

Plenary 1

9:45 am

- Welcome – Lise Sparrow, moderator (as of last night) welcomes the delegates and friends to the 224th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ. L. Sparrow welcomes the worship committee to lead us into morning worship. Bob Driver, member of the Williston Federated Church and worship committee gathers us in worship.

10:03 am -- L. Sparrow calls the meeting to order.

- The Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak confirms that a quorum is present.
- Andy Nagy-Benson, chair of the board, introduces the Vermont Conference Board of Directors
 - Bill Anderson, Julie Cadwallader Staub, Doug Carter, Dick Dale, Rona Kinsley, Nancy McHugh, Kim McKerley, Laura Nassau, Jeffrey Tuper-Giles, David Vanderlinde-Abernathy, and Eric Webster.
- Rev. Shawn Bracebridge, chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, introduces the other members, Rev. Jeremy Kirk, Rev. Rev. Amanda Swoyer, Rev. Jeremy Kirk, Jeffrey Tuper-Giles, Mary Westbrook-Geha (Music)
- L. Bujnak introduces the conference staff:
 - Rev. Paul Sangree, new associate conference minister
 - Jesse Davis, Operations and Ministry Coordinator. This meeting would not have happened without the planning committee and J. Davis. Thank you!
- Rev. Lucia Jackson -- speakout coordinator
- Introduction of special guests:
 - Rev. Dr. Robert Voyle
 - Rev. Jim Antal
 - Jim Stewart, representative from the UCC Insurance Boards
 - Adam Smedberg, Church World Service representative
 - Jennifer Oglebee, Hopkins Bookstore
 - Robert and Joyce Ray, volunteers from UCC Global Ministries and members of the board of Friends of Japan's Asian Rural Institute.
 - Curtiss Reed Jr., Executive Director of Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity.
 - Steve Crofter, Executive Director of the Community Asylum Seekers Project.
 - Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer, Silver Lake Camp, Connecticut.
- Document. B -- Definitions and Procedures.
 - **Moved and seconded. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Document C -- "A Covenant for Dialogue," by Dr. Jerry Handspicker. We remember him as we accept these guidelines. Dr. Handspricker passed away this last year.
 - **It is Moved and seconded to adopt Document C, "A Covenant for Dialogue." The motion passed unanimously.** The document is read together.
- **It is moved by L. Sparrow that we grant voice without vote to our guests.**
 - **Seconded and passed unanimously.**
- Election of scribes and parliamentarian

- Doug Carter and Debbi Ingram as parliamentarians.
- Peter Plagge and Fred Breunig are nominated as scribe and assistant scribe.
 - **The nominations are moved and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **The approval of minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting is moved and seconded. There is no discussion. The minutes are approved unanimously.**
- Laurie Chipman, Essex Junction, presents summer camping through Horton Center in New Hampshire and Vermont.
- Robert and Joyce Ray speak about their involvement in the UCC Global Ministries.
- L. Bujnak introduces our keynote speaker, Rev Dr. Rob Voyle. R. Voyle gives opening remarks.
- Conference Financials
 - Recognition of OCWM and 5 for 5 Churches
 - Brattleboro, Centre Congregational UCC
 - Brattleboro, First Congregational Church
 - Charlotte, Congregational Church
 - Colchester, Mallet's Bay
 - Cornwall, First Congregational
 - Danville, Congregational
 - Dorset, United Church
 - East Arlington, Federated Church
 - Essex Junction, First Congregational
 - Greensboro, United Church of Christ
 - Hyde Park, Second Congregational Church
 - Jeffersonville, Second Congregational
 - Lyndonville, First Congregational
 - Morrisville, First Congregational
 - Northfield, United Church
 - Randolph Center, First Congregational
 - Randolph Bethany
 - Richmond, Congregational Church
 - Rutland, Grace Congregational Church
 - Sharon, First Congregational
 - South Hero, Congregational
 - Springfield, First Congregational
 - Waitsfield, United Church of Christ
 - West Dover, Congregational
 - Weybridge, Congregational
 - Laura Nassau, Treasurer, 2018 Year in Review
 - Lots of changes this year; we said goodbye to Chari Robinson and Pam Lucas, and hello to Jesse Davis (again!) and Paul Sangree.
 - Operations resulted in surplus --Income was \$600,961. Expenditures less than budget by about \$66,000. The result is a surplus of \$40,038.
 - OCWM has continued to drop. Per capita increased slightly -- but still a little less than total we budgeted. Friends of the Conference also fell short of budget.
 - Budget to actual income was negative.
 - Budget to actual expense was positive (\$66,282). We saved on mileage and staff (due to vacancies). Netted against these savings we sent more money to the national setting of the UCC.

