate Conference Minister for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Connecticut Conference, UCC

For our UCC National Staff: Ms. Florence Coppola, Executive, National Disaster Ministries

Rev. Elissa Johnk for serving as our Chaplain
Rev. Susan Tarolli and Rev. Peter Plagge for being our Scribes
Ms. Brenda Egbert for serving as our nurse
Rev. Dick White for serving as our Parliamentarian
Rev. Robin Junker and the Bethany Randolph Youth Group for providing our child care
Mr. Mark Pitton and his workshop for baking our communion breads
The Southwest Association for being our Host Association and providing Red Vesters.

OIKOS

Cliff Aerie, saxophone
Carol Daggs, piano
Connor Rowntree, bass
Gary Smith, drums

Music

Used by permission, New Century Hymnal
Copyright ©2012 CCLI license # 111683556
One License # S-911798

IT Coordination

Mr. Seth Stoddard

The Stage Display

The stage display was designed and created by Mr. Ned Davis, Minister of Liturgical Floral Design