

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



October 3, 2018

Update on Appreciative Inquiry

The Board of Directors and I have made the difficult decision to step away from our plans to have four Appreciative Inquiry events this fall conducted by the Center for Appreciative Inquiry at Champlain College. We were not confident that the day-long events would meet the goal of giving tools to our pastors and church leaders for use in visioning, evaluations and other areas of congregational life. Rather than take that chance, we are re-grouping and in conversation with another AI practitioner whose focus is working with clergy and congregations.

This means we will need to postpone our AI work until the Spring. We still believe that the principles of Appreciative Inquiry have the potential to be an important vitality tool and a means for transformation. As soon as we have further information to share, we will do so. I want to thank St. Johnsbury, Williston, Bethany Randolph and Londonderry for their generous willingness to host the AI events.

We regret the need to postpone these events that we have so looked forward to offering, but feel a change in direction is needed at this time. Please know we are committed to offering events and resources to equip our congregations for their ministry and mission today and tomorrow.

If you have questions or concerns, please talk with either Andy Nagy-Benson or me.

Lynn



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Thank you very much for your warm welcome. It's good to be back with you!

As your Conference Coordinator, I'll be taking the Ministries Coordinator portfolio I had before and add management of the Vermont Conference office and special projects including direct support to churches. Charri Robinson will continue working with us as our Finance and Communications Director along with logistics support for Annual Meeting. We get the best of both worlds!

I appreciate your patience as I work on re-learning the "who, what, where, how and why" of the Vermont Conference. I know there are new people in new places and long-time serving leadership in new locales plus different churches seeking new pastoral leadership. There's a lot happening!

Do you have an idea or a need for which you would like to engage the Vermont Conference? If so, please contact me at: coordinator@vtcucc.org or call the office at 802-728-4999. I'm happy to talk with you to see how I may support you and the church on behalf of the Vermont Conference.

I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. See you soon!

Peace,
Jesse

info@vtipl.org 802-434-3397 www.vtipl.org
Vermont Interfaith Power and Light
P.O. Box 209
Richmond, VT 05477

Vermont Interfaith Power and Light's 2018 conference, A Just Economy to Achieve Climate Goals, will be on Saturday, Oct. 13, 10 am - 3:30 pm, at Faith United Methodist Church (899 Dorset Street) in South Burlington. Don't miss it!

George Lakey, author of Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians Got It Right - and How We Can, Too!, will be the Keynote Speaker. Six workshops are offered including

action for a just economy, advanced wood heat, and climate impacts on health. The conference also features a delicious catered lunch, music, a "bookstore", sponsors' exhibits and more! The registration link follows. Fall Conference Registration Register by Oct. 6th. Learn more at VTIPL Fall Conference 2018 Contact: Betsy Hardy 802-434-3397 or email: info@vtipl.org

[See Flyer here!](#)



BE THE CHURCH



**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT
CONFERENCE**

Here...



**VT CONFERENCE
NEWS**



Dear Conference,

THANK YOU for so many responses. Even if you think your information is correct you should fill out one of the following just to verify your information is as up to date as possible! Just click below on a link!

[If you are a Church Administrator](#)

[If you belong on the Ministerial Information Listing](#)

[If you serve as a Board Member or an Officer of an Association any Committee or any Representative of the Vermont Conference](#)

PLEASE respond and if you have others that serve with you, please pass the information about these E-Kit questions along to them. I am hoping to have this done in early October.

I thank you in advance for completing the questions.

Charri and Jesse

Central Vermont - A Plea to Support "Tita's Church"

Puerto Rico is still a disaster and the new hurricane season officially began June 1st. My wife, Judy, and I were in PR for 2 1/2 months helping to coordinate the combined rebuilding efforts of the United Evangelical Church of Puerto Rico and the United Church of Christ. The rebuild focus is on houses, not churches. But, we saw one church that must be rebuilt so the neighborhood where it stands can begin to rebuild. We offer you a remarkable opportunity to do something concrete and good; to take one piece of Puerto Rico back from Hurricane Maria.

