



Vermont Conference, UCC

Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

August 2, 2017

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Vermont Conference News

Is God calling to you to service in the Conference and wider church?

The Nominating Committee for VT Conference elections at Annual Meeting 2018 begins its work in earnest in September. There are many positions we will be prayerfully considering.

- We are seeking a dedicated laywoman as incoming V.Moderator.
- Each Association will need to suggest names for the Mission Department Council, and a representative to the Disaster Response Ministry Team. Disaster Response Ministry needs a Chair right now-what if disaster hits and we are not prepared? It happened once, it could again.
- Suggestions for General Synod Delegates for 2019-2021 will be needed from the Northeast, Windham Union and Grafton-Orange Associations. Because of current delegates who will continue and our covenantal obligation to have our delegation reflect the blessed diversity in the UCC, all of these 3 delegates will need to be women, one must be under 30 years old and one must be a person of color. Please be praying about this. Might it be you or someone you know? It should be someone deeply committed to the UCC, active in their local church, and inspired to serve in this way. If you know someone, please let your Association Moderator know, or contact your pastor or the conference office and they will help you connect.

Greetings!

Does your bulletin read:
PASTOR: The Rev. So & So;
MINISTERS: All The People

What does it really mean that all the people are ministers? In this 500th Anniversary Year of the Protestant Reformation, we remember that one of the provocative ideas to come out of that time was the reclamation of 'the priesthood of all believers'. Instead of the conventional thinking at that time that only 'priests' - those who had a church vocation - who had a 'calling' - who were engaged in 'holy work' - could be considered ministers.

The 'priesthood of all believers' means that clergy are engaged in work no more holy than homemakers, laborers, physicians, police officers, teachers. And that, my friends is radical and wonderful.

Except, how often we think the vocation - the calling - of church members is how they volunteer their time within the life of the church - their service on committees and boards, mission trips, working in the soup kitchen, building a Habitat house, cooking for another member with cancer, teaching church school, etc. We have study groups to help people discover what gifts of the spirit they have for building up the church? None of these things are bad - they are essential to the well-being of the church. But our members spend a whole lot more time doing the work they need to do in order to provide for themselves and their families than they do in the church.

How might we turn that around and consider the work of our members their primary mission and ministry? Then worship becomes truly the place of "sending forth" our members out into the world. It is in the workplace where our members have the opportunity to flavor and enhance their environment and relationships with the salt and light that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No - not by 'evangelizing'. Instead, we recognize that too many

To find out more about General Synod go to synod.uccpages.org .

As the weeks go by, we will let you know more about our work and the people we are seeking. Please pray for us. Our work together is so important.

To find out more about our shared ministries as a conference, go to http://vtucc.org/docs/VTConfConstitution_Bylaws0603.

Unless you let us know, the Nominating Committee may not know the ministry to which God is calling you. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or suggestions.

Thank you, Susanna Griefen, Chair, susanna@griefen.com, 802-778-9608.

The Adese Fellowship

The Adese Fellowship: A catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The United Church of Christ is excited to announce the Adese Fellowship!

This groundbreaking, ecumenical program will engage participants in theological reflection and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

The all-expenses-paid, 12-month program will maximize the capacity of fellows to build sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

While Adese is an initiative of the UCC, the program welcomes applications from any faith-driven entrepreneur who is committed to a just world for all.

[Read more here...](#)

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Rev. Pam Lucas will be Leading worship in Benson and meeting with the Congregation

Rev. Lynn Bujnak will be worshipping at the Barre Congregational Church

people in our world demean and put down others, seek shortcuts and greater margins of profit in their work, speak with impatience, rudeness and crassness.

How might our church members show forth another way of being with others as they interact with fellow employees and customers, clerks and clients - performing their tasks as though they were doing that work for Jesus.

This month, as we approach the Labor Day Weekend, let's begin to explore the idea that our members are sent forth from worship as missionaries to the world in the work they do. How is their work contributing to making the world a better place whether their work is any of the above or as Daycare worker, ditch digger, McDonald's server, car mechanic or any other. My life depends on my car mechanic doing her work with excellence. My children depended on day care workers helping me love them into the best they could be. My spirit is lifted by the welcome and smile of the McDonald's employee. The school bus driver literally holds lives in his hands.

If God cares about what happens outside the doors of our churches, then God cares that our members cease to separate their calling to volunteer work inside the church from the paid employment outside the church. Ministry for all of us is 24-7. How might we enlarge our understanding of practical theology to include the "call to be minister" for all our people and help them claim their vocation?

