

**MINUTES OF
THE 215 th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VERMONT CONFERENCE, UCC
As Approved by the Board of Directors, June 3, 2011
with Corrections (see Errata Sheet)**

Thursday Evening, June 3, 2010--Plenary 1

Moderator *Susie Webster Toleno* called the **meeting to order** at 7:22 PM

She made introductory remarks, then called on Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak, who reported that we had a quorum:

193 Registered Delegates

163 Present

226 Total Registration; 48 Churches represented

Document G, The Covenant for Dialogue was introduced. Jerry Handspicker, who created it, was thanked. It was moved and seconded to adopt it as our rule for orderly conversation. **Unanimous**

Dignitaries were introduced: Rev. Elizabeth Meyer Boulton, Rev. Dr. Matthew Meyer Boulton, Rev. Irvin Milton, Dr. Edith Rasell, Rev. David Williams, Marshall Hughes, Marie Malin, Rev. Bert Marshall. It was moved and seconded to approve their presence in the meeting with voice but no vote. **Unanimous.**

The Annual Meeting Committee was introduced and thanked for their hard work. Also, the Board of Directors of the Conference. Lyndon State College, red vesters and others were thanked for providing assistance during the meeting.

Document H was introduced, declaring Robert's Rules of order as the order for procedure. It was moved and seconded, and passed **unanimously.**

Kaye Hult and Carlie Murray were introduced as Scribes for the meeting. Moved, seconded, **unanimous.**

Deb Ingram, Chair of Board of Directors, gave the Board's report. It is the first to operate under the new By-laws. There are now 12 members rather than 25.

1. Personnel Evaluation of the Conference Minister set for this Fall.
2. Strategic Planning for the Conference including:
 - Internal and external goals; vitality; spiritual renewal and direction, and looking outward.
 - Series of events around the state--elicit thoughts regarding goals, practices, re how the Conference can best serve the needs of the local congregations.
3. The Board of Directors approved the minutes of last year's meeting. People can read them online.

Carra Bradt led a Prayer of Confession.

The Rev. Elizabeth Boulton gave her opening message.

The evening ended with a Song by the Rev. Dr. Matthew Boulton and a litany led by Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak.

Friday, June 4--Plenary II

Introduction of Conference Staff: by Suzie Toleno-Webster: Staff: Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak, Rev. Pamela Lucas, Rev. Jim Thomas, Lynn Thomas,

Also Stan Amadon talked about thinking of those putting the Annual Meeting together, especially *Lynn Thomas.*

Announcements

Speakouts

David Damcot gave the **Treasurer's Report:**

He stated we should keep in mind that we're a covenanted people.

Joy: We are drawing far less from unrestricted funds--no longer drawing \$200,000; now \$50,000.

Succeeding in keeping expenses low: Conference operations have been trimmed to the bone; lots of information sent on computer now, not paper.

Concern: Staff salary & travel.

Need churches to tithe to OCWM 10% of operating expenses. It's tough with local churches' own financial struggles particularly for small churches.

New Line Item: Friends of the Vermont Conference: Individual people contribute to this fund to keep the Conference floating.

Rev. Jim Thomas: **Presentation of the Budget:** Introduction of Documents E and F-7 resolutions recommended by the Board of Directors. Moved and Seconded.

Per capita is at \$11.36 plus the Associations' fee. Presently 60% goes to Conference. 40% to national.

Rev Lynn Bujnak gave the **State of the Conference Address.**

Break for **Workshops.**

Friday, June 4 -- Plenary III

Speakouts

Recognition of Uprooting Racism Task Force's 10th Anniversary by *Revs. Lucas and Bujnak*

Mission Department Presentaion: Dialogue between Dr. Edith Rasell and Rev. Ervin Milton.

Two **Resolutions:**

Document B: Charter for Compassion: Moved and seconded. Discussion. **Unanimous.**

Resolution on affirmation of: CHARTER FOR COMPASSION.