- Our investment portfolio did not fair too well. We ended the year valued at just over 1million -- close to \$100K decrease from year ago. The equity portion of the portfolio underperformed the S&P. The income portion of our portfolio did grow. Over the past ten years we have ranged between 4 and 8% growth.
- In conclusion -- The Vermont Conference, UCC continues to operate in a responsible manner. Withdrawals from our endowment are sustainable. Imagine what we could be doing with mission and ministries if we could reach our goal of 10% in giving basic support!

Document E, 2020 Budget

- Board of directors recommends budget in amount of \$613,899. This is about a \$5k decrease from the revised 2019 budget.
- We anticipate a decrease income. We anticipate that basic support and per capita income to increase a modest amount.
- We continue to maintain the trailing four year formula when to draw on the unrestricted fund.
- Spending plan: 2 full-time conference ministers, trained search and call consultants
- 1 FTE operations and ministry coordinator, addition 12 hrs/wk bookkeeping.
- Included cost of living increases. No funds required for general synod or sabbaticals.
- Proposed OCWM sharing ratio same 30/70 (National / Vermont).
- Income for 2020 represents a decrease of \$5191.
- Spending for 2020 -- staff compensation going up about 7k. Travel also will increase.
- Conference Board and committee budget decreased by general synod delegation.
- Presentation of 8 resolutions -- Doc. F and will be ready for action tomorrow.
- **It was moved by Dick Dale that the Vermont Conference adopt the financial documents presented by L. Nassau and be considered for discussion and action tomorrow. Seconded. Approved unanimously.**

Bert Marshall -- Chair of the Dept. of Justice and Witness Ministries of the conference draws our attention to some of the concerns the department has been addressing, especially regarding the humanitarian crisis of family separation at our southern border.

11:35 -- L. Sparrow makes a few announcements. L. Chipman offers a grace and blessing before lunch.

Plenary 2

6:52 PM

Speakouts

- Kevin Goldenbogen, Charlotte Congregational Church
 - working with Sally May and Josh Simon to make the Podcast Faith in Vermont. They'll be doing interviews at this meeting. Please take a slot and answer the question "What in God's Name is Happening in Vermont?"
- Sally May, Mallet's Bay Congregational Church

- Vermont Freedom Bail Fund -- migrant farmers in Vermont need help paying for bonds. A fund has been created to help pay the bonds - to provide funds to enable migrants to return to families and work. You can help contribute to the fund.
- Roger and Sandy Daley
 - We've been a part of the conference for 12 years. We've touched about 30 churches one way or another through Hallelujah Farm. We've hosted about 100 retreats a year. That's a lot of meals, beds, and cleaning. We're here to announce that we're retiring from HF. The ministry will continue. Roger's brother and partner will be carrying on.
 - We are purchasing property in Edgecomb, Maine on the Sheepscot River where we will be building. Once the basement is finished it will be "Hallelujah Farms Tiny" and you're welcome to visit!
- Charlie Purinton
 - Active Shooter Training -- how to plan for the safety of congregations. This is important. Please contact your local law enforcement to help with the safety planning of our buildings. Our Insurance boards are involved in this too.
- Danielle Rochford, UCC Disability Ministries
 - Talk to me to discuss the accessibility and/or accessibility needs of your church. I'm looking for people to be on a team working for inclusiveness.

