



E-Kit May 13, 2020

DONATE

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

As of today, most of us are continuing to live with precautions and limits as we live in this pandemic. Some of us are sailing along, getting energy from trying new things and communicating in new ways. For some, this has been a time of growing stress. We were OK for a few weeks, but the thoughts of continuing in this way can be exhausting and anxiety producing. In fact, I have read several articles talking about the substantial rise in persons seeking help for mental illnesses triggered by these days of social isolation and staying home. If you or someone you love is having a difficult time, please reach out for help. There are 24/7 crisis hotlines and many therapists are willing to do their sessions through electronic means.



None of us have the crystal ball to be able to answer the questions about how long we will be living with limitations due to the virus. Even as some things begin to cautiously open up, I believe we will be living with the challenges, opportunities, and anxiety of the pandemic for weeks and perhaps even months to come.

On the latest clergy ZOOM call, Rev. Amy Pitton referenced an article specifically related to the challenges and needs of our pastors and chaplains. [Click here for that article.](#)

May the peace that passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Lynn

Required VT Occupational Safety & Health training for reopening workplaces

See the latest guidance and directives from State of Vermont

Answer the call and volunteer in response to COVID-19

COVID-19 FAQ's for churches

**COVID - 19
Information &
Resources**

**Resources curated by the
Southern New England
Conference**

**Utilities and COVID-19: Help &
information from VT Dept. of
Public Utilities**

CARES Act: Churches Eligible for Payroll Relief ACT NOW!

Attached is the loan application and fact sheet from the SBA. If you have churches interested in applying for this loan, they need to apply NOW, as the available funds are expected to be exhausted quickly. The attached application should be submitted directly to a lender identified as a participating lender on the SBA's website ([sba.gov](https://www.sba.gov)), rather than seeking the application from the lender.

Application Form

Borrower factsheet

Unemployment compensation for church workers & the CARES Act

CARES Act information courtesy of the Southern New England Conference



*Your Conference staff
working for you*

**The Vermont
Conference office is
closed, but we're
still hard at work
for you!**

You can reach any of the
staff members by using the
information below.

Be safe, be well, take
good care...



*Sable likes the working
from home concept*

Vermont Conference COVID-19 office protocol

*The Vermont Conference office is closed
for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis.*

Staff are able to check their voicemail
and are available on email. **Please send
all documents to staff by email only.**

Rev. Lynn Bujnak: 802-728-4999 ext. 4#

Rev. Paul Sangree: 802-728-4999 ext. 5#

Jesse Davis: 802-728-4999 ext. 0#

Email Conference Minister Lynn
Bujnak

Email Associate Conference
Minister Paul Sangree

Email Operations & Ministries
Coordinator Jesse Davis

Contact Vermont Conference
Disaster Ministries chair Rev.
Adrienne Carr

Stewardship in the midst of COVID-19

Many people, ministers and church members, have been asking how to continue to

support their local church budgets while everyone is social distancing and unable to gather together in worship. The short answer is - keep stewardship and the offering going!

Rev. Andrew Warner, Generosity Outreach Officer for the United Church of Christ offered a webinar and several resources last week. He has kindly shared them with us for members of the Vermont Conference to use.

[Fundraising webinar recording](#)

[Planned giving webinar](#)

[IRA qualified charitable contributions](#)

[Example quarterly letter to church members](#)

[National Study of Congregations Economic Practices \(NSCEP\) study](#)

[NSCEP self-assessment tool](#)

[Making the stimulus ask](#)

Special Worship Service May 17

The Council of Conference Ministers invites you to worship with them on May 17th or any other Sunday in Eastertide depending on what works for your schedule. The materials - full video, video segments, bulletin, and read-only service - can be found on this calendar event: <https://ucctcm.org/event/worship-with-the-council-of-conference-ministers/>

We offer this service to join together in this time of pandemic. We hope this service will provide pastors with a much needed and deserved time off.

Blessings to you all!

Festival of Homiletics begins May 18

[Luther Seminary's Festival of Homiletics](#) is a week long conference that brings together a wide variety of outstanding preachers and professors of Homiletics to inspire a discourse about preaching, worship and culture. This year's theme is Preaching a New Earth: Climate and Creation. Due to the current pandemic, the Festival is free, on line, beginning Monday, May 18. For more information and the schedule of worship and presenters (including the Rev. Traci Blackmon, UCC Associate General Minister for Justice and Local Church Ministries, and Bill Mc Kibben) go to <https://www.festivalofhomiletics.com/> This is a great opportunity to dip in and out of the presentations as time permits without having to fly out to the Twin Cities.

Per Capita rate for 2020

The Vermont Conference per capita rate has been established at \$13.00 per member. Association dues are *in addition* to the Conference per capita rate of \$13.00.

Spiritual Direction

By popular request, a list of Spiritual Directors is now available. [Download the list here.](#)

Pastoral Transitions

- Rev. WendyJane Summers has been called as Pastor of Second Congregational Church of Hyde Park.
- Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola has been called as Associate Conference Minister on Congregational Transitions and Empowerment for the Penn Central Conference. Her ministry begins June 1, 2020.
- Rev. Elliott Munn has been called as Pastor of the Congregational Church of Vergennes. His ministry begins later this month.

[Click here for full list of transitions](#)

Prayers and Thanksgivings

Please hold health care workers and first responders in your prayers as they stand on the front lines responding to COVID-19.

Please hold Lava Mueller in your prayers as she mourns the passing of her mother.

Please hold Rev. Lucia Jackson in your prayers as she cares for her husband Michael Heaney who is healing from a health crisis.

Useful Links

- [UCC Newsfeeds](#)
- [UCC Weekly Seeds](#)
- [2020 Tax preparation resources](#)
- [Pension Boards rate calculator](#)
- [UCC Yearbook](#)
- [Stewardship blog](#)

Who should I contact for...?

- Conference Minister: Rev. Lynn Bujnak
 - bujnakl@vtcucc.org
- Assoc. Conference Minister: Rev. Paul Sangree
 - sangreep@vtcucc.org
- Search & Call, operations, events: Jesse Davis
 - vtcoordinator2018@gmail.com
- Finance: Tanya Frazier
 - vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com
- E-Kit postings
 - vermontconference@gmail.com

New Podcast Available

Rev. Josh Simon (First Congregational Church of Essex Junction) and Rev. Sally May (Malletts Bay UCC, Colchester) are proud to present the podcast *Faith in Vermont: Conversations with LGBTQ Religious and Spiritual Leaders*.

On this week's episode of Faith in Vermont: Conversations with LGBTQ Religious and Spiritual Leaders:

Cantor Steve Zeidenberg from Ohavi Zedek joins us for a conversation on being an LGBTQ cantor.

[Click here for the latest podcast](#)

Racism in America symposiums



Our Faith, Our Vote, Our Voice: A call to the Church to be a place of civil dialogue that builds community



[Watch the videos of Racism in America series](#)

[Our Faith, Our Vote resources](#)

Resources from the Vermont Conference website (click the buttons below)

Click here for local church events

Save the date! *Our Clergy Convocation this year will be Sept. 14th-16th at the Bishop Booth Conference Center in Burlington.* We will be talking about "How to stay Centered in a Time of Deep Change" with noted retreat leader and pastor Barbara Lemmel. Hope we can all gather by then, and that we will see you there.

Search & Call Resources

Lay Ministry Openings

Visit our partners



Worship Well

Original worship resources for local churches... because Sunday's coming.
[Website](#)



Church World Service

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Community & Congregational Engagement Specialist
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