SUBMITTED BY: Vermont Conference Department of Mission

WHEREAS, the diverse religions and cultures of the world are often critical and unaccepting of each other and sometimes even violent and destructive toward those different from themselves, and

WHEREAS, religious leaders from around the world are highlighting this tragic impasse: for example, Muslim leader Salman Ahmad states that business, government and other world leaders need a guiding principle for working together, "...especially when the world is colliding into each other every day." And Sister Joan Chittister states that "In a world where force is too often the response to differences of opinion, culture, and ideas of the divine, compassion is its one universal antidote." and,

WHEREAS we, as Christians, are called to "Love the Lord your God...Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39), and to "...love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." (Matthew 5: 43-44), and to "...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Colossians 3: 12), and

WHEREAS, the recognized scholar and author on world religions and the nature of God, Karen Armstrong, in 2008 called for a renewed emphasis on the principle of compassion which lies at the heart of all religious, ethical, and spiritual traditions. and,

WHEREAS, world religious leaders, including Bishop Tutu, the Dalai Lama and many others, joined with Karen Armstrong to develop the four paragraph CHARTER FOR COMPASSION and launched it throughout the world for affirmation and adoption in November, 2009. Armstrong describes the CHARTER FOR COMPASSION as a "grassroots movement of people interested and involved in religion" so that "the voices of extremism can be drowned out by the compassionate voices " which treat others with respect as they work for justice. "It is a cooperative effort to restore not only compassionate thinking, but COMPASSIONATE ACTION to the center of our lives."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Vermont Conference affirm and accept the CHARTER FOR COMPASSION as a guide for thoughts, prayers and action by individuals and collectivities recognizing that this call is also that of Jesus Christ's invitation to love our neighbor as ourselves and to love our enemies.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that delegates will encourage their churches and church members to also affirm and commit to the CHARTER FOR COMPASSION in their personal and community living and action. Also, that the Department of Mission through its Global Ministries Committee will develop resources and then follow up with churches to encourage them to act and to learn about their implementation.

Document C: New Approach to "War on Drugs". Moved and seconded. Discussion.

Amendment to lines 30 & 33 passed.:

Line 30: Strike "drug prohibition and", substitute "draconian".

Line 33: Strike "drug", substitute "substance abuse prevention and"

After considerable discussion, the question was called; vote on closing debate passed.

The vote on the amended resolution **passed**: 103 for, 28 against.

Resolution on A NEW APPROACH TO THE "WAR ON DRUGS"

Submitted by the Vermont Conference United Church of Christ Department of Mission

WHEREAS the United States of America and its states, including the State of Vermont, have elected to curb drug abuse by enacting draconian sentencing laws; and WHEREAS those laws have not brought about a reduction in drug use but have resulted in surging prison populations, helping make this country the world's leading jailer; and

WHEREAS the number of people arrested each year on nonviolent drug charges exceeds 1.8 million, including more than 800,000 arrested for marijuana law violations; and

WHEREAS the continuing demand for illegal drugs in this country has resulted in the growth of violent drug cartels and gangs in Mexico, with Juarez, Mexico, the epicenter of Mexico's drug war, experiencing 2,200 murders in 2009 alone, the highest murder rate in the world; and

WHEREAS the policy of such sentencing costs this country approximately billion annually and results in annual revenues for the drug cartels estimated to exceed \$20 billion; and

WHEREAS the approach of long sentences for those who are dependent on drugs is neither effective nor consistent with the teachings of Jesus, who healed those possessed of demons (Matthew 8:28-33);

and whereas in II Corinthians 2:5-8, we are urged, when someone has erred and been held accountable, to encourage that person, so that he or she will not become so sad as to give up completely;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ urges our state and federal legislators to reconsider the existing policies of draconian punishment and the unsustainable practice of incarcerating people who are addicted and who have not committed violent crime, and to consider reallocation of resources to provide more opportunities for substance abuse prevention and treatment and alternatives to incarceration.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to Vermont's Congressional delegation, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Vermont, the Speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Vermont Senate.

Friday, June 4--Plenary IV

Susie announced a change in the Agenda , due to the extended discussion at the afternoon session.

Ann Vivian--**Nomination Committee Report** introduced. Thanks to all who are serving in Conference positions. Thanks to Lynn Bujnak .