August 2, 2017  
Pam Lucas

## A new resource for welcoming new members to our churches

Dear United Church of Christ Colleagues,

I am writing to let you know about a new resource recently published by Wipf & Stock (December 2016) that I believe will be of interest to pastors and churches in your area.

My friend and colleague the Rev. Russell Mitman, a former conference minister from the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, shares my enthusiasm for this resource.

Marney A Wasserman  
PC(USA) pastor, honorably retired

God is still speaking,  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



and living in northern New Mexico

[UCC News and Updates](#)

**2017 Digital Stewardship Materials...[read more here!](#)**

Youth and young adults drive Just Peace work in southern Indiana congregations

UCC opposes bills that would criminally penalize economic leverage

UCC advocates celebrate Senate inability to pass 'skinny repeal' health care legislation

Commentary: Three Great Loves

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Click image for more information.



Food for Thought
Focus Reading:
Genesis 32:22-31

Shannon L. Alder, 21st century

"You will face your greatest opposition when you are closest to your biggest miracle."

Mary Balogh, 21st century

"Was memory always as much of a burden as it could sometimes be a blessing?"

Aldous Huxley, Brave New World, 20th century

"Chronic remorse, as all the moralists are agreed, is a most undesirable sentiment. If you have behaved badly, repent, make what amends you can and address yourself to the task of behaving better next time. On no account brood over your wrongdoing. Rolling in the muck is not

[New resource...](#)
[Book Review Outlook....](#)

Preacher's Pulpit

Rev. David Ransom is a retired VTCUCC pastor.

Let it begin.....

Chief Arvol Looking Horse wrote, "Each of us is put here in this time and this place to personally decide the future of humankind. Did you think the Creator would create unnecessary people in a time of such terrible danger?"

We each respond to God's call differently. My initial call was through family who had chosen to serve others. Returning combat veterans respond through depression, family conflicts, reconciliations.

On June 18, 2016, 12 veterans were arrested protesting the launch of the USS Michael Minor, a stealth class destroyer. One stated: "My politics have changed since the 1960's. I credit truth-tellers like Noam Chomsky and Howard Zinn mostly..." Yes, each of us changes.

Yes, some of us are called by our Creator to groan with the world as we work toward peace. In holiday parades veterans are often told, "Thank you for your service." Veterans are beginning to reply, "May I ask you, what do you do to effect peace each day?"

How does one decide? Make a list. See if it changes. Have you heard the call? When?

There is a lot of flap today about "war-mongering leaders," among people who look to leadership for their solutions. Peace journalist Robert Koehler recently wrote, "...[no] American president [has] . . . been held accountable to the cause of peace..." Of course not, because it begins with us.

The Rev. David Ransom is a member of Vermont Veterans for Peace

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**Employment Opportunities**

(If you have a job listed, please try to remember to let me ([Charri](#)) know if it has been filled!)

Position: Community Ministries Coordinator  
(anticipated opening Fall 2017)

Hours: Full-time salaried (commensurate with experience) with benefits.

Location: First Congregational Church of Burlington, Vermont - United Church of Christ  
38 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401

the best way of getting clean."

**Bill Watterson, Calvin and Hobbes, 20th century**

"Calvin: 'There's no problem so awful, that you can't add some guilt to it and make it even worse."

**Franz Kafka, 20th century**

"My guiding principle is this: Guilt is never to be doubted."

**David Foster Wallace, Consider the Lobster and Other Essays, 20th century**

"No wonder we cannot appreciate the really central Kafka joke: that the horrific struggle to establish a human self results in a self whose humanity is inseparable from the horrific struggle. That our endless and impossible journey toward home is in fact our home."

**Albert Camus, The Myth of Sisyphus and Other Essays, 20th century**

"There is scarcely any passion without struggle."

**Theodore Roosevelt, 20th century**

"Never throughout history has a man who lived a life of ease left a name worth remembering."

**Ravi Zacharias, Recapture the Wonder, 20th century**

"The world is larger and more beautiful than my little struggle."

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This is posted as a request from
Rev. Charles M. Purinton, Jr.
Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ

Community Clergy Training to Support Rural Veterans
Recognizing the Challenges of Reintegration and Building a
Pathway to Care and Resources

September 26, 27, & 28, 2017

[read more here...](#)

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**Resources from WorshipWell**

<http://firstchurchburlington.org/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burlington,\\_Vermont](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burlington,_Vermont)

[read more here....](#)

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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].

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)

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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

Be sure to check out the worship resources available at:
worshipwell.church



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

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. 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

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



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



