

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



January 9, 2019

**Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God;
But only he who sees, takes off his shoes-
The rest sit round it and pick blackberries.
(Book 7 Aurora Leigh)**

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

I've been thinking about seeing. The above quote from Elizabeth Barrett Browning has been a favorite for a long time. I do believe that God is made manifest in a calm the chatter of our everyday concerns, anxieties and preoccupations to be fully present. This is the season of Epiphany when God shines forth and there are risky journeys to take and change to embrace and powerful leaders to refute as we go home by another way.

I've been thinking about seeing. All ground can be holy ground. Holy ground is not necessarily easy ground but it is imbued with God. Sometimes holy ground surprises us. Like Jacob's dream, we awake to the wonder of "Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it." (Gen. 28:16 NRS) We look for the sacred, the good, the worthwhile, the compelling vision. We inquire together - what does God require of us?

I've been thinking about seeing. I think about what our new Associate Conference Minister, Paul, will see with his fresh eyes. I wonder where he will help us recognize holy ground and join us in the journey. I've been thinking about our Board of Directors who along with Paul and me will spend two and a half days at the end of March working with Rob Voyle, an ordained Episcopal priest and founder of the Clergy Leadership Institute who will help us use Appreciative Inquiry as the lens to renew our vision, purpose and mission. Then, Rob will join us for Annual Meeting to help all of us explore

"What in God's Name is Going On Here?"

" Please come, I promise there will be practical skills to take back to your congregations and a part to play in shaping the future of the Vermont Conference.

As we inhabit the Epiphany season, I hope we all think about seeing. Even more, I hope will will recognize holy ground when we find it and take off our shoes.

In peace,
Lynn
-*-

Here...

DONATE

**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT
CONFERENCE**

**VT CONFERENCE
NEWS**



Bujnakl@vtcucc.org - Conference Minister emails
Sangreep@vtcucc.org Associate Conference Minister emails
Coordinator@vtcucc.org Jesse Davis Office Management emails
Ministriescoordinator@vtcucc.org - Search & Call & Ministry Info. emails
Robinsonc@vtcucc.org Charri Robinson Finance/E-Kit emails

To remind you.....

**that the last date for the Conference to receive all
contributions intended for 2018 is
January 10, 2019.**

**This includes contributions toward OCWM Basic
Support, as well as all of the UCC special offerings -
Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing,
Strengthen the Church, and the Christmas Fund.**

ATTENTION

Important Dates for Churches

UCC Yearbook and Data Hub

**The UCC Data Hub is open for the annual Yearbook information
upload by local churches. What is the UCC Yearbook and Data
Hub? Read on to learn more...**

What is the UCC Yearbook?

The Yearbook is the annual collection and publication of the nuts and bolts of the United Church of Christ. It lists all of its ministries from the local church on up to the national setting as well as the demographics and all authorized ministers. In addition, the financial information provided by local churches, associations and conferences helps to inform the UCC in its annual filings with the federal government to meet the requirements to keep the UCC's nonprofit status.

What is the UCC Data Hub?

The Data Hub is the national database in which all personnel, church and financial information is held. For much of the year, only one person on the Vermont Conference staff has access to the Data Hub. This is to ensure a single point of contact for any changes to the Conference's churches, ministers and financial information. However...

..once per year (January through mid-March) the Data Hub is opened to the local churches to enter their demographic, ministerial and financial data. That time is now!

How do we enter this information?

The UCC has provided instructions in the data to be collected as well as how to access the Data Hub here:

<http://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/Church-Instructions.pdf>

Yearbook Help Line

2019

The Center for Analytics, Research, and Data is offering a telephone help line to churches for any assistance needed with completing Yearbook annual data submissions.

Please call us with questions related to using the Data Hub or any other Yearbook-related questions you have.

Phone: 1-866-822-3837

Hours: Monday - Friday from 10 am - 4 pm (Eastern Time)

Dates: January 8th - March 6th (excluding holidays & Jan. 30-31)

If your call is unanswered please leave a message and we will do our best to return your call within two business hours.



Save the Date for Annual Meeting!

