



Vermont Conference, UCC Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

July 5, 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!

It's the 60th anniversary of the United Church of Christ. Born in 1957, the Church has gathered in these last five days in Baltimore, MD at General Synod 31. Some 700 or so delegates (with thousands of visitors and vendors listening in) engaged in educational intensives and hearings on Resolutions that were sent to the General Synod. There were workshops and worship, meeting new friends and catching up with old friends. There were justice walks and service projects, exhibits to share information about a multitude of missions and projects, ministries of the national setting and books, banners and bling! We brought, courtesy of Cabot Cheese, squares of cheese to share with others - including with Wisconsin which will be hosting General Synod #32 in 2019. (They did not refuse the cheese...)

The theme of General Synod was one verse in Psalm 46. Psalm 46 is a psalm that names the tumult and uproar of the times - and yet proclaims that God is our refuge and strength in the midst of whatever threatens to shake us up. We, too, in 2017 face times that already has and threatens to shake up many more lives with injustice, inequality and inhumanity. Yet, when we respond as God's people, Psalm 46 says that we become a stream that joins a river whose streams make glad the city of God. May each one of our churches make glad the city of God as you add the living water of your ministries and missions to that river.

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



New endowment launched at Synod to strengthen future ministry

You will be hearing more about what went on over these weeks of summer as the Vermont Delegates return home and ponder their

Adoptees rights resolution falls short of required votes

Delegates Approve Economic Justice Resolution and \$15 Minimum Wage

Synod ASL Interpreters Help Deaf Delegates and Guests

Delegates hope to celebrate "Interdependence Day" with fireworks at Baltimore's Inner Harbor

General Synod endorses actions to serve adult survivors of child abuse and neglect

Youth voices lead the way on gun violence resolution

Vasquez-Levy: 'Our well-being depends on the well-being of everyone else on the planet'

Synod delegates reshape UCC leadership with constitution and bylaws changes

Declaring the Earth is the Lord's, UCC calls for environmental imperatives for a new moral era

Three Great Loves initiative launched to 'embody love and incarnate justice' to build a just world

Embrace the spirit of the Caribbean Initiative

Purrfect Project Pleases Pets

Climate change threatens to drown the homeland of a General Synod international guest

learnings. In the meantime, here are five short reflections from five of your delegates.

Mary Kay Schueneman

I am so grateful to the Vermont Conference, the Addison Association and First Congregational Church of Cornwall for financially and spiritually supporting my trip to General Synod 31. WOW! What a great experience. First of all, I deeply appreciate the opportunity to spend time with the other delegates from across our Conference. We shared personal stories and deepened our understandings of many resolutions as we talked over meals and between plenaries. It is also an exciting experience to be connected to the wider UCC, thereby being reminded of the rich and complex diversity that makes us, the UCC, who we are.

We passed some important resolutions - on economic justice, migrant justice, and environmental justice - while challenged by the purpose of bringing them to lived reality. I look forward to being a part of General Synod 32 in 2019.

Micah Heaney

When someone asks me - stranger, friend, colleague - what do I do on Sunday mornings, my answer invariably comes with a Q & A. 'It stands for United Church of Christ.' 'No, we're quite progressive.' 'Yes, we talk about God, Jesus and heaven.' 'No, I don't mind if you're atheist.' At its worst, I feel defensive of the organization that is part of me.

Synod is a great breath of fresh air. I mean that selfishly, but I am also learning its importance to our wider family. Synod taps us on the shoulder and loudly proclaims, 'You are not one congregation. You are one of many, for better or worse, there is a wider church to which you owe something and from which you deserve something.' Synod reminds us that Jesus did not fight for love alone.