7:05 -- L. Bujnak Ministerial Compensation

- The new Ministerial Compensation Guidelines for 2020 are available on the VT Conference Website. These guidelines have not been significantly redone for several years. We are seeking help for a major update for 2021. Please contact Lynne if you would be interested in working on this. Consumer price index last year is 1.6% so the figures are the same as last year plus 1.6%
- **The Ministerial Compensations Guidelines are moved and seconded with mathematical corrections regarding mid-points corrected.**

Discussion --

- Question: Is the midpoint supposed to be between the highs and lows? *Answer: Yes -- the figures need to be corrected and will be corrected on the website.*
- Question: Does the guideline help in determining salary for part time salary and small churches. *Answer: Yes it does.*
- Question: Were any changes made to pulpit supply? *Answer: No it continues to be \$150 plus travel.*
- Katelyn McCrae -- guidelines around parental leave are woefully insufficient. Would recommend in the future that that change.
- The compensation guidelines are up on the website. We will be voting on the entire document.
- **The motion passed with one nay and no abstentions.**

7:15 --Transitions

- Nancy McHugh resigned as Waitsfield UCC.
- Elissa Johnk resigned pastor of Old Meeting House, E. Montpelier to accept a call to First Congregational Church, Burlington.
- Rev. Carrie Bail completed an interim ministry at First Congregational Church, Burlington.

- Rev. Kurt Shaffert finished an interim at Warren United Church and is now serving as interim in United Church of Bellows Falls.
- Rev. Erin Reardon, new to conference and has been called as pastor of Warren United Church.
- Rev. Mark Blank called as pastor of Second Congregational Church, Bennington.
- Rev. Bert Marshall completed interim at Centre Congregational Church, Brattleboro and is now serving as interim pastor at Barre Congregational Church.
- Rev. Scott Couper is new to VT Conference and has been called to Centre Congregational Church, Brattleboro.
- Rev. Devin Thomas ordained in 2018 was called as pastor to United Church of Bakersfield, Second Congregational Church of Jeffersonville, and the Waterville United Church.
- Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy retired from the Barre Congregational Church.
- Rev. Gary Lewis retired as pastor of Vergennes Congregational Church.
- Rev. Barbara Purinton, called as interim minister to Vergennes Congregational Church.
- Rev. Audrey Walker, new to Vermont, called as pastor First Congregational Church, West Brattleboro.
- Rev. Alison Jacobs resigned as pastor of United Church of Bellows Falls.
- Rev. Laura Cadmus, resigned as pastor of First Congregational Church of Berlin and is pursuing ministry in clinical pastoral education setting.
- Rev. Jeffrey Long-Middleton, called as pastor Bradford Congregational United Church of Christ.
- Rev. William Bartholomew called as pastor of First Congregational Church of Brandon.
- Rev. Mary Kay Schueneman retired as pastor of First Cong. Church, Cornwall.
- Rev. Josh Simon called as Associate Pastor to First Congregational Church, Essex Junction.
- Rev. Elizabeth Gleich called as Associate Pastor of the Congregational Church of Middlebury.
- Rev. Brigid Farrell (UMC) called as interim pastor to United Church of Thetford.
- Rev. Jennifer Mihok (UMC) called as pastor United Church of Underhill.
- Rev. Kathryn Mavor resigned as pastor of Wells River and First Congregational Church of Newbury.
- Rev. Michael Caldwell called to pastor of Wells River and First Congregational Church of Newbury.
- Rev. Gary O’Gorman called as interim minister First Congregational Church, St. Albans.
- Rev. Pam Lucas retired as Associate Conference Minister of the Vermont Conference.

