



# Vermont Conference United Church of Christ



**Thus says the Lord:  
A voice is heard in Ramah,**



**Lamentation and bitter weeping.  
Rachel is weeping for her children;  
She refuses to be comforted,  
Because they are no more.  
*Jeremiah 31:15***

This past week, we all saw the footage of George Floyd, unarmed, handcuffed, pleading for breath, pleading for his life while a police officer knelt on his neck ... until he died. Of course the streets of Minneapolis exploded with rage that spread throughout our nation. How many people can we lose? How much injustice can go unanswered as black men, women, and children (think Tamir Rice) are killed by police with little or no accountability. Rachel is indeed weeping for her children because they are no more.

Once more the reality of racism and the reality of white privilege and white supremacy are starkly visible. As followers of Jesus the Christ we cannot be silent. As the heavily armed police used tear gas and rubber bullets on peaceful protesters, white supremacists and self-professed militia are carrying guns, confronting police and protesters while the police stand by silently.

Enough! We, the staff and clergy of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ condemn the killing of George Floyd and the staggering string of killing/lynchings stretching back to 1619 and before. This is a sickness of the soul of our nation. As the African-American spiritual says, we are in need of a balm “to heal the sin sick soul.”

We confess that the drive for power and economic advantage at the expense of black and brown people has sickened our nation. We confess that the glorification and reliance on military-style solutions has driven a wedge between communities and increased the danger to our black and brown siblings.

**36 N Main Street, Randolph VT 05060  
802-728-4999, 802-728-4072 (FAX)**

---

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak, Conference Minister  
Rev. Paul Sangree, Associate Conference Minister  
Jesse Davis, Operations & Ministries Coordinator; Tanya Frazier, Bookkeeper



# Vermont Conference United Church of Christ

---



We also confess our complicity and silence in the face of racism, the jokes we didn't call out, the Word we did not proclaim, the white privilege we refused to see, the fear of the other we hid in our hearts.

We believe that healing can come when our society and the individuals in that society are transformed by the power, love and grace of God. We call for specific steps towards such transformation including: listening deeply to our black siblings and seeking to understand their experience and their reality as black persons in a racist society. We will be allies, willing to use our privilege to call out acts of violence, degradation and humiliation. We will be willing to put our lives on the line as our black siblings do each day. We will immerse ourselves in prayer knowing that God can and will open our eyes and transform our souls. We will organize. We will write to our governmental leaders repeatedly demanding justice and protection for all, not just those who look like us.

As many of you know, last November I joined my Conference Minister colleagues for an immersion experience in Birmingham and surrounding areas in Alabama around slavery and the civil rights movement. The most powerful experience of many was a trip to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice dedicated to victims of white supremacy in Montgomery. (see photo above) There were no words - only tears - as I walked through an imposing hallway under suspended coffin shaped iron blocks filled with name after name of Black men, women and children killed, lynched by the virus of white privilege and white supremacy. I made a pledge there - I would not be silent. I would not be complicit. I hope that many of you will make the same pledge, for the sake of all God's people.

Praying for equality and justice,

*Rev. Lynn Bujnak*

Rev. Lynn Bujnak – Conference Minister, Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ (UCC)

Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ staff:

Rev. Paul Sangree – Associate Conference Minister, Vermont Conference, UCC

Mr. Jesse Davis – Operations & Ministries Coordinator, Vermont Conference, UCC

Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ Board of Directors:

Rev. Douglas Carter, Chair

Ms. Jeanne Zammataro

Ms. Laura Nassau

Rev. Kimberly McKerley

Rev. Kathleen Clark

Mr. Richard Dale

Mr. Eric Webster

Ms. Julie Cadwallader Staub

Ministers living and serving UCC churches in Vermont:

Rev. Marjorie MacNeill – retired

Rev. Cordelia Burpee – Pastor, Congregational Church of South Hero, UCC

Rev. Susan Webster-Toleno - Pastor, Congregational Church of Westminster West, UCC

