



Vermont Conference, UCC Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

July 12, 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.

Greetings!

This is the first in a series of reflections from the Vermont Conference General Synod delegates on their experience as part of the biennial national gathering of the United Church of Christ held in Baltimore June 29-July 4th.

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As a delegate to this year's Synod, I am grateful to have received the privilege of witnessing the legislative process that drives the national agenda of the United Church of Christ. Within those working cogs I got to see our church functioning in a way that was at times inspired, bold and brave, while at other times contentious and even deceitful. I saw our denomination take steps back and steps forward but always this was something that we did together, soulfully as a body of searchers attempting to find our way closer to God's ideal for us in the world. I will not say that Synod was a clean an orderly process, but rather it was as functional as human relations tend to be and, in its own way, that is an inspiring thing.

During the week I was in Baltimore, I spent a lot of it either in committee where we worked on revising resolutions to present to the Synod floor, or in plenary debating or discussing the different resolutions that were being presented. The thing that made this interesting was that this Synod seemed to have no shortage of controversial resolutions; from speaking out against the incarceration of Palestinian children, or changing the UCC standards of giving, or speaking to the rights of adult adoptees to see their original birth records, all of which triggered a cacophony of

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



UCC one of five Christian denominations opposing any

change to Bears Ears National Monument

discussion, and each discussion consisted of representatives from all the conferences in the UCC standing up and telling us a story about themselves within the span of sixty seconds.

Synod youth stewards help keep business running smoothly

I listened to a lot of stories over the Synod week, most of which were personal; which led me to realize that most of the delegates on the floor, or at least, most of the delegates who stood to speak, were voting from personal convictions. Each of these people wanted us to hear his or her stories because within each of these resolutions they were able to see themselves. They were reaching out to their brothers and sisters within the UCC seeking to affirm their faith in God as they understood it by sharing that faith with us. Some of these stories I could connect with, other I could not. Some people were guarded in sharing their stories, and others seemed to have a story for each and every issue. But everyone present was vested in what we were doing because we understood that the statements we made at Synod represented an institution we all chose to be a part of, and thus they represented a part of not only us making the resolution but all people in association with the United Church of Christ. And so, regardless of the means, I could see the motive behind the process. This Synod was meant to bring people together and it did exactly that.

Synod 2017's final preacher urges gathering to 'Start now'

General Synod addresses need to promote opportunities for people with disabilities, advocate for migrant worker rights

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) elects first African-American to lead denomination

Wisconsin Conference extends a welcome to Milwaukee for General Synod 2019

Commentary: Tuvalu tells us, ignoring climate change won't make the problem go away

### [UCC News and Updates](#)

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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 Thanks!

Liz

Liz Sykas-Ringgenberg

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I appreciated the opportunity to become better acquainted with my fellow delegates from Vermont. There is something about being forced to sit in a room for hours with others that gives you the opportunity to see the silly side of serious people. I am truly thankful to my fellow delegates for sharing with me their insight into the Synod process, their humor, their emotion and their stories. These are the type of interactions that will allow me to feel more settled back at home in Vermont.

I also appreciated getting better acquainted with colleagues and friends from outside the delegation, both from Vermont and from other conferences within the UCC. I was able to meet old friends who I thought I might not see again. In a lot of ways Synod made our denomination seem like a smaller place, and it

**BE THE CHURCH**  
*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.*  
**Forgive often. Reject racism.**  
**Fight for the powerless.**  
*Share earthly and spiritual resources.*  
*Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*

gave me a bit more perspective as to what it is.

I thank you for the privilege of being your representative this year.

Devon Lee Thomas  
Bridge Associate Minister  
First Congregational Church in Essex Junction

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Click image for more information.



Food for Thought
Focus Reading:
Genesis 25:19-34

Winston Churchill, 20th century

"When there is no enemy within,
the enemies outside cannot hurt
you."

Louisa May Alcott, Little Men,
19th century

"...we're twins, and so we love
each other more than other
people..."

Abraham Verghese, Cutting for
Stone, 21st century

"The world turns on our every
action, and our every omission,
whether we know it or not."

J.K. Rowling, 21st century (Harry
Potter)

"Wow, we're identical!"

Socrates, 5th century B.C.E.

"He who is not contented with

CONGRATULATIONS JIM & LYNN



Friends, we have some exciting news! On Sunday I accepted the call as Pastor and Teacher of the Atkinson Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Atkinson NH. We'll be starting there in the fall. We will miss Vermont, but are really looking forward to this next chapter in our lives.

<https://www.facebook.com/AtkinsonCC/>

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## 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,

what he has, would not be contented with what he would like to have."

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov, 19th century

"The world says: 'You have needs - satisfy them. You have as much right as the rich and the mighty. Don't hesitate to satisfy your needs; indeed, expand your needs and demand more.' This is the worldly doctrine of today. And they believe that this is freedom. The result for the rich is isolation and suicide, for the poor, envy and murder."

### **Employment Opportunities!**

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: [grantferald@comcast.net](mailto:grantferald@comcast.net) .  
The United Church of Underhill is

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 \(Word document\)](#)

Thank you!

Meetinghouse Concerts Continue at West Dover Congregational Church

Sunday, 7/23 10:30 am  
Brazilian music virtuoso guitarist Joseph G. Carter, who directs the music program at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut, performs on Sunday, July 23 at the West Dover Congregational Church. The church offers the location to bring music into the community and to fundraise for various local organizations. The concert is open to the public. We are an Open and Affirming congregation with the United Church of Christ.

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

FREE Community Supper, 4th Wednesday of every month, 6:00 pm. Accessible.

Contact: Marcia Tomlinson  
- [m3site@charter.net](mailto:m3site@charter.net)

Bradford Congregational United Church of Christ

145 North Main Street  
Bradford, VT 05033

August 5 Chicken Pie Supper  
Barton United Church  
2 Seatings: 5:00pm & 6:15pm  
Take Outs available 5:30pm  
Reservations suggested Call: 525-7048  
Adults: \$12 Children under 10: \$6 Under 6: free

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)

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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 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 Jeff Brewer:
grmtbrew@comcast.net
or 802-380-8184

Come to a Pulled Pork Sandwich Supper on Saturday, July 15, 2017 from 5 to 7 PM at the Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Road, Shoreham, VT. Enjoy pulled pork sandwiches, cole slaw, pickles, beverages, and great desserts as you chat with your neighbors and friends about your summer activities. The cost is only \$8 a person, or \$28 for a family of 4 or more. Beat the summer heat and let someone else do the cooking!

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## Employment Opportunities!

### 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](mailto:2congo@myfairpoint.net)

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Organist/Choir Director Needed!

Application

Email:

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 or mail to

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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](http://thetfordhillchurch.org).  
[office@thetfordhillchurch.org](mailto:office@thetfordhillchurch.org)  
or call 802-785-2915

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
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

Resources from WorshipWell

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



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

