



Vermont Conference, UCC

Keeping in Touch

EQUIPPING CONGREGATIONS FOR CHRIST'S
MINISTRY AND MISSION TODAY AND TOMORROW

E-Kit

June 28, 2017

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Vermont Conference News

We have a great printer to offer anyone who is not running Windows 10. As the update for Windows 10 came, this printer is not supported anymore.

It is a Dell Color, Laser, Duplex, Network Printer 5100cn Comes with the support manual, etc.

A small donation would be welcomed.

In other news,
Lynn, Pam and Jim will be at Synod 2017!

Greetings!

Tomorrow, our conference delegates will travel to Baltimore to be immersed in the 31st General Synod of the United Church of Christ. Synod is an experience like no other. It is a chance to see the UCC in all our richness and diversity, to experience powerful worship, hear outstanding speakers, be part of the process for bringing Resolutions to the floor for a vote, and take part as witnesses to the power, life and love of Jesus the Christ.

Your delegates will work hard. We caucus at 6:30 in the morning and most days do not end until 9:00 or 10:00 pm. All of our delegates have been assigned to a Committee to learn about, perhaps change some of the Resolutions submitted for this Synod. Here are just a sampling of the Resolutions that will be considered.

- A More Just Economy - Living Wage and Job Creation
- Resolution of Witness in Support of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Towards Disability Justice - A Call to the Church and Churches
- On Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Church

In addition, an emergency resolution was submitted in response to the U.S. pulling out of the Paris Accord on Climate Change. The resolution, "The Earth is the Lord's - Not Ours to Wreck; Imperatives for a New Era" was initially



submitted by the Northern California Nevada Conference at their Annual Meeting. Since that time, numerous conferences have voted to support this Resolution. By a vote of the Conference Board of Directors I'm happy to report that VTUCC is one of them.

Because we are a denomination that seeks to act and witness in the moment when called for, Thursday morning will also include an emergency prayer vigil on health care at the capital and led by our General Minister and President, John Dorhauer.



[UCC News and Updates](#)

You can follow General Synod at <http://synod.uccpages.org/> and your delegation through twitter hashtag #UCCGS and our conference [Facebook](#) page.

Please pray for our delegation and the whole of General Synod that we might discern the will and ways of the One we seek to follow.

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I'm going to Star Island the week of July 29 - Aug. 5 and hoped that I might find someone else from Vermont going that week - I'd like to car pool to Portsmouth. My contact info: lizbethmsr@gmail.com

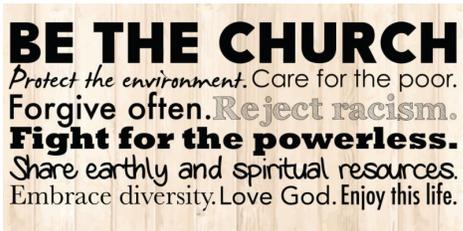
In peace,  
Lynn

Thanks!  
Liz  
Liz Sykas-Ringgenberg

**It's the end of June - Do You Know Where Your Information Review Is?**

The 2017 Information Review for all Authorized Ministers in the Addison, Champlain, Northeast, Grafton-Orange-Sullivan, Washington, Windsor-Orange and Windham-Union Associations **are OVERDUE!**

If you have not yet completed this requirement for good standing; please take the time in the next few days to do so.



[Click Here to Download the 2017 Information Review \(Word document\)](#)

UCC advocates stand with the vulnerable as Senate regroups on healthcare reform

Thank you!

UCC leaders see Supreme Court decision as a 'step backward for religious freedom in the U.S.'

**Save the Date for 2018 Annual Meeting!**

The 223rd Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, UCC will take place April 27-28, 2018 at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT.

Supreme Court blocks some access to U.S., will hear cases on Trump travel ban, LGBT discrimination

North Carolina church rallies around mother facing deportation Wednesday

Medical aid in dying resolution coming before General Synod delegates

General Synod - There's an App for that!

General Synod hotels won't be affected by Baltimore pipe blast

General Synod resolution on climate fueled by change in U.S. position on Paris Accord

New executive for East Asia and Pacific partnerships takes over July 3

Commentary: Let's Lift Restrictions on the CDC, Allowing Research into Gun Violence Epidemic

Racial justice proponents at odds with Supreme Court ruling on disparaging trademarks

UCC church, part of Omaha Tri-Faith Initiative, now under construction

[More UCC news](#)

The theme for the next Annual Meeting is "Telling Stories".

How do we tell stories?  
How do we tell the stories of our faith?  
What stories do you tell?  
Why do stories matter?

These questions, as well as the sharing of stories, will all be a focal point of Annual Meeting.

We look forward to seeing you in April 2018!

Preacher's Pulpit

WANT PEACE? BE A BENDER.

"The arc of History bends toward Justice," but not on its own. Be a BENDER FOR PEACE. But remember: Wars, and other conflicts, are fought to bring "justice" (what I say I deserve!) for myself, my tribe, my country. Peace comes by bringing justice (the hand of friendship) to others.

John LaRue, member, Richmond Congregational Church UCC

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Employment Opportunities!