The Vermont Conference Annual Meeting takes place on **Friday & Saturday, April 26 - 27, 2019 at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT.** Our keynoter is The Rev. Dr. Rob Voyle of the Appreciative Way and a leader in appreciative inquiry. Rob's personal mission is to be "helpful, humorous, and healing," which is manifested in a passion for conducting training. He is a gifted storyteller and has a penchant for mischievously confronting listeners with new insights that are both affirming and liberating.

Lake Morey Resort has a group rate for Annual Meeting but you must reserve your room directly with Lake Morey. You can reach them at 800-423-1211. Be sure to tell them you are booking for the Vermont Conference, UCC Annual Meeting to get the group rate. Stay tuned to E-Kit and the Vermont Conference website for Annual Meeting updates as well as registration information.

WORKSHOP with Paul Nickerson

Reaching New People

A Team of clergy and lay people receive a day of intensive, practical, hands-on training on how growing congregations reach new people.

[Read More Here....](#)



Active Shooter Workshop for faith Communities

[Read more here...](#)

**Peacemaker's Pulpit
By Sally May**

How many have thought or said that protesting is okay as long as it is peaceful? That violence cannot happen in our quest for peace? How many of us think of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s civil rights movement as peaceful? Yet, Dr. King was assassinated for his peaceful protests.

Do you remember seeing the photos of black citizens peacefully protesting being fire hosed by civil authorities? Or civil rights activists murdered: James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner? Young children murdered and maimed in the bombing of 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama?

Do you remember Charlottesville, VA, August 2017?

**Other acts of violence towards people seeking peace: Kent State, Harvey Milk, Mahatma Ghandi to name a few?
Our Jesus Christ?**

[Read More Here.....](#)

Racism in America And Why We Should Care Fifth Meeting

[Read More here...](#)



BE THE CHURCH



Oxford Background Checks

If you are submitting a background check through Oxford, please let Jesse know who they are and what church it is for. Sometimes, we have no idea who the people are and we need to know who to forward the information to. If you are waiting on results call the Conference Office.

Thanks!

I'm in the process of exploring using HD TVs for our worship experience. I am, however, in over my head. So, I was hoping someone might know of some churches I might contact to learn how they went about determining the needed software, hardware and installation. Thanks for the help, and happy new year.

Jeff Long-Middleton

978-273-6399

DISASTER RELIEF DONATION CHECKS

SHOULD BE SENT TO:

**ATTN: Financial Services
United Church of Christ
700 Prospect Ave. 6th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44115**

or

**Church World Service
P.O. Box 968
Elkhart, IN 46515**

Thank you!

Continuing Education

[Theological Education for a Changing World](#)



<http://www.voicesonstewardship.com>

UCC NEWS

Celebrate CHHSM on UCC Health and Human Service Sunday

The UCC's Health and Human Service Sunday - to be held Jan. 27 this year - lifts up the rich history of CHHSM ministries across the country, as well as the many ways they answer their call to provide faith-based servant leadership in their local communities.

UCC leaders reject Trump's dire call on border security, barrier wall

The national leaders of the United Church of Christ speak out in response to President Trump's prime time address on border security, noting, "We are faced with a moral crisis as a country, not a border crisis, nor a national emergency."

UCC's ONA movement celebrates milestone - 1,500 churches

The Open and Affirming Coalition United Church of Christ celebrated an important milestone on New Year's Eve, announcing the 1,500th congregation to become ONA.

General Synod organizers issue invite for Saturday workshops

Organizers of the 32nd General Synod are seeking the some good ideas for effective ministry to share with the wider church this summer.

Commentary: My New Year's Wish List

As justice advocates inspired by the teachings of Jesus and the writings of our sacred texts, these are among the things I wish for in the New Year.

Video resource on plight of Palestinian children prompted by General Synod resolution, 3 Great Loves

In response to a 2017 General Synod resolution calling for an end to the human rights violations and violence surrounding Palestinian children living in the occupied West Bank, a new UCC video resource has been released to help church members better understand the issues and become advocates for justice.

WEEKLY SEEDS

Focus Scripture:

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Abraham Joshua Heschel, 20th century

"Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy."

Brennan Manning, Abba's Child: The Cry of the Heart for Intimate Belonging, 20th century

"Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion."

and

"Our identity rests in God's relentless tenderness for us revealed in Jesus Christ."