<u>Document J--Nominees</u>		<u>Moved and Seconded</u>
<u>Officers</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
Moderator	2010-2011	Ms. Carrie Youngblood
Vice Moderator	2010-2011	Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen
Treasurer	2010-2011	Mr. David Damkot
<u>Members of the Board of Directors</u>		
(From CH Assoc)	2010-2013	Rev. Debbie Ingram
(From GO Assoc)	2010-2013	Rev. Roger Daum
(From WO Assoc)	2010-2013	
<u>Committees Reporting to the Board of Directors</u>		
Personnel	2010-2011	Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy
	2010-2012	Rev. Debbie Ingram
	2010-2013	Ms. Arlinda Wickland
Nominating	2010-2011	Rev. Richard White
	2010-2013	Mr. Jeremy Schrauf
Annual Meeting	2010-2013	Mr. Ned Davis
	2009-2012	Rev. Anthony Acheson
	2009-2012	Rev. Abby Hodges
	2010-2011	Mr. Jonathan Farrell
<u>Department of Church and Ministry</u>		
Chair	2010-2011	Rev. Dereen Vanderlinde-Abernathy
Vice Chair	2010-2011	David Durfee
Church Standing and Growth	2010-2013	Ms. Paula Gile
	2010-2013	Mr. Alan Parker
Ministerial Standing and Standards	2010-2013	Mr. Gary Livingston
	2010-2012	Rev. Jonathan New
	2010-2013	Ms. Margaret Carrothers
	2010-2013	Rev. Harvey Bartlett
<u>Department of Mission</u>		
Chair	2010-2013	Rev. Susanna Griefen
Vice Chair	2010-2013	Rev. Adrienne Carr
<u>Department of Christian Education</u>		
Chair	2010-2011	Ms. Nancy Fowler
Vice Chair	2010-2013	Rev. Sandra Daly
<u>Department of Stewardship and Financial Development</u>		
Chair	2010-2011	Mr. Rufus Cushman
Vice Chair	2010-2013	
Finance Committee		
	2010-2013	Mr. Craig Abel-Palmer
Investment Committee		
	2010.2013	Mr. William Gile
	2010-2013	Rev. Carole Carlson
<u>Vermont Ecumenical Council and Bible Society</u>		
Peace, Justice and the Integrity of Creation	2009-2010	Rev. James Gray
Faith and Order	2009-2010	Rev. Meredith Handspicker
	2009-2010	Rev. Daniel Wright
Trustees	2009-2010	Mr. Roy V. Hill II

NOTE: As the slate above indicates, there are still vacancies in several important positions. Names can be

added by the Nominating Committee in the time leading up to the Annual Meeting. Names of persons who would be good additions to the list and who might be willing to serve, along with name of the position for which they are suggested, should be sent to the Nominating Committee. Please send the name to at least two members.

Jean Andrews – djjean@myfairpoint.net

Ann Vivian – av@gvvarchitects.com

Mike Ford – cubmf@yahoo.com

Family Celebrations: Revs Lucas and Bujnak:

12 members in discernment

1 Disciples of Christ minister seeking ordained ministereal partner standing

10 saying yest to a call

7 transitions

7 retirements

5 moving on

Break for **Worship**

Communion Service: Mark 2: 1-12 (paralytic through the roof)- *Rev. Elizabeth Boulton* preaching:

"Head up, legs bent,; unafraid; fearless disciple; fear not and believe!"

Saturday, June 5--Plenary V

Speakouts

Ministerial Compensation Guidelines for 2011--Presented by *Rev. Mary Lee Clark*. Moved & seconded. Discussion. Voted and Passed, **Unanimous**.

3

Announcements:

Rev. Jim Thomas:

5 for 5 awards Churches who participated in all 5 mission offerings in 2009:

United Church of Bellows Falls

Charlotte Congregational Church

United Church of Chelsea

United Church of Craftsbury

Danville Congregational Church

First Congregational Church, Essex Junction

First Congregaional Church, UCC, Fair Haven

United Church of Northfield

Pittsford Congregaional Church UCC

Richmond Congregational Church

Grace Congregational United Church of Christ Rutland

Congregational Church of South Hero, UCC

North Congregational UCC, St. Johnsbury

Wells River Congregational Church, UCC

Churches who tithed 10 % of operating budget (5% if Federated) to OCWM or those who increased giving to OCWM by 1% in 2009:

Second Congregational Church, Bennington

Congregational Church, UCC, Bradford

Brownington Village Congregational Church

College Street Congregational Church, Burlington

First Congregational Church, UCC, Fair Haven

Greater Hartford United Church of Christ

United Church of Christ, Irasburg

First Congregational Church, UCC, Randolph Center

Federated Church of Rochester
First Congregational Church, Springfield
United Church of Underhill
Waterville Union Church
West Dover Congregational Church
Westminster West Congregational Church

