

Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ
218th Annual Meeting
June 1-2, 2013
Vermont Technical College

Vermont Conference, UCC
218th Annual Meeting
Program

Saturday – June 1, 2013

7:30-9:30 am Registration and Continental style breakfast; Additional Display set up
9:15-9:45 New Delegate Orientation (Conant Hall)

10:00 **PLENARY I: Gathering @ the Edges**

Opening Worship

Prelude

Introit

“Fanga” chant

Processional Drama

Rev. Jay Sprout

(based on Isaiah 40:1-11 by Rev. Penney Lowes)

*Hymn:

“Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”

page 13

*Call to Worship

Rev. Carra McFadden

One:

Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages.

Men:

We hear and respond. We rise up to worship God from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.

One:

Like a shepherd, God leads us and tenderly gathers us together.

Women:

Comfort, comfort, O my people, says our God of love.

All:

The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever!

*Prayer of Invocation (Unison)

O God, you to call us from the wild places.

You call to us from the inner chambers of our hearts.

We gather in answer to your call.

We come to pray, to praise, to learn of your love for all creation.

Reveal your glory, that we may see it together.

“Faith @ the Edges”



Program Bulletin

**Inform and inspire us to seek your kingdom on earth in our time.
Amen.**

Scripture and Sacred Questions: Luke 4:16-31

Mr. Alan Parker and Rev. Martha B. Peck

Poem: "I'm Tired, I'm Whipped" Rev. Dr. Jonathan New
by Nevin Compton Trammel

*Hymn: "Meet us Here, at the Edge" vss. 1 and 2 page 14-15

Closing Prayer (Unison) Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak

**Jesus, as we gather in this sacred space,
help us to fasten our eyes on you,
and to tune our ears to the sound of your voice.
May we rediscover the wonder of good news,
and the courage to step out to the edges.
Visit our hometowns and our steeped sanctuaries
with your daring, compassionate, world-changing presence.
Use us, with all our shameful faults,
and our yet-to-be discovered capacities.
Indeed, it is a new day,
and we are here to live it with you. Amen.**

Call to Order Mr. Alan Parker, Moderator

Establish Quorum

Words of Welcome for Dignitaries, Officers and Staff

Adoption of Definitions and Procedures (Document C)

Covenant for Dialog (Document D)

Leader: "But 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 with 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

All: 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.

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.

We will communicate directly with each other, using the first person, using "I."

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

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

We will be willing to inquire into another person's reasons and reasoning and will welcome inquiry into our own reasons and reasoning.

We will listen to understand, but don't necessarily have to agree.

We will not say outside the meeting what we are unwilling to say inside the meeting.

(Used by Permission; RiverRun Communications)

Roberts Rules & Parliamentary

Election of Scribes

Approval of Last year's Minutes

Presentation of Resolution to Reduce Gun Violence (Document B)

Keynote Presentation Rev. Dr. Robin Meyers

12:15-1:15 Lunch (CE presentation on far side of Dining room)

1:30-2:45 Workshops (see board for locations)

3:00-3:55 **PLENARY II: Stewardship @ the Edges**

Speak Outs

Treasurer's Report

Budget and Financial Resolutions Motion (Document F)

Adopt Printed Reports and Financial Documents

Discussion and Vote on Resolution

4:00-5:15 Workshops

5:30-6:30 Dinner

6:45-8:30 **PLENARY III: Stories from the Edge**

Speak Outs
State of the Conference

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak

Saturday Evening Worship

Prelude

Call to Worship Rev. Rona Kinsley and Rev. Joe Amico
(from "God speaks to us" by Rainer Marie Rilke)

*Hymn "Be in our Midst, O Christ" pages 16-17
(change "they/them" to "we/us")

"On the Wilderness Road" a drama based on Acts 8:27-39
Narrator: Rev. Pamela Lucas
Philip: Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen
Ethiopian: Mr. Mark Violette
Millennial: Ms. Elisa Lucozzi
Spirit Prompter: Rev. Martha Peck

*Hymn "Meet us Here, At the Edge" verses 1-3 pages 14-15

Closing Prayer: *("The Avowal" by Denise Levertov)*

(From The Stream and The Sapphire, copyright ©1984 by Denise Levertov.)