This is coming at a perfect time for our country and for me. As I graduate (from college), I plan my union, and take the next step in our world, I will need this church. Thanks to General Synod, its beautiful

UCC marchers demand
immigration justice

Love for planet earth sprouting
up on church lawns

Aaron Mair: I am here because
you connected the dots

Moving from talk to action on
divestment

Medical aid in dying fails to win
approval of Synod delegates by
just a few votes

Synod youth discuss race and
equality issues

[UCC News and Updates](#)

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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!

~~~~~  
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

members and the Holy Spirit, I know that this
church will need me.

Jeanne Zammetaro

At General Synod 31, streams of
individuals marched from the Baltimore
Convention Center to the Federal Building in
Baltimore in support of Guillermo Morales, an
asylum seeker from El Salvador. These streams
formed the river that makes glad the city of
God.

John Weatherhogg

This is my first Synod experience, but not
my first large church event. The energy and
enthusiasm at Synod is contagious. The
diversity of interests and backgrounds is as
near as the person standing next to you with a
hanging name badge, bedazzled with buttons
proclaiming whimsical and serious slogans of
faith. The work of the body is to reflect upon,
consider, argue and vote upon resolutions
brought to the national consciousness by
churches, associations and conferences across
the country. It is sometimes easy, sometimes
exasperating. However, the work is done, it is
a blessing. If you are given an opportunity,
you will be blessed as you go to bring your
blessing. I have been blessed and I thank you
for the opportunity to be a blessing.

Jeffrey Tuper-Giles

As I have enjoyed and taken in everything
here at the ONA Gathering and General Synod,
I have felt the urge to just break down and
cry. I was finally able to identify why...I have
been clinging to things that were easy,
comfortable and even closed minded. Because
of all the amazing people I have met and
because of the love of God - pieces of myself
are being ripped away to make room for new
and exciting things. Come, Holy Spirit, Come.
Get ready Vermont. I am on fire and ready to
tell you all about it. Thank you!

Pam Lucas
Associate Conference Minister

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.



Click image for more information.



Food for Thought

Focus Reading:

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

AnaÔs Nin, *The Diary of AnaÔs Nin*, Vol. 7: 1966-1974, 20th century

"We travel, some of us forever, to seek other states, other lives, other souls."

Coco Chanel, 20th century

"The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud."

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*, 20th century

"We were the people who were not in the papers. We lived in the blank white spaces at the edges of print. It gave us more freedom. We lived in the gaps between the stories."

C.S. Lewis, 20th century

"When we lose one blessing, another is often most unexpectedly given in its place."

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 \(Word document\)](#)

Thank you!

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.

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!

Bystander Intervention Training, Williston Federated Church, Looking for participants

There will be a training program for Bystander Intervention at The Williston Federated Church, 44 N. Williston Rd, Williston, VT on Thursday, July 13 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm.

Training Active Bystanders (TAB) is a two hour training designed to help participants recognize when they are bystanders, analyze the situation in

Henry Ward Beecher, 19th century

"The unthankful heart discovers no mercies; but the thankful heart will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 20th century

"Wonderfully secured by a mighty power, we await with confidence whatever may come. God is with us--in the evening, in the morning, and entirely certain on each new day."

Maya Angelou, 21st century

"Wouldn't take nothing for my journey now."

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

which they find themselves, and decide on an appropriate action they can take to interfere with interpersonal oppression and bullying as it happens. Active "bystandership" does not mean aggression but rather helping people in need. The program presumes we can change our communities by encouraging active bystander responses.
Rev. Elizabeth Magill, pastor So. Acton UCC and her sister Marion Magill were first introduced to Bystander Training when they took the course through a collaboration of the Shir Tikvah Synagogue, Winchester MA, the Islamic Center of Boston in Wayland, and the South Acton (MA) Congregational Church. Subsequently, they enrolled in the Train the Trainer course and are offering workshops to local communities. Suggested donation is \$10 per person. Light refreshments will be served.

Contact Charlie Magill, cmagillvt@aol.com, to enroll or for further information.

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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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Music Director

Second Congregational Church, Hyde Park, VT  
We are an active and friendly congregation of

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)

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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

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 the adult choir for Sunday morning worship

computer skills. Compensation competitive.

Contact JeffBrewer:
grmtbrew@comcast.net
or 802-380-8184

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

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### Resources from WorshipWell

Be sure to check out the worship resources available at:  
[worshipwell.church](http://worshipwell.church)



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



**Thank You for Reading**  
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