Ordination Anniversaries

10 years

Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola

Rev. Judith Horgan

Rev. Elissa Johnk

15 years

Rev. Dianna Benjamin

Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno

20 years

Rev. Dr. Scott Couper

Rev. Sandra Lee Daley

Rev. Thomas C. Kinder

Rev. Connie Moser

25 Years

Rev. Gregory Homan
Rev. Kathryn Maver
Rev. Jo Schelnutt

30 years

Rev. Alden Launer
Rev. Robert Russel-Falling

35 years

Rev. Harvey Bartlett
Rev. Christine Boardman
Rev. Elizabeth Fisher
Rev. Jane Wilson

40 years

Rev. Steven Berry
Rev. Catherine Cadieux
Rev. Anne Squire
Rev. Dereen Vanderlinde-Abernathy

45 years

Rev. Robert Hamm
Rev. William Nelson
Rev. Charles Purinton, Jr.

50 years

Rev. David Andrews
Rev. Wanye Holsman
Rev. Harry L. Peatt, Jr.

55 years

Rev. Donald Ferrell

60 years

Rev. Benjamin Thurber

70 years

Rev. Dr. Avery Post

In Memoriam

Many names were called out from the floor and candles were lit. A prayer of thanksgiving was offered.

7:36 -- Evening worship begins.

Plenary 3

April 27

8:51 AM Speakouts

- D. Mark Blank, Second Congregational Church, Bennington
 - I came to Vermont straight out of seminary in Pittsburgh to an incredible church in Bennington. Cathy Clark really encouraged me to go to convocation. I went. Was one of the best experiences in my first year. Please go! Remember Members in Discernment welcome.
- Laurie Chipman, Essex Junction, and Ryan Gackgenheimer, Sharon CT
 - We are looking for people to be a part of outdoor ministry. Only have 8 campers so far. We can take 24. We need counselors and chaplains too. There are more things happening. You can go to Horton Center Website to find out about what we do.
 - You can also come to Silver Lake. It's a year round facility. You can come on retreat with us anytime. We have women's groups. We have clergy groups. Tons of fun!
- Adrienne Carr, Disaster Response Committee.
 - We have a table with many interesting things to look at, including what to do with your elderly in times of crisis. I'm happy to come and talk to folks. We have so much that the State of Vermont deals with, that we need to be prepared. We do have disasters here. The Puerto Ricans need more help. Doug Carter is helping to organize and lead rebuild trips. How many churches have actually participated?
- Connie Moser
 - Maren Tirabassi is going to be our guest speaker at convocation. Connie read a poem by Maren about God's children with dementia. In Vermont 13,000 men and women with Alzheimer's. That number is expected to continue growing. We are called to remember them in our actions and ministry.
- Grace Cleary, Summer Lunch Program
 - Grants are available starting this week. There will be more information in the e-kit. According to information at HungerFree Vermont -- 35,000 children in the summer time who will be hungry. They only have about 4,000 children registered to take advantage of summer lunch programs. Please help. You can get a grant.
- Adam Smedberg, Church World Service
 - We are working on an LGBTQ safe space program in Africa. It is a program that I'm willing to speak to your church about. We're working with pastors and other faith leaders in Africa to help them better consult their members who are LGBTQ. So that they can have support in a place where "coming out" is a crime.

9:05 -- Worship

9:20 -- State of the Conference

Rev. Lynn Bujnak and Rev. Paul Sangree

I led Easter worship at the Berlin Congregational church and I preached on St. John's version of the resurrection that ends with Mary returning and saying, I have seen the Lord. I noted a man with a very intent look on his face. He approached me, carrying a necklace. "I want you to know this comes from

Hawaii and Jesus gave it to me. I came here today because Jesus told me to give it to you.” Not knowing what else to say, I said, “Thank you.”

I want to say there are so many ways we see Jesus. Here’s where I have seen Jesus in this conference. What is life-giving and why I love being your Conference Minister.

On Sunday mornings, I go to worship in our churches and they feel alive. I also think that most of our churches, maybe all, have a sense of purpose and mission beyond our church. Please attend the Peace-Makers’ gathering. It is so inspirational to hear about how we touch so many lives around the world.

There are partnerships all over the globe. Laundry love, backpacks, summer lunch programs, social services that otherwise would not be able to be in your community. It’s a wonderful thing , the huge difference you make.

