

Friday Workshop Offerings for the 224th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, UCC



Finding the “Why” for your church—Rev. Paul Sangree

Church vitality begins with a sense of purpose and call for your church. Join Associate Conference Minister Rev. Paul Sangree to discuss how we might better define what your church’s mission is.

What? Me a Missionary?—Bob and Joyce Ray

Join Bob and Joyce Ray for a photo tour of the American Friends of the Asian Rural Institute’s working organic farm. The Rays will explain about the farm’s unique training program in which South East Asian and African rural leaders are trained in sustainability, community development and servant leadership. Have you thought about combining a love of travel with contributing your skills to building a better world? Discover the rewards of volunteering as short-term missionaries.

Hope in a Time of Climate Change—Rev. Andy Nagy-Benson and Dr. Andi Lloyd

We will explore ecological and theological viewpoints on climate change. Is there reason to hope? Why is climate change and issue of concern for Christians? What can we do to address climate change as individuals and as communities of faith?

Around the World with Church World Service—Adam Smedberg

Many of the UCC churches in Vermont have supported Church World Service in the fight against global hunger for over 70 years! This presentation is designed to give everyone a better understanding of the work Church World Service supports in their international programs. This presentation will include taking a deep dive into three of these programs the UCC has supported us with: Hunger Initiatives in Indonesia, Support of the LGBTI refugees in Africa and rebuilding homes in Haiti.

“I am from Here”: Film and Discussion of Racism in Vermont Public Schools—Curtiss Reed Jr. and Rev. Lise Sparrow

Participants will first view the newly release film “I am from Here”, a 30 minute instruction film directed and produced by Bess O’Brien, which serves as one component of Vermont-NEA’s virtual toolkit “Advancing Racial Equity in Vermont’s Public Schools”. Following the film, Curtiss Reed Jr. and Lise will share current data relating to racism and anti-Semitism in Vermont communities along with a discussion guide for use with the film in churches.

Welcoming the Stranger: A Spiritual Response to Immigration—Steve Crofter

If most, or perhaps all, world religions instruct us to treat strangers and immigrants well, why do our societies find this to be so difficult? The Community Asylum Seekers Project (CASP) is a small Vermont nonprofit that is welcoming asylum seekers and helping them transition to become our neighbors. Come learn about CASP and ways you and your congregation can participate.

Appreciative Inquiry: A Deeper Dive—Rev. Dr. Rob Voyle

Join our keynote speaker for a deeper look at Appreciative Inquiry and how you can bring it to your local churches.

Worship Choir—Mary Westbrook-Geha

Want to sing in the worship choir at Annual Meeting? Join our musician Mary Westbrook-Geha for rehearsal and make a joyous noise!