



## E-Kit July 1, 2020

**DONATE**

So what would you do if you were brave? Kent Siladi is stepping down as one of the bridge Conference ministers of the Southern New England Conference this month, and an article about his ministry noted that this was one of his favorite questions to ask in various ministry settings. As each of us enjoy a beautiful Vermont summer, it is also a good question for us to ask ourselves, particularly as we rest and reflect on what God may be calling us to do and be when a new church year starts up again in September.



What would you do if you were brave in the area of racial justice? Other social justice concerns? What would you do if you were brave in terms of your worship service or services, whether they be online or live or both? What would you do if you were brave about discipling people in the Christian faith? What would you do if you were brave about making a difference in your community? What would you do if you were brave about reaching new people, including kids and youth with the gospel?

Obviously none of us as church leaders can go out on a limb in each of these areas in our church this September, but maybe there is one area where God is going to call you to be brave this upcoming church year. Which one will it be?

Discerning with you,  
Paul

# Black Lives Matter

**Fredrick Douglass**  
**July 5, 1852**

"But, such is not the state of the case. I say it with a sad sense of the disparity between us. I am not included within the pale of this glorious anniversary! Your high independence only reveals the immeasurable distance between us. The blessings in which you, this day, rejoice, are not enjoyed in common.-The rich inheritance of justice, liberty, prosperity and independence, bequeathed by your fathers, is shared by you, not by me. The sunlight that brought life and healing to you, has brought stripes and death to me. This Fourth July is *yours*, not *mine*. You may rejoice, I must mourn. To drag a man in fetters into the grand illuminated temple of liberty, and call upon him to join you in joyous anthems, were inhuman mockery and sacrilegious irony. Do you mean, citizens, to mock me, by asking me to speak today? If so, there is a parallel to your conduct. And let me warn you that it is dangerous to copy the example of a nation whose crimes, towering up to heaven, were thrown down by the breath of the Almighty, burying that nation in irrecoverable ruin! I can today take up the plaintive lament of a peeled and woe-smitten people!"

[Read Fredrick Douglass' full speech marking the 4th of July here](#)

[Click here for the statement from the Vermont Conference staff, Board and ministers living and serving in Vermont](#)

## Beginning conversations about race and white privilege

Has your church begun an education or reflection program about white privilege and systemic racism? If so, tell the Conference about what you are doing so we can highlight your program.

Contact the Conference at [vermontconference@gmail.com](mailto:vermontconference@gmail.com) to tell us about the programs you are doing and the journey you have begun.

## Say their names...

Each week, we will publish names of our sisters and brothers of the black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) communities who have been murdered by police and/or white supremacists.

**Miriam Carey - 34, shot by federal officers after taking wrong turn near White House**

**Botham Jean - 26, shot by off-duty officer who mistook his apartment for her own**

**Malissa Williams - 30, shot by police after car chase in which she was a passenger. Both she and the driver were unarmed.**

**Michael Lorenzo Dean - 18, shot during traffic stop**

## The UCC and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

The American Missionary Association, a predecessor body of the United Church of Christ, was a visionary organization dedicated to education and racial equality. The AMA founded six colleges that continue to relate to the UCC Council for Higher Education. These schools are historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and are racially diverse, welcoming students from a wide range of races and ethnicities.

- Dillard University, New Orleans, LA; [www.dillard.edu](http://www.dillard.edu)
- Fisk University, Nashville, TN; [www.fisk.edu](http://www.fisk.edu)
- Huston-Tillotson University, Austin, TX; [www.htu.edu](http://www.htu.edu)
- LeMoyne-Owen College, Memphis, TN; [www.loc.edu](http://www.loc.edu)
- Talladega College, Talladega, AL; [www.talladega.edu](http://www.talladega.edu)
- Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS; [www.tougaloo.edu](http://www.tougaloo.edu)

## Do you know of protests and rallies that are taking place?

Have you attended protests, vigils or rallies? Please let the Vermont Conference know about them so we can post them on our website and social media. Email them to Jesse at [vermontconference@gmail.com](mailto:vermontconference@gmail.com)



**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

## Remembering Rev. John Nutting

Did you miss last week's remembrance and time of prayer for Rev. John Nutting? You can see the gathering on the [Vermont Conference YouTube channel](#).



Required VT Occupational Safety & Health training for reopening workplaces

See the latest guidance and directives from State of Vermont

Pandemic grants for churches from UCC National Setting

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

## COVID - 19 Information & Resources

Answer the call and volunteer in response to COVID-19

Resources curated by the Southern New England Conference

COVID-19 FAQ's for churches

## 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 available

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!**

## 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. Elliott Munn has been called as Pastor of the Congregational Church of Vergennes. His ministry begins later this month.
- Rev. Elisa Lucozzi has been called as Pastor of the Guilford Community Church. She will succeed Rev. Lise Sparrow who is retiring.
- Rev. Leigh McCaffrey has been called as Pastor of the Barre Congregational Church.
- Rev. Mark Wilson has been called as Pastor of Waitsfield United Church of

### Prayers and Thanksgivings

Please hold those murdered by police and white supremacists in your prayers including Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery.

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

Christ.

of her mother.

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

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

## Outdoor Ministries News

### @ the Lake!

Camp like you've never seen it before! Join us for a SPLASH of a week! Available for campers going into grades 5-8, this camp is led by Deans Laurie Chipman (CE Director) & Pastor Ed Sunday-Winters along with the VT Outdoor Ministry Team. We are looking forward to getting to know you with play some games, writing a song, have fun cartooning, water adventures, singing camp songs, and lot laughs. We'll add in the staff of Horton Center too! Register for free today at [hortoncenter.org](https://hortoncenter.org)! Registration for this camp ends on July 10th so sign up soon! Only 30 campers get a slot so don't miss your chance!

Please help us by doing a search on Facebook for 'Vermont Outdoor Ministries - UCC' page, then 'like' it and 'share' it with your friends!

### More HC News

Horton Center is offering an opportunity for the Horton Center Camp Experience for FREE remotely this summer. This is a great way to learn about Horton Center, the joy and fun times offered. All are invited - those who have been for years and people new to the camping experience. If you have questions please give me a call.

For four weeks in July (beginning June 29th), HC@home will be offering camp for three different age groups each week. Registration is required so that safe remote access practices can be followed and so campers can receive in the mail the "Kit" of the week.

The day time experiences do not have to be done at a certain time, short videos can be watched and activities completed at your own time. The evening 7pm gathering will be live - all will want to be live at that gathering.

Campers may want to sign up for more than one week - create new friendships and experience God's creation, learn more about the love of God, teachings of Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit while having a great time.

Check out the short video on this page that invites campers to participate: <https://hortoncenter.org/>

This link is to information about HC@home:

Check out the fun offerings and meet Interim Executive Director Tim Hughs and Summer Director Tivvi Pare.



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

**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**

*Adam Smedberg*  
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Congregational  
Engagement Specialist  
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