Benediction

Informal Social Time

Sunday – June 2, 2013

7:00-8:30 Breakfast and Peacemaker's Breakfast

8:00-9:00 Move out of Room and Browse Displays

Opening Worship

Prelude

Gospel Reading: Mark 6:30-42 Ms. Ann Vivian and Mr. Jim Thomas

*Hymn "Meet us Here, at the Edge" vss. 1, 3, 4 pages 14-15

Poem "The Contract: A Word from the Led" Ms. Gail Compton
(William Ayot)

Commentary *(Geoff Bellman)* Rev. Mary Lee-Clark

*Closing Hymn "Here am I, Where are you?" page 18

*Closing Prayer Ms. Ann Vivian

Leader: God of here and there...and everywhere:
Your Church finds herself at the edge, pushed from center to the margin. But like the disciples that day on the hillside, we see we are not alone...all around our sisters and brothers cling... desperate as hope fades,

Left: like us, seeking meaning...

Right: like us, hoping for hope...

Bleachers: and like us, yearning for you... reaching out for a lifeline of meaning.

All: Meet us here, today!

Leader: Help us hear again your call to serve in the out-lying places. Teach us to share faith and hope in the deserts of doubt, confusion, and loss. And to gaze beyond the limiting edges of what we've known.

Right: Help us learn to let go,

Bleachers: ...to look beyond

Left: ...to imagine and envision

All: ...to explore your call to serve in bold new ways!

Leader: Help us encounter you anew, and wherever we find ourselves, be witnesses to the life-saving power of the faith that demands we share it.

Bleachers: God of here...
Left: ...and there...
Right: ...and everywhere,
Bleachers: Of then...
Left: ...and now...
Right: ...and when,
All: We believe it's true... with you, new opportunities abound!
 Urge us on to step confidently into your call to our future!
 Amen.

9:15-10:15 **PLENARY IV: Serving @ the Edges**

Speak Outs
 OCWM & 5 for 5 Recognitions
 Mission Department Presentation (VLIAC Representative)
 Nominating Committee Report, Presentation and Movement
 Ministerial Compensation Report and Vote
 In Memoriam

10:15-10:30 Break (*last chance for Bookstore*)

10:30-11:30 **PLENARY V: Pushing the Edges**

Voting on Budget and Financial Resolutions
 Election of Officers, Board & Committee Members
 Presentation of Gifts

Worship and Communion

Prelude "Let there be light!"
 Processional "Praise the Lord!" (Cameroon traditional)

Call to Worship ("Faith" by Patrick Overton) Mr. David Durfee

Opening Prayer ("After Psalm 19," by Kathy Galloway) Rev. Elissa Johnk
 (© Kathy Galloway from 50 Great Prayers from the Iona Community compilation © Neil Paynter, Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2009, p. 71.)

Lord's Prayer
 Choral Amen

*Hymn "Meet Us Here, at the Edge" vss. 1, 5, 6 pages 14-15

Prayer of Approach/ Confession (*with images*) Ms. Elisa Lucozzi
 Words of Assurance/ Affirmation of Faith (*Iona Community*)
 (© The Iona Community from The Iona Abbey Worship Book, Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2002, p. 110.)

Scripture Genesis 1:26-28, Matthew 5:1-16 Rev. Judy Waible and Rev. Peter Cook

*Hymn "Great is Your Faithfulness" pages 19-20

Sermon "Original Blessing" Rev. Dr. Robin Meyers

Call to Share Ms. Jeanne Zammataro

Offertory Anthem "Blessed Are They" Lee Dengler
 (Conference Choir)

*Doxology: (Unison) (*Lasst Uns Erfreuen*)
**From all that dwell below the skies,
 Let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia, Alleluia!
 Let the Redeemer's name be sung,
 Through every land, by every tongue, Alleluia, Alleluia!
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*Prayer of Dedication: (Unison)

**Bless, gracious God, the journey of these dollars to Dillard University.
May they bring encouragement to students hungry to learn,
and eager to develop their potential for service.
Bless, Holy God, each of us,
in our journeys of living, learning and serving.
May our gifts, freely given, bless the church and the world.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

The Commissioning of Elected Leaders

Mr. Alan Parker

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.

The Lord's Supper

Mr. Jim Thomas, Rev. Pamela Lucas and Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak

Invitation to Communion

Leader: The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof.