Financial Motions--Document F voted on and passed; **Unanimous.**

Family Celebrations: *Pam Lucas and Lynn Bujnak*

Ordination Anniversaries (960 years' worth!):

65 years, Ordained 1945:

Rev. Serge Hummon, Shrewsbury, MA

55 years, Ordained 1955

Rev. Richard Bingham, South Hero, VT

Rev. W. Norman MacFarlane, Orleans, VT

Rev. Donald Goff, Jericho, VT

50 years, Ordained 1960:

Rev. Jordan Dickinson, Dorset, VT

Rev. Thomas D. Steffan, Bennington, VT

45 years, Ordained 1965

Rev. Richard A. Miller, Morgan, VT

Rev. Paul Willard, Waterbury, VT

Rev. Murdale C. Leysath, Brandon, VT

40 years, Ordained 1970

Rev. James MacIntyre III

Rev. Gordon Naser, Fair Haven, VT

Rev. John "Jack" Bixby, Brattleboro, VT

35 years, Ordained 1975

Rev. Margaret L. Stoddard, Wilder, VT

Rev. Marshall Hudson-Knapp, Fair Haven, VT

Rev. Dale Hindmarsh, Lincoln, VT

Rev. Jay Sprout, St. Johnsbury, VT

30 years, Ordained 1980

Rev. Edward Hults, Poultney, VT

Rev. Marcia Dorey, Wilmington, VT

Rev. Dr. Mary N. Hawkes, Brattleboro, VT

Rev. Richard Ringenwald, Manchester, VT

25 years, Ordained 1985

Rev. Joan W. Vincent, Glover, VT

Rev. Janet Langdon, Putney, VT

Rev. Joan O'Gorman, Williston, VT

20 years, Ordained 1990

Rev. Margaret Slater, Barre, VT

Rev. Mark Mendes, Essex Junction, VT

NECROLOGY

Last September, the Conference received word that the **Rev. William Meredith Edwards** died in 2005. He served the North Bennington Congregational Church from 1983 to 1986 when he retired from ministry and moved to Washington State.

The Rev. Alan Bond died on August 23, 2009. Born September 4, 1936 in Winchester, Massachusetts, he graduated from Middlebury College with a BA in Economic Theory in 1957. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School in 1965. He served the Rochester Federated Church from 1965 until 1974. He then served at the Scottsdale Congregational Church in Arizona and the First Congregational Church of Reading Massachusetts, retiring in 1998. He also served as Chair of the Board of Directors and President of the Vermont Conference. He leaves his wife Lois in Rochester.

The Rev. Wesley Megaw died on August 26, 2009 in Punta Gorda, Florida. Born on November 2, 1917 in Ottawa, Canada, he graduated from Duke University and Princeton Seminary and Union Seminary, he was ordained in 1948 in the Presbyterian Church. Following years of ministry in that denomination, he received Privilege of Call in the United Church of Christ and served the West Lebanon Congregational Church in the Grafton Orange Association from December of 1970 until February of 1981. He then served the United Church of Johnson from 1981 to 1986 and retired to Eden, Vermont. His wife, Joyce, died in 2004.

The Rev. Charles N. Graham died on September 4, 2009 in Clarendon. Born September 3, 1942 in Bennington, he received his Master of Divinity from Methodist Theological School and was ordained in 1967. He served churches in Essex New York, Hardwick, Grand Isle and North Hero and Retired from Bristol Federated Church after serving there for 17 years.

Warren Gorman died on October 5, 2009. He was 88. A graduate of the Vermont Academy of Spiritual Training, Warren served as licensed pastor of the First Congregational Church of Royalton from 1995 to 2006.

Prayer blessing those who have completed their journey:

O God, we celebrate and give thanksgiving for these souls who have been gathered into the cloud of witnesses that surrounds us and cheers us on – for the journey continues into all eternity – with you. And let the people say “Amen”.

We remember as well the many who have died in this past who were a part of our Conference family and our local church communities.

Nancy White – Jack Dorey – Edna Fairbanks – Estelle Brown

For all whom we cared for us, for all who cared for us, for all labored with us in the building of God’s Kingdom, we say thank you, God.

We give thanks that they now live and reign with you.