The project: Establish a Mission Center by rebuilding four rooms in the Iglesia Evangelica Unida Puerto Rico de Santurce (The United Evangelical Church in Santurce, PR). The church is in a poor section of San Juan. La pastor is the amazing Arcadia Ortiz Ramon, a/k/a "Tita".

[Read Full Article here](#)



We have NIV & Good News Bibles here that we are giving away. We have slowly moved them out of our rooms and replaced them with NRSV Bibles. They are looking for a home. Please advertise and spread the word.
 33 hard cover Children's NIV Bibles (congregation used to give this translation away to 3rd graders...picture attached)

**23 hard cover Good News Bibles (gold and black cover)
Plus a box of 24 or so paper back Good News Bibles.**

Interested congregations or individuals can connect with me for questions, etc.

**Peace,
Laurie**

**Laurie Chipman, Christian Education Director
First Congregational Church, UCC
1 Church Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452
802-878-5745 ext 103
802-881-3691 cell
www.fccej.org**

~~~~~ Peacemakers Pulpit ~~~~~

Peacemakers Pulpit

**The way of peace they do not know,
and there is no justice in their paths.
Their roads they have made crooked;
no one who walks in them knows peace. - Isaiah 59:8**

In protest marches and rallies since the 1980's, one might hear the chant "No Justice, No Peace!" To some, this sounds like a threat, as in, "If you don't give us justice, we will become violent." But really it echoes prophetic words from the Hebrew Scriptures. Isaiah tells us that violence is built into any unjust system. Neither the oppressed nor the oppressor knows true peace.

Whenever people peacefully gather to speak their truth to power, whether it is speaking to a senator at the door of an elevator, or holding a candlelight vigil for victims of gun violence, or meeting to strategize responses to climate change, we are, in effect, saying, "No Justice, No Peace."

**The ways of peace elude us so often. So I offer a few signposts, or GPS coordinates, to help us on our path:
Peacemaking is something actively done; we cannot simply wait for it to happen.**

**Using violence to bring about peace is unacceptable.
Peacemaking is God-centered and rooted in prayer.**

**Remember the presence of the divine spark in everyone.
Peacemaking means calling on people to forgive one another and move ahead
together.**

Realize that often conflict comes about because of an unjust situation.

**Grace and Peace to you,
Mary Brownlow**

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**From the Task Force to Reduce Gun Violence**

***"7,947," "378," and "154"***

***Please keep those figures in mind.***

**In January, I submitted a piece on behalf of the VT Conference Gun Violence Reduction Task Force, pointing out that the Center for Disease Control, in 2016, had declared gun violence to be a public health crisis.**

**Since then, as you are aware, the Vermont Legislature passed three different pieces of legislation: two which make it easier for police to remove arms in situations of domestic violence and in other dangerous situations; and the third, raising the legal age for owning a gun to 21, extending background checks to private sales, and banning the sale of high-capacity magazines and bump stocks. Many, though not all, Vermonters felt this to be good news.**

**But let's take a look at where things stand nationally. According to the Gun Violence Archive, 7,947 gun deaths have occurred since January of this year, 378 of which were children. (That figure does not, however, include suicides.) Of the 7,947, 154 were mass shootings (four or more people). We mourn as a nation such events, yet seem to accept as routine that over the past few years, 96 people A DAY (including suicides) die by guns.**

**This issue is a very emotional one in our state. Although it is not the intent of anyone I know to remove guns from citizens, there is great fear among many gun owners that what I consider to be reasonable gun regulation has a more threatening goal. Nonetheless, when we consider these figures and the reality that gun deaths are the third leading cause of death for children 11 years of age and under, surely we can agree that this is indeed a public health issue - something we need to think about; keep in the public consciousness; and, somehow, find common ground, in combatting.**

**The only thing the figures highlighted add up to is sadness and grief. I hope we can work together for a happier result.**

**By  
Betty Edson**