People: **Blessed are wild forests and tended fields,
busy cities and vast, rolling oceans.**

Leader: The table is the Lord's, and the welcome thereof.

People: **Blessed is every friend who gathers in Jesus' name:
wounded, eager, persevering, questioning, hopeful.**

Leader: The loaf is the Lord's and the fragrance thereof.

People: **Blessed is the wheat, mixed and kneaded, baked and broken for us.**

Leader: The cup is the Lord's and the sweetness thereof.

People: **Blessed are the grapes, tended, ripe and juicy, pressed and poured
for us.**

Leader: The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.

People: **Blessed is the vulnerability of the planet, and the resilience of life.
Blessed is the tenderness and strength of humankind.**

Leader: The invitation is the Lord's and the promise thereof.

People: **Blessed is the second chance, the new way of seeing,
the call to service, the joy of extravagant grace.
Blessed is the Christ who calls, feeds and sends us.**

Consecration of the Elements

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Move from your row towards the center aisle and move clockwise --Left side to front and around, Right side to back and around, to return to your seat. Take bread from any place on the table, and go to any open station to receive the cup. If you would like to be served in your seat, ushers will come to you.

*Hymn during Communion “Ishe Oluwa” Nigerian hymn arranged by Godwin Sadoh

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Merger Poem by Judy Chicago)

Presentation of Gavel Mr. Alan Parker

Resolution of Thanks Rev. Rona Kinsley

*Closing Hymn “O Mighty God” pages 21-22

Benediction (Norman C. Habel)

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:15 Plenary VI (if needed)

Abundant thanks to:

Communion Servers: Jean Daley, Jim Thomas, Lynn Bujnak, Robin Meyers, Matthew Wollam-Berens, Sally May, Mark Pitton

Abundant thanks to the hard-working, creative worship planning team! Ann Vivian, Ned Davis, Mark Violette, Elisa Lucozzi and Martha Peck

Worship resources written by Martha B. Peck are offered for use in Vermont Conference churches, provided attribution is made in your bulletin. These include--- (Sat. morning) Sacred Questions, and Closing Prayer, (Sat. evening) Drama “On the Wilderness Road”, and (Sunday noon) Invitation to Communion. Contact mbpeck@gaw.com for copies of resources.

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee: Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen, Chair, Mr. Alan Parker, Moderator, Rev. Rona Kinsley, Vice-Moderator, Rev. Martha Peck, Ms. Ann Vivian, Ms. Gail Compton, Ms. Joanne Hardy, Mr. Hal Drury, Mr. Ned Davis, Rev. Abby Gackenhaimer, Ms. Lynn Thomas, Staff Rep. and Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak, Conference Minister ... for their many long hours spent in preparing for this year’s gathering.

Our keynote speaker, The Rev. Dr. Robin Meyers, professor in the philosophy department at Oklahoma City University, an author, a syndicated columnist, and an award-winning commentator for National Public Radio. He is the Senior Minister of Mayflower Congregational UCC church of Oklahoma City.

Rev. Peter Cook and Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen for serving as our Chaplains
Rev. Peter Plagge and Ms. Marvie Domey for being our Scribes
Rev. Dick White and Mr. David Durfee for serving as our Parliamentarians
Rev. Robin Junker-Boyce and the Randolph Bethany Youth Group for providing our child care
Windsor-Orange Association for being our Host Association and providing Red Vesters

Technical Coordination

Mr. Seth Stoddard

The Stage Display

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

Music Copyrights

The theme hymn “Meet us Here, at the Edge” may also be used in Vermont Conference churches, with attribution to Kathy Wonson Eddy and Martha B. Peck. To obtain a keyboard accompaniment, contact Kathy Eddy at kathywonsoneddy@gmail.com

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

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Be in Our Midst, O Christ

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Music © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

Here Am I

Words © 1983, Music © 1995 Hope Publishing Co.

Great is Your Faithfulness

Words and Music © 1923. Renewal 1951 by Hope Publishing Co.

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Words: Isaac Watts

Harmonization: Ralph Vaughan Williams

O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder

Translation and Harmonization created for the New Century Hymnal

From the New Century Hymnal © 1995 The Pilgrim Press.

NOTES: