



## E-Kit September 30, 2020

**DONATE**

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

I write this article with both gratitude and sorrow. Jesse Davis has accepted a new position at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center to be a Program Coordinator in the internal medicine residency program. This is a great opportunity for Jesse and I am happy for him. However, we will certainly miss him.



Since Jesse returned to the Vermont Conference as a full-time staff member, he has ably handled the administrative tasks for Search and Call, including interfacing with Search Committees and candidates, tracking each congregation's search progress, arranging Neutral Pulpits and generally keeping everything up to date and organized. He has provided support for the administrative tasks of the Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee, staffed the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, set up registrations for various events, redesigned and maintained our website, interfaced with the national setting of the UCC in Cleveland around statistics and ministerial changes, received and deposited checks for Accounts Payable, worked with churches in the process of closing, and so much more.

Jesse has been a great member of our staff, always pitching in where needed and often going the extra mile. He is even responsible for cleaning up the plantings at the conference office this summer and growing beautiful flowers to greet our visitors.

Please take a moment to thank Jesse for his service to our Conference and wish him well as he moves on to new challenges and opportunities. His last day in the office will be October 16th.

In gratitude,  
Lynn

# Black Lives Matter

**Click here for a more thorough, but by no means complete, list of our BIPOC sisters and brothers slain at the hands of police and white supremacists**

**Read Fredrick Douglass' famous speech regarding the**

## 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 college 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)

### Fall Leadership Fest - Registration open!

The Vermont Conference will be holding its first annual Fall Leadership Fest for lay leaders and ministers on October 24th from 8:45 to noon. This will be held virtually on ZOOM. The registration fee is \$25.



Our training sessions will consider:

- Pastoral relations committees
- Youth programming development
- Racial justice in our churches and communities
- Stewardship in the pandemic era

[Click here for more information about our classes and instructors](#)

### Grasping for Much-Needed Grace: Twenty Days of Nonpartisan Prayer in a Polarized Political Season

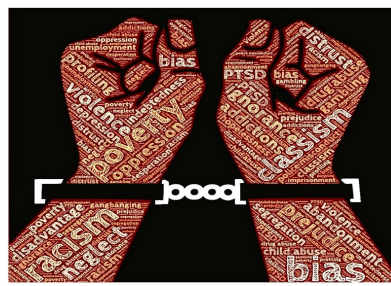
Vermont Conference, United Church of  
Christ, Fall 2020



At a time when our nation and society are deeply divided-so much so that democracy itself seems under threat-the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ invites you to a time of fervent prayer. For the 20 days preceding the 2020 presidential election, we urge you to join in this intensive prayer initiative as we daily petition God for wisdom, patience, courage, healing and peace. We will be providing a "prayer prompt" or daily devotion for each day of this twenty day undertaking. Feel free to share these devotionals with others and encourage others to join in this time of prayer. We need it. Next week in Ekit, we will make available the first week of devotions, which will begin Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.



**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**

## **The Vermont Conference has an exciting opportunity for you - our ministers and churches.**

This resource is made possible through the financial support offered to the Vermont Conference by local church support of Our Church's Wider Mission and private donations to [Friends of the Vermont Conference](#). Thank you!

**A gift of music and photos  
from Rev. Kathy Wonson Eddy**

Kathy is offering permission for Vermont Conference UCC Churches to use music from her website in virtual worship.

Her website address is: [kathywonsoneddy.com](http://kathywonsoneddy.com)

Kathy asks three things:

1. That churches always include the text ( visible to worshippers as they listen), the text author's name, and her name as composer
2. That churches make a donation to the Vermont Conference UCC or Black Lives Matter when a piece of her music is used
3. That churches email her at [kathywonsoneddy@gmail.com](mailto:kathywonsoneddy@gmail.com) , naming the piece used each time and which donation was made.

## **Peacemaker's Pulpit: "Help Wanted: VANG Chaplain"**

**September 2020  
The Rev. David E. L. Brown**

The Vermont Air National Guard (VANG) recently posted on the Yale Divinity School Job Board notice that the Guard requires a part-time military chaplain. Duties include: Providing pastoral care and counseling to those of faith and no faith, supporting the spiritual resilience of our service personnel in Vermont and all over the world, advocating for our Airmen and women, and consulting with leadership on moral, ethical and quality-of-life issues.

[Continue reading...](#)



## Does your church have an investment policy?

The United Church Fund is one of the financial ministries of the United Church of Christ and offers its expertise to local churches regarding investment strategies, policies and general expertise.

This downloadable guidance offers ideas and information to consider when developing or revising your local church investment policy.

[Click here to download the Investment Policy guidance from the United Church Fund](#)

## Holding space for difficult conversations

How do we have difficult conversations - whether about race, finances or anything else - within our congregations and people with differing perspectives? College Street Congregational Church developed "Communication Guidelines to Strengthen Our Community" and have kindly shared it for other churches to consider. The Vermont Conference Annual Meeting also adopts "A Covenant for Dialog" at the beginning of each Annual Meeting. Please feel free to use these documents in your local church.