Rev. Peter Plage – Pastor, Waterbury United Church of Christ

---

**36 N Main Street, Randolph VT 05060**  
**802-728-4999, 802-728-4072 (FAX)**

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak, Conference Minister

Rev. Paul Sangree, Associate Conference Minister

Jesse Davis, Operations & Ministries Coordinator; Tanya Frazier, Bookkeeper



# Vermont Conference United Church of Christ

---



Rev. Duane Brown – retired  
Rev. Sally May – Pastor, Mallets Bay Congregational Church, UCC  
Rev. Kurt Shaffert – Interim Pastor, United Church of Bellows Falls, UCC  
Rev. Diane Monti-Catania – retired  
Rev. Bert Marshall – Interim Pastor, Barre Congregational Church, UCC  
Rev. Kathy Clark – Pastor, Federated Church of East Arlington, UCC  
Rev. Karen Lipinczyk – chaplain  
Rev. William Bartholomew – Pastor, Brandon Congregational Church, UCC  
Rev. Carole Carlson – retired  
Rev. Martha Peck – retired  
Rev. Kimberly McKerley – Pastor, Bethany United Church of Christ (Randolph)  
Rev. Susan Church – Pastor, Roxbury Union Church and E. Braintree/W. Brookfield  
Congregational Church, UCC  
Mr. Douglas Cameron – Pastor, United Federated Church of Williamstown, UCC  
Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen – Pastor, Charlotte Congregational Church, UCC  
Rev. Richard Bingham – retired  
Rev. Rona Kinsley – Interim Pastor, The Old Meeting House, UCC (East Montpelier)  
Rev. Tracy Fye Weatherhogg – Supply minister  
Rev. Jane Elizabeth Wilson – retired  
Rev. Susanna Knox Griefen – retired  
Mrs. Beverly R.M. Anderson – retired  
Mr. Thomas Harty – Pastor, United Church of Bethel, UCC  
Rev. Amanda Swoyer – Pastor, North Pomfret Congregational Church, UCC  
Rev. D. Mark Blank – Pastor, Second Congregational Church of Bennington, UCC  
Mrs. Lava Mueller – chaplain  
Rev. Kathy W. Eddy – retired  
Rev. Erin Reardon – Pastor, United Church of Warren  
Rev. Jennifer Mihok – Pastor, United Church of Underhill  
Rev. Evelyn Coupe – Pastor, Barton United Church  
Rev. Pamela Lucas – Associate Conference Minister (retired)  
Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge – Associate Pastor, Charlotte Congregational Church  
Rev. Katelyn Macrae – Pastor, Richmond Congregational Church, UCC  
Rev. Catherine Cadieux – retired  
Rev. Elisa Lucozzi – Pastor, United Community Church, UCC (St. Johnsbury)  
Rev. Joan O’Gorman – chaplain  
Mr. Gary O’Gorman – Interim Pastor, First Congregational Church of St. Albans, UCC  
Rev. Lucia Anne Jackson – Pastor, First Congregational Church of Hartland, UCC  
Ms. Theresa Lever – Interim Co-Pastor, First Congregational Church of Berlin, UCC  
Ms. SallyAnn Silfies – Pastor, Greater Hartford United Church of Christ  
Ms. Nancy Fowler – Interim Co-Pastor, First Congregational Church of Berlin, UCC  
Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy – retired  
Rev. Rob Hamm – Pastor, First Congregational Church of Newfane, UCC  
Rev. Paul Eyer – Pastor, Williston Federated Church, UCC  
Rev. Ann Hockridge – Pastor, Lower Waterford Congregational Church, UCC & Third  
Congregational Church of East St. Johnsbury, UCC

---

**36 N Main Street, Randolph VT 05060**  
**802-728-4999, 802-728-4072 (FAX)**

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak, Conference Minister  
Rev. Paul Sangree, Associate Conference Minister  
Jesse Davis, Operations & Ministries Coordinator; Tanya Frazier, Bookkeeper



# Vermont Conference United Church of Christ

---



Rev. Alyssa May – Pastor, Orleans Federated Church, UCC  
Rev. Dr. Lise M. Sparrow – Pastor, Guilford Community Church, UCC  
Rev. Richard Crocker – retired  
Rev. Shawn Bracebridge – Pastor, Dummerston Congregational Church, UCC  
Mr. Jeremy Kirk – Pastor, West Dover Congregational Church, UCC  
Rev. Michael Caldwell – retired  
Rev. Laura Cadmus – chaplain  
Rev. Andrew Nagy-Benson – Senior Pastor, Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC  
Rev. Elissa Johnk – Lead Minister, First Congregational Church of Burlington, UCC  
Rev. Elliott Munn – Pastor, Waitsfield United Church of Christ  
Mr. Chris Heintz – Interim Pastor, First Congregational Church of Manchester, UCC  
Rev. Elizabeth Gleich – Associate Pastor, Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC  
Rev. Morris Pike – retired  
Rev. Dr. Scott Couper – Pastor, Centre Congregational Church, UCC in Brattleboro  
Rev. Ed Sunday-Winters – Pastor, Greensboro United Church of Christ  
Rev. Mark Mendes – Senior Pastor, First Congregational Church of Essex Jct., UCC  
Rev. Dereen Vanderlinde-Abernathy – retired  
Rev. Linda Kulas – retired  
Rev. James Mills – Pastor, First Congregational Church of Fair Haven, UCC  
Rev. Barbara Purinton – Bridge Pastor, Waitsfield United Church of Christ  
Rev. Robin Junker-Boyce – Pastor, First Congregational Church of Thetford, UCC

---

**36 N Main Street, Randolph VT 05060**  
**802-728-4999, 802-728-4072 (FAX)**

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak, Conference Minister  
Rev. Paul Sangree, Associate Conference Minister  
Jesse Davis, Operations & Ministries Coordinator; Tanya Frazier, Bookkeeper