I also love that the phrase “Lives Touched.” We are always touching lives. I always ask, why are you a member of this church. I get some of the most incredible answers about what this church has meant and what the UCC means.

I love the fact that our clergy address the hard issues and have the courage to offer their witness injustice and mercy and to stand in the breach when the fire comes.

I love the fact that our churches are being good and honest about the struggle in balancing welcoming everyone with the reality of when someone enters the church with bad behavior -- that’s a hard thing and am honored and happy with the churches who are ready to struggle with that and say yes, but not all behaviors are welcome.

I wish all of you could be on a conference committee. What a wonderful thing it is to walk with people through their discernment, as MSSC

I also love that fact that there is so much new life happening. Some of our smallest churches can’t afford pulpit supply -- and some of these have turned themselves into house churches, praying together and eating together. I know that some of our churches will reach the end of their life-cycle. That is not a failure. It is a celebration of a life well lived. My hope is that these churches will find a way to pay it forward.

I love my partners in ministry. It is SO great to have Paul with us. So incredibly wonderful to have Jesse back with us and back full time -- and so great to work with all of you who have said yes to be on a committee. I can do this work because of you and of course because of God.

Paul --

What a joy and privilege to serve with Lynn -- such a wonderful gift. I feel very blessed by that, and with Jesse who helps keep us all on track.

I have sat with Jim Thomas and Pam Lucas who have shared their deep love of the conference and their wisdom.

I come from Massachusetts. In my last church I found myself mentoring lots of students and was also asked to chair a committee on vitality and enjoyed that too. So I got a sense of call. So I was excited to see this job -- I also love Vermont.

In my new role I've taken over search and call and the church vitality and stewardship work. As I began my work, I've always understand that vitality and stewardship are tied together. So, I've formed a committee on stewardship and on church vitality and we'll plan an event.

I've made a list of vital churches (stable and growing, among other things). And so I spent some time to talk to these pastors and invite them on these committees. Then I started thinking about my own experience. I enjoyed these workshops -- I'd get fired up and then I'd go back and all of a sudden it was lost to other pressing matters. What really made the difference to me were people who became invested in me. What if I invited some of these pastors to be coaches?

If your church is dealing with declining vitality, then please consider being one of the churches in our church coaching program. I'll assign a church vitality coach and seek to set up together some goals for your church. Please sign up if you think your church would be interested in participating.

Also thinking about planting new churches. Mallett's Bay Congregational Church was the last new church in Vermont. so, I'm hoping to reach out to more people in these new churches.

I'm grateful to be your new ACM and looking forward to seeing what the Holy Spirit will do among us.

9:40 -- **Financial Resolutions**

Tom Yahner presents the eight Financial Resolutions

- 1.) That the division of undesignated Basic Support for Our Church's Wider Mission income for 2020 by 70% for the Vermont Conference and 30% for the United Church of Christ beyond Vermont.
- 2.) That the Vermont Conference share with the national setting of the United Church of Christ 70% of any Basic Support for OCWM budget surplus at the conclusion of the 2020 fiscal year.
- 3.) That the Conference continues to encourage each church to increase its Basic Support for Our Church's Wider Mission by 1% per year of its operating budget expenses; moving toward a full tithe (10%) and beyond if possible.
- 4.) That the 2020 Vermont Per Capita be set at \$13.06. (Note: The association portion of Per Capita is in addition to the Conference amount.)
- 5.) That the churches be encouraged to pay Basic Support for Our Church's Wider Mission and Per Capita at least quarterly.
- 6.) That the Board of Directors be authorized to take funds from the unrestricted reserves for any emergency deficit in 2020.
- 7.) That the Board of Directors be authorized to adjust the 2020 operating budget as unforeseen circumstances require, within the spending limits established in the budget.
- 8.) That the Conference adopt a 2020 Operating Budget of not more than \$613,899 in expenses and not less than \$613,899 in income, with the goal of ending 2020 with a balanced budget.

Katelyn McCrae calls the question.

