



E-Kit January 15, 2020

DONATE



Recently, the *Burlington Free Press* ran an article called “How Vermont lost its religion”, which contains the usual information about the decline of religious institutions in our society. They chose to use as the photo for this story the church building of Williston Federated Church, one of our Vermont Conference churches. Paul Eyer, the pastor in Williston, then sent a reply to the Executive Editor of the newspaper, a reply that was cosigned by many interfaith clergy, including clergy from our churches in Burlington, Essex Junction, Malletts Bay, Vergennes, Richmond.

[Read the full article here](#)

Time to get your church records up to date!

This week is a reminder to update your church membership lists.

UCC Yearbook reporting opened January 8, 2020, and it is important that your church report current and accurate membership information.

For churches that are affiliated with more than one denomination, the membership number should only reflect members who identify themselves as UCC.

The membership number is used to determine the amount of dues that your church gives to your association and the Vermont Conference.

The numbers you report also help determine how many delegates the Vermont Conference can designate for General Synod, which is one of the essential ways your voice is heard on important issues.

Your church number includes the Vermont Conference number which is 82. Therefore, your complete church number (including zeroes) is 82xxxx.

[Click here for instructions](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

[Click here to find your church number \(organized by town\)](#)

January 15 was the last day for 2019 remittances to be received by the Conference office.

All remittances received hereafter will count towards 2020 only.

225th Annual Meeting updates

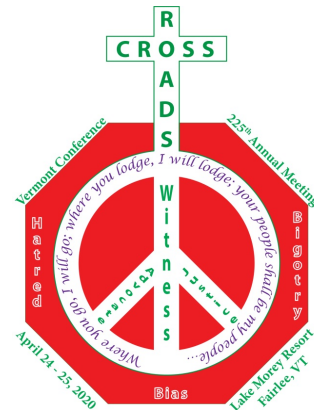
The deadline to submit resolutions for consideration at the 2020 Annual Meeting has now passed.

Information about emergency resolutions may be found on the Annual Meeting webpage.

The Vermont Conference is excited to welcome Rev. Traci Blackmon as our keynote speaker! Rev. Blackmon is the Associate General Minister for Justice & Local Church Ministries at the United Church of Christ. She is a passionate social justice champion who we are looking forward to learning from. [Learn more about Rev. Blackmon here.](#)

Registration for Annual Meeting will be coming in February. [Click here to learn more about church delegations and who is eligible to vote \(PDF\).](#)

Make sure to reserve your room at Lake Morey Resort early - they go fast! Call to reserve your room at 802-423-1211.



[Click here to learn more about Annual Meeting](#)



Tending the Fire

[Download more information](#)

[Click here to register](#)

Tending the Fire training

Leading a church in these tumultuous times isn't easy, yet it's never been more important. Clergy who attend Tending the Fire become better leaders: less worried, more engaged, renewed in their call and ministry. They learn to be wise, resilient leaders who help their churches move confidently into the future.

Vitality training coming soon

Exceeding Expectations: First-Time Guest Hospitality

In this one-day workshop the following is

covered:

- Building relationships in the community to get people to the front door.
- The importance of on-line presence
- Developing greeters and connectors
- The role of ushers
- Worship dynamics
- After-worship activities
- Follow-up with newcomers
- Connecting new people to the church



Exceeding Expectations: First-Time Guest Hospitality

In this one-day workshop the following is covered:

- Building relationships in the community to get people to the front door.
- The importance of on-line presence
- What happens in the first 8-10 minutes?
- Developing greeters and connectors
- The role of ushers
- Worship dynamics
- After-worship activities
- Follow-up with newcomers
- Connecting new people to the church

The goal is for each church to develop a comprehensive process that will exceed the expectations of first-time guests. Each church will

[Click here to learn more](#)

Pastoral Transitions

- Rev. Mary Brownlow has retired as Pastor at Norwich Congregational Church.
- Rev. Peter Heinrichs has been called as Interim Pastor at Norwich Congregational Church.
- Rev. Ezra Chapola has been called as Pastor and Teacher at Old South Church in Windsor. Ezra began his ministry on December 1st.
- Rev. James Mills has been called as Pastor and Teacher at 1st Congregational Church of Fair Haven. James began his ministry on December 1st.

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

Prayers and Thanksgivings

Rev. Marisa Laviola gives thanks for the prayers and support she has received as her spouse Carol has recovered from an accident.

Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno gives thanks for the support and prayers she and her husband Tristan have received as Tristan has recovered from a heart attack.

Useful Links

- [UCC Newsfeeds](#)
- [UCC Weekly Seeds](#)
- [Pension Boards rate calculator](#)
- [UCC Yearbook](#)
- [Stewardship blog](#)
- [Prevent frozen pipes](#)

Who should I contact for...?

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

Outdoor Ministries news



@ the Lake Camp week at Rock Point
July 26 - July 31

Recruiting for 2 Deans, 4 Counselors, Nurse, 2 Lifeguards & Daytime Volunteers

Looking for our lead team of Deans & Counselors!

Some familiar faces returning. [Please email Laurie Chipman](#) if you are interested in support @ the Lake with your time and energy.

[More Outdoor Ministries news](#)

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

Click here for local church events

Annual UCC Church Yearbook upload period opened January 8th.

Church Vitality with Paul Nickerson - February 1, 2020

Boundary Training for Retired Clergy - Date TBA

Search & Call Resources

Lay Ministry Openings

Visit our partners



Original worship resources for local churches... because Sunday's coming.



Church World Service

Adam Smedberg
Community & Congregational Engagement Specialist



Local Agent
James Stewart
[Email James](#)

P.O. Box 9031
Springfield, MA 01102-9031

[Website](#)

[Email Adam](#)

413-788-4531
[Website](#)

PO Box 749
West Springfield, MA 01090
Phone: 413-279-4039
Skype: asmedbergcws
[Website](#)

Connect with us