As a great cloud of witnesses, they surround us with their blessings

and offer you hymns of praise and thanksgiving. And let the people say “Amen”. remember those who have ended their journey in this world.

And there is still nothing to fear.

Ratification of National Constitutional Amendment--Document D. Voted, Unanimous.

VAST Recognition--Pam Lucas

Pam promises that next year she'll have a significant power point presentation!

Pam thanked the VAST faculty "who are incredibly dedicated, many of them year after year".

Faculty: Dan Wright
Bruce Lee-Clark
William Schudder
Peter Plagge
Marcia Dorey
Len Rowell

Graduate from St. Johnsbury:--Alan Parker Licensed Pastor of Craftsbury Church

Graduate from Manchester:----Rita Lane, attends Shrewsbury Community Church

Graduates from Richmond:----Allen Arthur, member of South Hero United Church of Christ

Sherry Barr, member of United Church of Chelsea

Chuck Barnum, member of 1st Congregational Church of Brookfield

Carol Milkun, member of Warren United Church of Christ

Nancy Smith, member of Moretown United Methodist Church

Anne Wallis Bull, member of Waitsfield United Church of Christ

Vote on Nominating Committee Report. **Unanimous.**

Passing of Gavel from *Susie Toleno-Webster* to *Carrie Youngblood*.

Resolution of Thanks

WHEREAS the 215th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ, convened at Lyndon State College on June 3 – 5, 2010, and there worshiped, conducted business, learned from and were in fellowship with each other; and

WHEREAS WE TOOK FRUTHER STPS TO ENSURE THE United Church of Christ continues in its resolve to “All Be One”; and

WHEREAS so many of our family of faith contributed their time and talents, their faith, preparation and prayer; and time

WHEREAS we were blessed to share the gifts of those who were able to be with us.

THEREFORE be it resolved that we, the delegates and visitors to the 215th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ, extend our gratitude to those who have shared their talents and time with us:

TO Lyndon State College, especially Donna Wheeler and all her staff who have extended such extravagant welcome to us, year after year;

TO the members of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee;

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

TO our UCC National Staff Edie Russell and Erving Milton;

TO the Worship Planning team;

TO the Reverend Mark Pitton for making the various communion beads;

TO the Reverend Pam Lucas for celebrations and communion liturgy;

TO the Reverend Anthony Acheson and the *Butterflyfish* band;

TO Ms Anne Collins for being the photographer for the weekend;

TO Mr. Ned Davis for his imaginative and inspirational liturgical floral displays;

TO our parliamentarian Cindy Tollman, our Scribe Kaye Hult and our Scribe and Nurse Carlie Murray for ensuring the propriety and accurate recording of our proceedings:

TO our chaplain, the Reverend Rona Kinsley;

TO our Conference Staff who have already been abundantly introduced but can never be sufficiently thanked:

And, with tremendous thanks, TO our outgoing Moderator, the Reverend Susie Webster-Toleno whose good humor, good nature and splendid sense of timing has kept us focused on our missions, our goals and each other;

TO all these of God’s Servants we offer our thanks and gratitude, and in service I move this resolution.

Carrie Youngblood

Moderator, VT Conference UCC

Closing Worship and installation of those newly elected.

We finished off with several songs led by Revs. Matt and Elizabeth Boulton & Butterflyfish

Errata Sheet – 2010 Annual Meeting Minutes

Notes:

1. *Minutes are a record of what actually said, read, and done at meeting. The question is are they an accurate reflection of what happened, not are they what should have happened. Only things that were said at the meeting and observations made by the scribes, therefore, are subject to correction. If there are misstatements that were actually in statements made or documents distributed, those should not be corrected in the minutes.*
2. *Line numbers count each line, except for the header and footer, on which there is anything printed.*

Page 1

Line 4 - hyphenate Webster-Toleno

Line 14 – change “approve their presence at the meeting with voice but no vote” to “grant them voice but not vote”

Line 21 – change Deb to Debbie

Line 35 – delete Rev. before Jim Thomas and add Sybil McShane

Line 36 – change “thinking of” to “thanking”

Line 40 – correct spelling of Damkot

Page 2

Line 6 – change “floating” to “afloat”

Line 7 – delete Rev. before Jim Thomas

Page 5

Line 15 – hyphenate Lee-Clark

Line 18 - delete Rev. before Jim Thomas

Page 8

Line 34 – add “Elect” after Moderator