It is seconded. The question is called by unanimous vote.

9:46 -- **The motion passes unanimously.**

Alyssa May asked if we'd just passed the budget. Some discussion ensued about what just happened. Parliamentarian Deb Ingram confirmed it was all done according to Robert Rules of order.

9:48 -- Rob Voyle talk.

Plenary 4

April 27, 2019

1:50 PM Speakouts -

- Laura Cadmus
 - I have a dream that all of the ministries that God calls us to will be celebrated and supported in the VT conference. There are many answers to this question that lie outside of our limited settings or what we recognize as church. I feel that my call to hospital chaplaincy is not fully recognized by the VT conference. This is an important place for us to do church in a different way. I hope that this conference will consider honoring and authorizing hospice chaplaincy as a ministry and especially as an ordained ministry.
- Katherine
 - Help Kids India -- mission to fund preschools for young children living in poverty. provides safety, full nutrition, healthcare. We will come and talk. I love this project and will be happy to share that.
- Laura I., College Street Church
 - Ministry to college students. My ministry is at the University of Vermont. Mental health is an issue now more than ever. The question of meaning is realized among them as a need for resilience, but they don't have it. At UVM, 1 in 5 students experience hunger insecurity. Think about ways you can partner.
- Laurie Chipman, Outdoor Ministries, Essex Junction
 - We seek people for ideas, we seek people for money, we seek people for help and support. You can be a daytime helper and provide respite for camp counselors. You can be there for the whole day. Most of all we need team members to help us think about what the future can look like. Please share the news.
- Robin Junker-Boyce, Thetford Hill Congregational Church
 - Announcing an Interfaith Youth Conference. May 5, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in White River Junction. Free event, for children 13-18.

L. Sparrow asks for appreciation for Lucia Jackson for organizing the speakouts.

2:00 pm -- Environmental Church ministries, Fred Taylor

On behalf of the Justice and Witness Ministries I want to celebrate what we're doing around the environment. One of our resolutions from last year was an urgent call to study climate, raise voices, start new initiatives, seek integrity in our energy sources. Some of the work done over the last 10 years or so includes Brattleboro Congregational Church Carbon Fast, energy updates, audits, Charlotte Congregational Church, Second Congregational Church, and Bennington Congregational Churches have solar projects underway. Thetford Congregational Church has a new wood chip boiler, Second

Congregational Church Bennington marched in the people's climate march in Washington DC, Norwich Congregational Church invited Jim Antal to talk about his book *Climate Church, Climate World*. Projects grew from that, like recycling. The Weybridge Congregational has been very involved with networking with other churches on environmental issues. They have begun, ICAN, Interfaith Climate Action Network, etc. etc.

2:12 -- Rev. Burt Marshall and Rev. Jim Antal will present the Green New Deal Resolution

Andy Nagy-Benson -- I move that we vote to affirm the "Resolution Let Justice Roll Down." Seconded.

Discussion:

Rev. Jim Antal -- I am special advisor to general minister and president on justice and it is that capacity that I come to you on this day presenting this resolution on the Green New Deal (GND). Within a few hours after that GND was announced three of our national leaders endorsed it.

Since the Paris Climate Accord passed by 193 countries 4 years ago. Much has been the same. Hottest years on record. Carbon dioxide emissions continue to rise. Political leaders continue to deny the basis of climate change. Fuel companies continue to lobby to continue business as usual seeking to spend 5 trillion on exploration and extraction of new fossil fuel sources.

1. On June 17, President Trump issued an order to pull out of the Paris Accords. Immediately after that the UCC at the General Synod demands that new sources of energy available to all.
2. Millions of children have been in the street asking for the right to grow up in a world without fossil fuels. Please act now as if your house were on fire. Because it is. Children's trust filed a lawsuit that we have the right to grow up in a world not scarred by global warming.
Eachgeneration.org
3. On February 7, media outlets explode with news of the Green New Deal.

