



VERMONT CONFERENCE, UCC

219<sup>th</sup>

Annual Meeting & RETREAT

April 25-26, 2014

with:

Gregory Norbet

composer

musician

retreat director

ROOTED  
& GROUNDED  
IN LOVE *Ephesians 3:14-19*

Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee VT  
PROGRAM BOOK

219th Annual Meeting,  
of the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ  
April 25-26, 2014, at the Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee, VT  
Schedule

*Rooted and Grounded In Love*

**Friday, April 25**

9:00 – 11:00 AM	Registration and Display set up BOD Meeting
9:45– 10:15	New Delegate Orientation
10:30 - 12:00	PLENARY I: “The Christ Who is Our Calling” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Worship</li> <li>• Going Deeper with Gregory Norbet</li> <li>• Call to order, Establish Quorum, Words of Welcome and Introductions, Adoption of Definitions and Procedures, Covenant for Dialogue, Election of Scribes, Minutes of Last Year’s Meeting</li> </ul>
12:15 – 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:30 – 3:00	PLENARY II: “Building a Habit of Prayer” (Nurturing the Roots of Our Abiding in Christ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak Outs</li> <li>• Going Deeper with Gregory Norbet</li> <li>• Treasurer’s Report</li> <li>• Budget and Financial Resolutions Motion</li> <li>• Adoption of Printed Reports</li> </ul>
3:15 – 4:30	Workshops
4:30 -- 5:30	Relax, Rest, Recreate, Renew



- 5:30 – 7:00 Dinner
- 7:15 – 9:00 PLENARY III: “The Sanctuary Within”
  - Speak Outs
  - Going Deeper with Gregory Norbet
  - State of the Conference
  - Evening Worship
- 9:15 -- 10:30 Reception and Informal Social Time  
*(Please be mindful of maintaining quiet in the sleeping areas of the inn.)*

- Election of Officers, Board and Committee Members
- Presentation of Gifts
- Presentation of Gavel to New Moderator
- Resolution of Thanks
- Other Matters

2:30 – 3:45 CLOSING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Note: conference family celebrations and VAST recognitions will be made into video presentations that will scroll between sessions with brief introductions.

**Saturday, April 26**

- 7:00 - 8:30 AM Peacemakers Breakfast
- 7:30 – 8:30 Regular breakfast
- 8:45 – 10:15 PLENARY IV: “Going Deeper: Transformation/Resurrection”  
 (“I know that my redeemer lives among us.”)
  - Worship
  - Speak Outs
  - Going Deeper with Gregory Norbet
  - OCWM & 5 for 5
  - Nominating Committee Report
  - Ministerial Compensation Report and Vote
  - In Memoriam
- 10:15 - 10:30 Break
- 10:30 -- 11:45 Workshops
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch and Checkout
- 1:00 – 2:30 CLOSING PLENARY V: “Filled with the Fullness of Christ: The Grace to Persevere”
  - Speak Outs
  - Going Deeper with Gregory Norbet
  - Voting on Budget and Financial Resolutions

*Reflection space*



**Friday Morning Opening Worship**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship\_**

**Opening Hymn**

“In The Bulb There Is a Flower”

Rev. Rona Kinsley

**Unison Prayer of Confession:**

**Silent Prayer**

**Words of Assurance** (I Corinthians 2:7, 9)

**Response of Praise:** “Lift Me Up” (*Refrain sung two or three times*) Gregory Norbet

**Scripture Readings**

Jeremiah 17:7-9

Ephesians 3: 14-21

**Roots Litany**

**Hymn**

“O God in Whom All Life Begins”

**Unison Prayer:**

**Closing Chorus:**

**Benediction** (*Holding one hand on your own heart, and extending your other hand to your neighbor, offer this blessing*)

**Reflection space**



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## Friday Evening Worship

### Words of Welcome & Invitation

Rev. Rona Kinsley

*(NOTE: All are invited and encouraged to move or not as you are comfortable and drawn to.)*

### Invocation

### Hymn

“Simple Gifts”

Joseph Brackett, Jr.

All: *'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free  
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gained,  
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
To turn, turn will be our delight,  
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.*

### Scripture *(Ephesians 3:14-16)*

I bow my knees before God, from whom every family in heaven  
and on earth take its name. I pray that according to the riches of divine glory,  
God may grant you to be strengthened in your inner being with power through  
the Spirit.

### Segment 1 Reflection: Overwhelmed

Time of reflection.

*(All are invited and encouraged to move or not as you are comfortable and drawn to.)*

### Close Segment with (reprise)

### Segment 2 Reflection: Letting Go

Time of reflection.

### Close Segment with (reprise)

### Segment 3 Reflection: With Intention

Time of reflection.

### Close Segment with (reprise)

### Sending

### Response

All: “Lift Me Up”

Gregory Norbet



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**Saturday Morning Worship**

**Prelude**  
**Call to Worship**

Ephesians 3:20-21

**A Litany of Being God's Instrument of Goodness**

**Liturgical Dance**

"Amazing Grace"  
Soloist- April Streeter

John Newton

**Hymn**

"Lift Me Up"

Gregory Norbet

**Liturgical Dance**

"St. Francis' Peace Prayer"

St. Louis Jesuits

Joanne Hardy and Judy Waible, dancers  
Choreography: Sr. Patricia Curran SND

**Hymn:**

"Love Is the Healing Power "

Rev. Anthony Acheson



## Closing Worship with Communion

### And Anointing

#### The Gathering

##### Prelude

**Call to Worship:** "Come My Way, My Truth, My Life" soloist, Emma Strange

**Unison Prayer of Invocation:**

#### The Anointing and Commissioning

**Reclaiming our Vocation**—Gregory Norbet

**Liturgical Dance** "Lay your Hands" Carey Landry

**Invitation to Anointing**

#### *The Commissioning of 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.**



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#### *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 Word of Grace

**Hymn:** "You are Called to Tell the Story" words: Ruth Duck /tune: Sicilian Mariners



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**Scripture Reading:** Ephesians 3:17-19, interspersed with words of Jesus

**Choir Anthem**      “Ground Us In Your Love”      Rev. Anthony Acheson

**The Feast of Blessing**

**Invitation**

**Call to Share  
Offertory Anthem**      “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”      Board of Directors

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**Doxology**

(Old Hundredth)  
Praise God, who summons earth, all round !  
Praise Christ, who rises from the ground !  
Praise Spirit’s twirling, greening vine !  
Now claim us; send us, love divine!

**Communion Prayers**

**Sharing of the Elements  
Anthem during Communion**      “Grace”      Carolyn Hamlin

**Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Hymn**      “We are People on a Journey”      verse 1-6, and verse 1 in Spanish

**Benediction**





## **Special Acknowledgements**

Thank you, Gregory Norbet for guiding us through our deepening.

Thank you, Rev. Anthony Acheson for your musical direction and accompaniment.

Thank you, Seth Stoddard for all your help with the technology.

Thank you, Rev. Rona Kinsley for your leadership as this year's moderator.

Thank you, Ned Davis for your fantastic floral arrangements and stage decorations

Thank you to our soloists, April Streeter and Emma Strange for their wonderful addition to worship.

Thank you, Rev. Mark Pitton for making our communion bread

Thank you, Rev. Peter Plagge and Rev. Mark Pitton for being this year's scribes

Thank you, Rev. Dick White for being the Parliamentarian

Thank you, Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno for being our Chaplain

Thank you to our workshop leaders

**Annual meeting planning committee:**