Download College Street  
Congregational Church:  
"Communications Guidelines to  
Strengthen Our Church"

Download Vermont Conference  
Annual Meeting: "A Covenant for  
Dialog"

United Church of Christ  
Church Building & Loan Fund  
Present:

**BUILDING CHURCH DIFFERENTLY**

Partners in Building  
2020 Web Seminar Series

Registration Opening Soon!

September 17th  
"MAKE AN IMPACT"

September 24th  
"LEAD WITH TECHNOLOGY"

October 1st  
"TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES"

Three 90 minute power-packed webinars 2PM - 3:30PM EDT  
\$25.00 total cost.

## COVID - 19 Information & Resources

Re-opening checklist developed  
by Centre Congregational Church

Are you holding services  
according to CDC protocols?

COVID-19 resources from the UCC  
Insurance Boards

Click the image above to learn more

## Kipah, Kufi, and Collar

As part of an interfaith effort at modeling peace, Rabbi Amy Small of Ohavi Zedek, Imam Islam Hassan of the Islamic Society of Vermont, and Pastor Ken White of College Street Congregational Church in Burlington have released a podcast called "Kipah, Kufi, and Collar". Each 30 minute segment starts with Amy, Islam, and Ken having a conversation about an everyday issue (week 1 is "how to deal with difficult

people") and then interviewing a local figure about that same topic (week 1's guest is former Vermont Governor, U.S. Ambassador, professor and author Madeline Kunin). New episodes are available every Monday.

You can access it at [kipahkufiandcollar.com](http://kipahkufiandcollar.com) or you can look for it on Spotify (<https://open.spotify.com/show/0MpaNQRVMA1claeP2y5Ot0>), iTunes (<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/kipah-kufi-collar/id1523653268>) or wherever you access podcasts.

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## Curating services and sermons for pastor vacations

Would you be willing to share your sermons or services with others in the Conference, so that they might use them on a Sunday they want to take off? Let Jesse in the Conference office know if you would be willing to do that, and we will list all the churches in the Conference that encourage you to use sermons and services in Ekit. Then you can simply go to their website and use them with their permission. Thanks!

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## Lancaster Seminary accepting Doctor of Ministry applicants

As a Seminary, we continue to adapt to the needs and realities of these times, as we prepare faith leaders for ministry in a complex and ever-changing world. [We are still accepting applications for the Doctor of Ministry.](#)

Due to COVID-19, our Doctor of Ministry will look a little different, but will still offer the same high-quality educational experience. For the upcoming semester, the one-week intensive has moved to a completely online format (through Zoom). Also, additional classes are scheduled periodically throughout the semester to maintain the cohort experience and ensure academic accountability. I would be happy to meet with anyone you know that might be interested in starting their Doctor of Ministry this Fall.

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## Spiritual Direction

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

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### Pastoral Transitions

- 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. Barbara Purinton ended her interim ministry at Vergennes Congregational Church upon the arrival of their new called Pastor Rev. Elliott Munn, and was called as Bridge Pastor to the Waitsfield United Church of Christ and Village Meeting House until the arrival of their newly called pastor Rev. Mark Wilson.
- Rev. Mark Wilson has been called as

### Prayers and Thanksgivings

Please hold Rev. Roger and Sandy Daly in your prayers as Roger begins his recovery from a stroke. Well wishes may be sent to: 107 Shore Rd., Edgecomb, ME 04556 or [roger.daly13@gmail.com](mailto:roger.daly13@gmail.com) or [sandy.daly13@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.daly13@gmail.com).

Please hold Rev. Bill Bartholomew and his partner in your prayers as they have just been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Please hold Rev. Kurt Shaffert in your prayers as he mourns the passing of his mother.

Pastor of Waitsfield United Church Christ. His ministry will begin in October.

- Rev. Lava Mueller was ordained by the Windsor-Orange Association on August 21st. She has been called as a Hospice Chaplain with Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Vermont & New Hampshire.
- Amy Davin has been called as the Pastor of First Congregational Church in Hartland. Her ministry begins in October when she succeeds Rev. Lucia Jackson who is retiring.

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

Please hold Rev. Margo Marrone in your prayers as she and her family mourn the sudden passing of her husband Tom Marrone.

Please hold our Black, Indigenous and other people of color (BIPOC) sisters and brothers murdered by police and white supremacists in your prayers. Say their names...

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

### 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)

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

**Search & Call  
Resources**

**Lay Ministry  
Openings**

### Visit our partners



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



Church World Service

*Adam Smedberg*  
Community &  
Congregational  
Engagement Specialist  
[Email Adam](#)



Local Agent  
James Stewart  
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