**The Task Force recommends this short video about "Family Fire" that TF member Sally Kerschner found on-line.**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63lp-SrUoIQ>**

Bethany Church in Randolph is seeking 4 metal covers for communion service trays that carry the juice/wine please contact [bethanyucc@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyucc@gmail.com)

**VERMONT INTERFAITH  
POWER & LIGHT  
2018 October 13 CONFERENCE  
in South Burlington:**

Registration is open for VT Interfaith Power & Light's conference, A Just Economy to Achieve Climate Goals. Register now and encourage friends to come too! The conference will be on Saturday, Oct. 13 at Faith United Methodist Church in South Burlington (899 Dorset St.). From George Lakey's Keynote, to the six workshops, music by a Counterpoint quartet, delicious catered lunch, wonderful sponsors with exhibits and information, the "bookstore", and more - it's going to be great!

**[Read here...](#)**

**Registration Open for Boundary Awareness Training**

The **Rhode Island Conference** and their Church and Ministry Committee is hosting a Boundary Training session **Oct. 11 from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM** at the Seekonk Congregational Church UCC. Snacks and Lunch will be provided.

The cost of attending is \$35 and can be paid online or by check.

**[Go to details and registration form](#)**

**Register for Basic Boundary Awareness Training  
October 25, 2018**

**Basic Boundary Awareness Training, based upon "A Sacred Trust", a curriculum designed for clergy serving congregations, covers issues of power, dual relationships, transference, and personal needs.**

**The workshop will be led by Dr. Charles Lindner, who recently retired as a pastoral counselor and psychotherapist in Lebanon, NH. He has facilitated clergy groups in NH and VT, and has taught basic boundary training for the NHCUCC for more than fifteen years.**

**This workshop fulfills the boundary awareness training requirement for all authorized ministers.**

**[Visit the registration website here](#)**

**Environmental Safety, Pre-attack Indicators, and De-escalation Techniques**  
**October 13th 10:00 - 11:30 am At the First Congregational Church of Fair Haven. Learn how to be safe within your environment, and what to look for when someone is presenting a danger to others and themselves. Gain insight into people's lives and learn techniques for verbally de-escalating a threatening situation.**

**[Read more here](#)**



**The Roots of Stewardship: Serving Fellow Christians**  
**By Philip Nation**

**Serving one another within the body of Christ means using our spiritual gifts. In 1 Corinthians 12-14, Paul described how we are to use our spiritual gifts. It is here that we learn that the Holy Spirit has empowered us for works of service to build up the**

church. We use our gifts to express ...

[Read more »](#)

## UCC NEWS

### 2019 Pension Board Insurance Rates

Click here for individual 2019 Pension Board Rate Assessment

[Click Here...](#)

To see the PBUCC Explanation Letter and Rate Charts for 2019 Pension Board Rates [Click Here...](#)

Carol Fouke-Mpoyo, Writer, UCC Disaster Ministries

### Where do your donations to UCC Disaster Ministries go?

Where do your donations to UCC Disaster Ministries go? Funds released in June, July and August included:

[http://www.ucc.org/disaster\\_where\\_do\\_your\\_contributions\\_go](http://www.ucc.org/disaster_where_do_your_contributions_go)

## Church World Services

Situation Report: Earthquake and Tsunami on Indonesia's Island of Sulawesi

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October 1, 2018  
SITUATION

A 7.5-magnitude earthquake struck Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, on Friday night. The quake, and the resulting tsunami with waves up to about 10 feet high, leveled buildings and brought destruction to the city of Palu and surrounding areas. As of Tuesday evening local time, the death toll has reached 1,234 people, with hundreds more missing. Thousands have been injured, at least 799 severely. Around 60,000 people have been displaced, staying in over 100 sites, while 65,000 [READ MORE HERE.....](#)



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## UCC NEWSFEED