Today we have the opportunity to make sure the General Synod will add it's prophetic voice to this crisis. These issues have been central to our message for decades. But our denomination has a centuries-long concern for racial and economic inequality. The resolution uses the kind of justice language we are familiar with. Now is the time to add to the list of our prophetic action on all kinds of injustices, racial, gender, economic. We already have at our disposal all of the solutions we need. Yes, the GND is aspiration. But don't we share the aspirations of our children and grandchildren to extinguish the fire that is growing in our world.

Questions --

William Thwing, Bennington

Are there other conferences considering this resolution?

Answer: There are 38 conferences in the UCC. Any conference that votes between now and may 3 included as co-sponsors

Steve Hyde -- Will your notes be posted? *Yes, I can post them.*

Alyssa May, Northeast Kingdom

1) This is a burdensome issue for those less than fortunate. On whose backs and by whom will this take place? 2) I call us to a point of humility. We have been using plastic coffee cup covers. Let's walk the walk everyday. We have the potential to be all that we profess in the UCC. Thank you.

Cathy James, Barre Congregational Church

How many people here today who did not arrive in a car, truck or bus, powered by fossil fuels. Very few. It's difficult and it's expensive. This is not easy. I consider this resolution, unrealistic, overambitious with a high probability of failure. I have an engineering background and am afraid this might hurt the very people this is intended to help.

First of all -- I agree with much. Second - the confession of hypocrisy is an important place to start. Third -- in terms of cost. Fox news has projected that the cost is \$93 trillion. That is manufactured and made up figure meant to scare. But climate change (unaddressed) will cost the US over the next 10 years 10 trillion. Yes it is hard and it is a reach. But by shifting our economy as suggested in the GND we stand to save trillions of dollars instead. Finally Mark Jacobson, showed in 2012 that 139 countries in the world and US could by 2050 transition to 100% renewable. Redone those figures and predicts by 2035.

Michael Marshall, Wells River Congregational Church

We were notified that this was going to be happening only a few weeks ago. We did manage to have a gathering. The responses were ambivalent. But the overwhelming response was that we couldn't vote for something about which we are still unfamiliar.

Answer: unfortunately, there is nothing we could do about the timing. We did it as quickly as possible. Interestingly the congress passes resolutions like we do. The GND is aspirational. Yes it is hugely complicated. But it is meant to drive us forward. This resolution does not bind us. There is no specificity in the GND and endorsing it does not commit us to any specificity.

Cynthia Kelly, Essex Junction.

My husband has an IT Company. They always try to hire women. They switched from wishing for women, to saying we are hiring women. GMP did say that they have a vision to go for 100% renewable by 2030. Do we know the details? No we don't. But if we don't change, who will?

Put that in the context of Samuel Sewall advocating for end of slavery in 1700.

Holly Friat, Barre Congregational Church

I never dreamed that these two things would come together, but here they are. One of the things I talk about with our children is our dreams for justice. This does not tie us or our country to anything. I urge support for this.

Jim Donovan, Barre Congregational Church

I know how Cathy is going to vote. I appreciate it, but I am going to oppose it. My dream is zero fossil fuels in Vermont. One church at a time.

Vergennes --

When I think about the impact of the transformation of where we are now to a green energy, I know it will cost those of us with the least. I also know that they are already more than shouldering the burden of climate change. We can do everything we can to mitigate that pain in times of change, but we must change for them.

Fred Taylor -- I speak to folks having questions about the vastness or unrealistic quality of this resolution. I thought, well not possible, too idealistic. In my own work as an environmentalist, I realized it's not just about beautiful nature -- but about questions of justice, the economy, poverty, healthcare and racism. Really every moral issue is bound up with climate change. To acknowledge that we need to take bold actions I urge people to support

Scott Couper -- Centre Congregational Church, Brattleboro

This time last year read your book, Jim and it positively influenced my ministry. I thank the VT Conference for bring you here to speak on this issue. Also I will be preaching a sermon series on the environment.

Skip Dickenson, Dorset

I read the FAQs about this resolution and especially appreciated #6. What other difficult resolutions has the UCC passed? Since 1950's many. I see the Doubting Thomas playing out in our doubts. We are called to be faithful and we need to continue to be faithful and move forward.

