



## E-Kit October 7, 2020

**DONATE**

### Exciting Opportunities Coming Up!

Our Conference is doing something new this fall, and doing an online training day for church leaders which we are calling Fall Leadership Fest! On Saturday morning, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, we will be offering four different workshops to leaders, both lay and clergy, from our churches. They are on stewardship, youth and children's ministry during COVID, racial justice, and Pastoral-Parish relations committees. We will start our day for everyone with a time of worship at 8:45 AM, and the cost for the entire morning will be \$25. You can check out all the exciting details and register for Fall Leadership Fest on our Conference website!



Another exciting workshop in our Conference is coming Saturday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. Paul Nickerson, who is successfully working with a number of churches in our Conference, will be leading an online workshop called "Reaching New People in the 'New Normal'". Paul will be specifically focusing on how your church can better reach out to and connect with the community in this Covid-19 time. The workshop will run from 10-Noon and 1-3 PM on Sat., Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, and Paul invites every church to bring their pastor and at least 3 lay people. Paul will then follow up with 6 months of coaching with every team to help them bring these concepts into reality in their church, and the cost per church will be \$395. This may seem like a lot of money at first, but I can promise you that if your church is able to successfully reach out to one person or family because of this workshop and coaching that you would not have otherwise connected with, you will see that it will be more than worth it. Look for the flyer here on Ekit, and ask questions and register directly with Paul.

Leadership really matters in the life of the church, both clergy and lay. It is so important to seek out opportunities to grow as leaders of your church! I pray that both these opportunities can help your church, to the glory of God.

Faithfully yours,  
Paul

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### 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

# 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 celebration of American independence**

## **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)

**UCC Council of Conference Ministers calls upon local churches to consider the UCC and its predecessors' roles in racial segregation and justice**

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

Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ, Fall 2020

**Daily Prayer  
for the  
Election Season**

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>.

[Download the first week of devotions and reflections here](#)



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

[Our Faith, Our Vote resources](#)

## Racism in America symposiums



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

## The Vermont Conference is hiring!

The Vermont Conference is seeking an Administrative Assistant to manage the business operations of the Conference office, assist with events, be a resource to our local churches and other responsibilities. Click the button below to learn more.

[View Administrative Assistant opportunity](#)

## 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.



# 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"**

**NICKERSON COACHING**  
Congregations Moving Forward



Rev. Paul Nickerson  
[Nickersonp@comcast.net](mailto:Nickersonp@comcast.net)  
Nickersoncoaching.com  
8 Iverson Road, Beverly, MA.  
01915  
508-930-9327

### Reaching New People in the "New Normal"

A webinar with follow-up coaching sponsored by the Vermont Conference, UCC

**Date and Time:** Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 12 Noon and 1:00 to 3:00 PM

**What will be covered:** How churches reach new people both in person and online. Learn of the best practices from churches around the country:

- Reintroduce the church to the community
- How the Pastor networks
- How the church learns to invite
- Develop an Action Plan and receive 6 months of follow-up coaching.

**What is required?** Recruit a Team of a Pastor and at least three lay people.

### Vermont Interfaith Power & Light's 2020 Climate Justice Series



#### **Kiss the Ground Film Event**

**October 18 - 4:00-7:00 p.m.**

Join this in-person and virtual viewing of the documentary film *Kiss the Ground* at Mission Farm (Killington, VT). Learn how we can turn back the clock on climate change through regenerative agriculture...and enjoy some food from American Flatbread. Limited seating in-person and in your cars. To RSVP and for more information, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kiss-the-ground-at-mission-farm-tickets-119273392929>



#### **Vermont Interfaith Power & Light**

For more information visit: <https://vtipl.org/climate-justice-series-2020/>  
Or contact Donna Roberts: [info@vtipl.org](mailto:info@vtipl.org)

With thanks to our co-sponsors: Mission Farm, Vermont Sierra Club, and Virginia IPL

#### **Creation Justice Conversation**

**October 11 - 4:00 p.m.**

Lutheran Pastors Nancy Wright and Arnold Thomas will present on climate justice including toxic exposures, health, water, and the responsibility of faith leaders to respond to the crisis. A Climate Reality Leadership Corps "slide presentation" will be shared during this weekend designated as a worldwide 24 Hour of Reality-Countdown to the Future. A Q & A will follow the presentation.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89289030540>

Meeting ID: 892 8903 0540

#### **Rooting out Structural Racism in American Agriculture**

**November 8 - 4:00 p.m.**

Join VTIPL for a viewing and discussion of, *Rooting out Structural Racism in American Agriculture*, a presentation of the Vermont Law School's Center for Agriculture and Food Systems. This panel features Monica Armster Rainge, Stephen Carpenter, Sherri White-Williamson and is moderated by Emily Spiegel. For info about VT Law School: [vermontlaw.edu/cafs](http://vermontlaw.edu/cafs)

# 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



## An invitation from First Congregational Church of Burlington

First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington (<https://firstchurchburlington.org/>) extends an open invitation to any congregation in need of a respite Sunday for your pastor.

- Our worship services are recorded and streamed at 10am on Sunday morning on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/FirstChurchBTV> - past services are available on our YouTube channel as well. Simply share the link with your congregation and know that all will be welcomed.
- SILENT VIGILS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE: All are invited to gather on the front lawns of First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington (38 South Winooski Avenue) on Sundays November 1 and December 6 from 1:00 to 1:30 to be in solidarity for racial justice. Bring a mask and a sign (a chair if you want) and join in this ongoing, first Sunday of the month, community advocacy initiative for racial justice.

## 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.

## 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!

### Spiritual Direction

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

#### 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. Mark Wilson has been called as 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](#)

#### 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.

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, ministerial matters: Rev. Jackie Lingelbach
  - [vtconmincoor@gmail.com](mailto:vtconmincoor@gmail.com)



- Business operations, events, website
  - [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)
- Ministerial Standing & Standards  
Committee chairperson: Rev. Christine Boardman
  - [vtcmssc@gmail.com](mailto:vtcmssc@gmail.com)

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

**Search & Call  
Resources**

**Lay Ministry  
Openings**

## Visit our partners



**Worship  
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Original worship resources  
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**Church World Service**

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