**Central Pacific Conference members pray with their feet, their hands and their hearts**  
 UCC Central Pacific Conference members, already Immigrant Welcoming, decided to do more to support their migrant brothers and sisters, organizing a solidarity rally against bigotry and voting to send a message to anti-immigrant organizations trying to repeal sanctuary laws in Oregon.

**Uniting in North Carolina to assist neighbors flooded by Florence**  
 As flood waters recede across the southeast portion of North Carolina, the amount of clean up and recovery work following Hurricane Florence becomes more evident, with the Southern Conference United Church of Christ responding in several ways.

**Dorhauer: Time to heal the wounds that we created**  
 The UCC General Minister and President offers this reflection.

**UCC speaks out in support of Ohio Issue 1**  
 The United Church of Christ, which has long advocated for criminal justice reform and against mandatory minimums for non-violent drug offenses, is endorsing an effort in Ohio that would send fewer people to prison for drug possession and use.

**Nomads No Longer: Vancouver, Wash., church members move home**  
 or more than two years, the members and friends of Vancouver (Wash.) United Church of Christ were a nomadic people, displaced by fire, without a church home. That ended with the dedication of their new building.

**Global Ministries delegation to Ghana shares visit via daily blog**

**A delegation of United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) members return today from a week-long pilgrimage to Ghana, where they represented the two denominations' shared Global Ministries and witnessed the impact UCC and Disciples churches make in the world.**

**Commentary: It Takes a Village**  
**In this #MeToo age of increased awareness, thousands globally are sharing personal stories of sexual harassment and assault.**

## **Weekly Seeds**

**Focus Reading: Mark 10:2-16**

**Eugene H. Peterson, Tell It Slant: A Conversation on the Language of Jesus in His Stories and Prayers, 21st century**

**"I had escaped the snare of certitude that I welcomed so avidly at first and entered, via the name of Jesus, the wide and comprehensive company of Jesus."**

**Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov, 19th century**

**"Love children especially, for they too are sinless like the angels; they live to soften and purify our hearts and, as it were, to guide us."**

**Karl Menninger, 20th century**

**"Love cures people--both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it."**

**Lily Tomlin, 21st century**

**"If love is the answer, could you rephrase the question?"**

**Joseph Campbell, 20th century**

**"When people get married because they think it's a long-time love affair, they'll be divorced very soon, because all love affairs end in disappointment. But marriage is a recognition of a spiritual identity."**

**Oscar Wilde, 19th century**

**"The world has grown suspicious of anything that looks like a happily married life."**

**Robert Anderson, 19th century**

**"In every marriage more than a week old, there are grounds for divorce. The trick is to find and continue to find grounds for marriage."**

**Audrey Hepburn, 20th century**

**"If I get married, I want to be very married."**



**Original worship resources for local churches...because Sunday's coming.**



## DINNERS AND SOCIAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### Community Suppers

Every Friday, 6 pm at the United Church of South Royalton



**Bradford Congregational Church**  
The Community Suppers are the  
4th THURSDAY of each month

Pot Luck and Hymn Sing - third Tuesday of every month, 6:pm, at the Roxbury Union Congregational Church.

**Essex Eats Out Community Dinners Continue... 1st Friday of Every Month**  
[www.essexeatsout.org](http://www.essexeatsout.org)

**United Church of Underhill hosts community dinners on the second Thursday of each month from 5:00-6:30 pm**



### Old South Church

Old South Church, Main St., Windsor, Vermont will hold its Fall Rummage Sale from October 4 - 6, 2018 Featuring: Clothing for men, women and children, Fall Decorations, Costumes, White Elephants, Jewelry, Glassware, Books, Sporting