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SEEKING DIRECTOR(S) OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - The United Church of Underhill (a vital, diverse, and growing congregation in covenant and connection with the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church) is seeking a part-time Director of Christian Education. She/he will be responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a comprehensive education plan, in conjunction with our Ministry in Christian Education and our pastor, for children, and youth. Our Sunday School enrollment is approximately 30 students. Candidates should be energetic, possess strong interpersonal, collaborative and communication skills, and have a deep Christian faith. We are also open to the possibility of two people sharing this 8 hour/week position. If interested, please email Janet Grant at: [grantfernald@comcast.net](mailto:grantfernald@comcast.net). The United Church of Underhill is located at 9 Park Street in Underhill, VT (approximately 15 miles east of Burlington along Rt. 15). You can also find more information about us at [unitedchurchofunderhill.com](http://unitedchurchofunderhill.com)



Click image for more information.



### Food for Thought

Focus Reading:  
Matthew 10:40-42

Henri J.M. Nouwen, Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life, 20th century

"Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines."

Kathleen Norris, Dakota: A Spiritual Geography, 20th century

"True hospitality is marked by an open response to the dignity of each and every person. Henri Nouwen has described it as receiving the stranger on his own terms, and asserts that it can be offered only by those who 'have found the center of their lives in their own hearts'."

Letty M. Russell, 21st century

"Hospitality is the practice of God's welcome by reaching across difference to participate in God's actions bringing justice and healing to our world in crisis."

John Wesley, 18th century

"One great reason why the rich in general have so little sympathy for

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CHURCH MUSICIAN Job Opening, Thetford Hill, VT

First Congregational Church of Thetford

Progressive, Open and Affirming UCC congregation seeks Choir Director/Accompanist to provide keyboard music (piano and/or Rieger organ) and direct our choir for Sunday services.

Come join with our community and create music in our beautiful, acoustically wonderful sanctuary.

Begin September 2017 More details at our website thetfordhillchurch.org.
office@thetfordhillchurch.org
or call 802-785-2915

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### Music Director Needed!

Job Description/Offer: Charlotte Congregational Church, U.C.C. seeks PT Music Director.

Church is GLBTQ friendly. Job includes: Accompanying congregational singing, leading Thursday night rehearsals, conducting the adult choir for Sunday morning worship services at 10am and for other occasional services. Regular planning meetings with the senior and associate pastors are part of the position.

Email: [scookekitt@mac.com](mailto:scookekitt@mac.com)

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Administrative Assistant Wanted! First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro
8-10 hours/week

Position includes: Composition, compilation, and printing of the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter. Maintenance and updating of the signs, bulletin boards, church website and Facebook page. Compilation of the Annual Report and the yearly statistical report for the Vermont Conference. Facilitation of communication between members, committees, church leadership, and lay persons. Maintenance of attendance and

the poor is because they so seldom visit them. Hence it is that one part of the world does not know what the other suffers. Many of them do not know, because they do not care to know: they keep out of the way of knowing it - and then plead their voluntary ignorance as an excuse for their hardness of heart."

Martin Luther, 16th century

"Where there are no good works, there is no faith. If works and love do not blossom forth, it is not genuine faith, the gospel has not gained a foothold, and Christ is not yet rightly known."

Frederick Faber, 19th century
"Mercy has converted more souls than zeal, or eloquence, or learning or all of them together."

William Blake, 19th century

"Mercy is the golden chain by which society is bound together."

Sue Monk Kidd, *The Secret Life of Bees*, 21st century

"The world will give you that once in awhile, a brief timeout; the boxing bell rings and you go to your corner, where somebody dabs mercy on your beat-up life."

Francis Xavier, 16th century
Jesuit missionary

"Be great in little things."
G.K. Chesterton, 20th century
"The Christian faith has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult, and left untried."

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**Resources from  
WorshipWell**

Be sure to check out the worship resources available at:

membership records. Receiving, sorting, and passing along electronic, voice, and paper mail; placing orders as needed; filling out check requests. Co-ordinating rentals of the church space and advertising church events. Preparing materials and personnel for funerals and weddings. Sweet-talking the cantankerous copier.

Applicants should possess reliability, an organized mind, and good language and computer skills. Compensation competitive.

Contact JeffBrewer:

[grmtbrew@comcast.net](mailto:grmtbrew@comcast.net)

or 802-380-8184  
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Music Director

Second Congregational Church, Hyde Park, VT
We are an active and friendly congregation of people who love our church and our music. We

are looking for an individual with a love of music, and a musical background, to lead our music program. We are blessed with a beautiful pipe organ, baby grand piano and vibrant choir. Our ideal Music Director would be proficient with, and enjoy playing the organ and piano, be able to sight read music and direct and grow our Choir and music program. Part time, paid position.

If this sounds interesting, we would love to talk with you about our program and what we can create together. Please email: Second

Congregational

Church 2congo@myfairpoint.net
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Organist/Choir Director Needed!

Application

Email:

[welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)

Job Description/Offer: First Church of Essex Junction, U.C.C. seeks PT Organist/Choir Director. Church is GLBTQ friendly. Job includes coord. music program, directing adult choirs, and playing organ & piano @ 2 services [beautifully refurbished 1928 Estey organ / Young Chang baby grand].



[worshipwell.church](http://worshipwell.church)

Email cover letter and resume  
to [FCCEJmusicsearch@gmail.com](mailto:FCCEJmusicsearch@gmail.com) or mail to  
FCCEJ Music Search, 1 Church Street, Essex  
Junction VT 05452.

Church office 802-878-5745.  
First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
Website: [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)



**Thank You for Reading**  
**An Open and Affirming Conference**  
[For the E-Kit Archive](#)