Payne Best, 20th century

"Bonhoeffer always seemed to me to diffuse an atmosphere of happiness, of joy in every smallest event in life, and of deep gratitude for the mere fact that he was alive....He was one of the very few men that I have ever met to whom his God was real and close."

Victor Hugo, 19th century

"What a grand thing, to be loved! What a grander thing still, to love!"

Hans Urs von Balthasar, 20th century

"The Church does not dispense the sacrament of baptism in order to acquire for herself an increase in membership but in order to consecrate a human being to God and to communicate to that person the divine gift of birth from God."

Henry David Thoreau, 19th century

"Life in us is like the water in a river."

Leonardo da Vinci, 15th century

"Water is the driving force in nature."

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...](#)

Church World Service



Hannanne Oreus's house didn't hold when Hurricane Matthew ripped through Haiti in 2016. Thanks to your support, we've helped to rebuild hers and hundreds of other homes with stronger material built to withstand disasters.

Now, Hannanne has a safe home for her family:
cwsglobal.org/hannanne/



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 Community & Congregational Engagement Specialist
 Church World Service
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 Phone: 413-279-4039
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Original worship resources for local churches...because Sunday's coming.

DINNERS AND SOCIAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Community Suppers



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

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

**The Danville Congregational Church hosts a community dinner on
the third Monday of every month at 6:00 pm.**

**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

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

The Waitsfield United Church of Christ Village Meeting House has free community suppers on the last Friday of every month, at 5:30 PM.

4335 Main Street, Waitsfield VT 05673 This month will kick off our seventh year.

Come to a Winter Breakfast on Saturday, January 19 from 8:30 to 10:30 AM at the Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd., Shoreham, VT. Enjoy Blueberry Pancakes with VT Maple Syrup, French Toast, Sausage, Home Fries, Quiche, Beverages, and more as you chat with your neighbors and friends.

The cost is still only \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, and \$20 for families. Please bring a non-perishable item for the Food Shelf to help replenish their supplies.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Open Positions - UCC National Offices

[See posting here...](#)

VERMONT OUTDOOR

MINISTRIES

2018 brought our third great week of UCC camp at Rock Point!
Many thanks to all our campers, volunteer staff and camp staff
that lead our UCC week!

We are looking forward to filling our camp week with 24 campers
in 2019 and connecting with God, nature, friends - old and new,
and reaching out in service...along with all the fun things you can
do at camp. We hope you will mark your calendars and join us!

[Read More Here.....](#)

Click on the following links for information

[2019 Camp Counseling Information](#)

[2019 Camp Nurse Information](#)

[2019 Camp Lifeguard information](#)

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ONLINE  
UCC History, Theology and Polity Course  
Jan/Feb 2019

A UCC History, Theology and Polity Course that meets the requirements as set forth by the UCC Polity Teacher's Network will be offered online in Jan/Feb 2019. The instructor will be Rev. David Gaewski, Conference Minister of the New York Conference, UCC. Classes will begin at 9:30am and end at 3:30pm on the following dates: Jan 19, 26, Feb 2, 9. The platform utilized will be Zoom Video Conferencing (zoom.us) The tuition will be \$495. [For more information click here...](#)

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Join UCC and Episcopal church leaders to share stories and discover ways to bring your congregation's values, principles and practices into your outreach and evangelism efforts. Enjoy good food, rest and renewal, in a beautiful setting. Ideally, two or more members of a faith community will participate together.

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

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**Save the Date**  
**April 30th - May 2nd 2019**  
**Pilgrim Pines, Swanzey, NH**  
**Welcoming Keynote: Rev. Traci Smith**  
**Author of Seamless Faith and Faithful Families**  
**Check out Traci's website**  
[www.traci-smith.com](http://www.traci-smith.com)

Join Rev. Traci Smith as she guides those gathered - Christian educators, pastors, parents, and children's ministry leaders through effective ways to encourage the spiritual lives of families. Leave with a copy of Traci's book, *Faithful Families*, practical tips and ideas for developing age appropriate faith practices, fostering rich worship experiences for all ages, and nurturing sacred space even in busy times. Open to everyone who is interested in learning child-centered ministry practices.

**Focus scripture: 1 Corinthians 3**

**Registration information coming soon!**

**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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