**Goods, Toys, Furniture, Linens and Household Items.**

**Thursday, Oct. 4, from 9:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**Friday, Oct. 5, (Half Price and Bag Sale) 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, Oct. 6, Clearance from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. EVERYTHING IS FREE**

**We will be accepting donations of clean, usable items on September 4 from noon to 4, and on October 1 and 2 from 9 to 4. No electronics, please.**

**Save the Date! Dorset Church Rummage Sale**

**The most fabulous shopping experience of the fall season will take place in Dorset on Saturday, October 13th when the Dorset Church holds its Fall Rummage Sale from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Outside sales begin at 8:30 a.m. There will be no EARLY-BIRD SHOPPING!! The bag sale will take place from 12:00 Noon-1:00 PM**

**We may accept by approval some larger items. Please contact Sandi at [sandihedman@yahoo.com](mailto:sandihedman@yahoo.com) at 362-1459 or Ellen [atellen5150@gmail.com](mailto:atellen5150@gmail.com) or 362-3610 to discuss the item or if you have any questions about donations.**

**Donations will be accepted from Monday, October 8th through Wednesday, October 10th, from 9 a.m. til 7 p.m., and Thursday, October 11th until noon. Please note, we cannot accept donations after noon on Thursday.**

**The church is located at 143 Church Street, off Route 30 in Dorset. Call 867-2260 with questions or for more information.**



**COFFEE HOUSE**

**Sat. October 13, 2018 6:30 PM-9:30 PM**

**Live Music and Readings featuring:**

**MALAYNA JOHNSON-pop/contemporary**

**VERMONT FIDDLE ORCHESTRA- old and new fiddle and dance tunes**

**DONNA THUNDER and the STORM- country/rock/bluegrass**

**...and many more**

**Coffee donated by CARRIER ROASTING CO. of Northfield. "Fresh, ethically sourced, single origin coffees."**

**United Church of Northfield**

**58 So. Main Street**

**Northfield, Vermont**

**SUGGESTED DONATION \$10, includes snacks and beverage**

**Proceeds to benefit the Howe's Hall Restoration Project.**



**Dummerston Apple Pie Festival**

**October 7, 2018**

**[See Flyer Here!](#)**

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Soup-A-thon & Pie Pourri
Roxbury Church
Saturday, October 20th - 5-7 pm

Old South Church, Main St., Windsor, Vermont

will hold its Fall Rummage Sale from

October 4 - 6, 2018 Featuring: Clothing for men, women and children, Fall Decorations, Costumes, White Elephants, Jewelry, Glassware, Books, Sporting Goods, Toys, Furniture, Linens and Household Items.

Thursday, Oct. 4, from 9:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 5, (Half Price and Bag Sale) 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 6, Clearance from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **EVERYTHING IS FREE**

We will be accepting donations of clean, usable items on September 4 from noon to 4, and on October 1 and 2 from 9 to 4. No electronics, please.

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## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

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The Congregational Church of South Hero, VT, UCC is looking for a part-time (or full time) organist. This person would be responsible for playing for Sunday services at least every other week (sharing with another organist), as well as additional services such as Christmas Eve, Ash

Wednesday, etc. The organist would also accompany the choir at rehearsals. The sanctuary contains an Allen Protegé L321i/e organ with 3 manuals, 38 stops, and 266 voices and a piano.

This position is available after June 1, 2018.

If interested please contact the church office at 802-372-4962 or ccshvt@gmail.com

for a full job description.

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## **Open Positions - UCC National Offices**

[See posting here...](#)

# VERMONT OUTDOOR MINISTRIES



[SEE THE LATEST CAMP NEWSLETTER HERE.....](#)



## WHAT CAN CHURCHES DO TO PROMOTE CAMP?

- - Promote camp in your bulletins and newsletters & hand out the brochures
  - Invite campers that have been to camp share stories in worship.
  - Support our VT OM program & Camper Scholarships with a Special Offering on a Sunday
  - Someone from Outdoor Ministries can come to your church to talk about camp with the children or share a sermon about Outdoor Ministries
  - Let campers know there is scholarship money available
- Check out the website at [www.hortoncenter.org](http://www.hortoncenter.org)

[2018 Camp Brochure here!](#)



**We hope you enjoy E-Kit! We welcome submissions for the weekly E-Kit. Please submit your submission by Tuesday of each week! We will be running all events and news in this weekly E-Kit.**  
**robinsonc@vtcucc.org**



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**<http://www.vtc.org>**

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