Sharon Layman, First Congregational Church, W. Brattleboro

I work with adolescents -- they are scared to death that they won't have a planet to live in. There are ways to deal. Ways to make solar energy available to all. But we have to be creative and to think about ways to do it. If we can build a border wall, to keep people out. Then certainly we can afford to transition to a sustainable energy future.

L. Sparrow, Guilford Congregational Church,

We on Justice and Witness Committee labored about the late arrival of this. We were concerned about this lack of time. I've struggled a lot with the role of the church. I say to myself --we are the ones to hold the moral imperative before the country. If you think about what happened to the UMC. People paid attention to the fact that the Methodists did not act openly toward LGBTQ. That is shade that they won't recover from for a long time. For our children to know that this is something we take seriously is important.

Christopher Ashley, Norwich Congregational Church

Sell the dream, not the plan. Let's not fight about the dream. Yes we have to fight about the plan, but we need to sell the dream -- that's what we're trying to do. Let's sell the dream and then we'll all use our gifts, the gifts God gave us for the plan.

Dr. Andi Lloyd Congregational Church, Middlebury

I've spent my entire life studying and engaging this issue -- and all of this feels familiar. This is hard -- but what we know is that the window of opportunity is closing and closing fast. Science alone is not going to save us -- but the voices of all sorts of organizations will make a difference. I hope we can support this.

Kurt Shaffert, United Church Bellows Falls

Process question -- I stayed up late to read this stuff. I haven't really been able to digest it with a critical purchase. Everything has a shadow side. For the folks who have studied it -- what do you think are the gaps and the shadows.

I see affirmation of intersectionality named and I see racism mentioned broadly once. I wonder how we can hold ourselves to the important question of race relations in our country?

Yes, it was a tight time table. It came in late -- hence the emergency title and we do make provisions for that. These comments echo what I heard -- aspirational is one of those buzz words. Yeah, we don't have all the answers. Does this do everything/? no but it does something. And we felt as a board we had to move forward. Because doing nothing is not an option.

Intersectionality -- I surely hope that while racism may be just a passing mention in this resolution that we redouble our efforts to address the social ills of racism. Excellent example of what the gaps are. Yes, it's a gap.

L. Sparrow

We're voting on this to go to synod. They will likely make changes there. Much opportunity for amendments and adjustments. It will be a big conversation. This is just to get on the table for national discussion.

Kathryn Kitter, West Newbury

"This is cathedral thinking - it takes a long time to build."

Marissa Laviola, Morrisville,

I want to share a story about my younger daughter who is a millennial. She doesn't go to church. A friend of hers in college complained to her about a church that didn't seem to care about anything justice reality. She told her that she was going to the wrong church. My daughter, even though she doesn't go to church, believes that the UCC will and can make a difference.

Ed Sunday-Winters --

Called the question. It was seconded and passed with one opposed and three abstentions.

The vote is on the motion to send this to synod. . .

The motion passed with some nays and a few abstentions.

L. Sparrow -- thank you all for such a good conversation.

3:07 -- Nominating Report

Elissa Lucozzi, St. Johnsbury

Thank you all for that conversation. I am here for Susanna Griefen who can't be here today.

We have worked for the better part of a year to put together this slate.

It's been trad in conf. that a person goes vice moderator to moderator to annual meeting planning committee. Not the way we are going to do that anymore and the Nominating Committee will be working to fill that.

3:17 -- **Dick Dale, I move that for those offices so named that need to be voted on by the annual meeting be approved as stated. Seconded.**

Nominating slate approved unanimously.

L. Bujnak -- Grateful to Elissa Lucozzi who came in on the eleventh hour to present report.

All of the elected people to board and department stand and are commissioned and blessed.

L. Sparrow asks for applause for all those listed on pages 28-29 who helped make this annual meeting happen. So applauded.

3:19 -- **The meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Peter Plagge

DRAFT