



E-Kit February 12, 2020

DONATE

Commentary: The Witness for Justice Begins at Home

Rev. Traci Blackmon



On February 1, 1960, four North Carolina A&T University students who were deeply disturbed by the tortuous murder of Emmett Till sat down at the Woolworth's lunch counter in downtown Greensboro, NC, challenging the restaurant's "whites only" policy. Denied service, the four young men—Ezell Blair Jr., David Richmond, Franklin McCain, and Joseph McNeil—refused to give up their seats. The Greensboro Four, as they came to be known, followed the nonviolent practices of Mohandas Gandhi and civil rights activists, ignoring the violent provocation of local law enforcement and customers. They stayed seated until the restaurant closed, then returned the next day with more students from area colleges.

[Click here to continue reading Rev. Blackmon's reflection](#)

225th Annual Meeting Registration now open!



Lake Morey Resort (800-423-1211 for reservations)
April 24 - 25, 2020

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

[See Rev. Traci Blackmon preach at Riverside Church](#)

[Read the full Invitation to Annual Meeting](#)

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee is proud to present a special panel discussion: "*What is the minority experience in Vermont?*" Our panelists come from diverse backgrounds and will offer their perspectives on the challenges they face living in our state. This is a special opportunity to examine the privilege enjoyed by the majority of Vermonters.

We are excited to announce youth programming at Annual Meeting this year! Youth at Annual Meeting will be during the Saturday sessions including their own dedicated workshop and participation in worship.

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](#)



[Who can vote at Annual Meeting?](#)

[Click here for the latest Racism in America installment](#)

Outdoor Ministries



[Learn more about @ the Lake Camp](#)

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

Registration is open

Recruiting for 2 Deans, 4 Counselors, Nurse, 2 Lifeguards & Daytime Volunteers
Looking for our lead team of Deans & Counselors!

[Register for camp here](#)

Boundary Awareness Training for Retired Clergy registration open

Training date: March 4, 2020 (replacing Feb. 21)

Time: 10:00 - 2:30

Place: United Church of Bethel

Recognizing and honoring boundaries can present challenges when you have retired from active ministry. How does a retired minister create, and just as importantly maintain, boundaries?

New Hampshire Conference Minister Rev. Gordon Rankin will lead us in this seminar.

Registration fee is \$20.

Lunch and refreshments are provided

[Click here to Register!](#)

Time to get your church records up to date!

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

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

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 \(organized by town\)](#)

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:

Rev. Laura C. Engelken is the Coordinator of the UVM Interfaith Center. She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.

[Click here for the latest podcast](#)

Update on Puerto Rico earthquake

Here is a small report received Jan. 20th, from Lydia Rosaly, our on the ground coordinator, who lives in Ponce, one of the towns hit by the recent earthquakes:

"The aftershocks are continuing - around 3 or 4 a day registering 4.0. There are still thousands of people sleeping outside their houses and thousands of refugees in camps...

[Click here for more info](#)

Gun Violence Task Force

In 2020 there is a push in the Vermont Legislature to pass bills aimed at reducing Vermont's suicide rates. More than 100 people in Vermont take their own lives in most years. A person's decision to take their own life is a terribly tragic permanent solution to what may be a temporary problem or a solvable situation. It devastates families and communities; we can reduce these unnecessary deaths.

[Gun Violence Task Force statement for Vermont legislation](#)

Pastoral Transitions

- 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.
- Rev. Cass Poulos has been called as Pastor of the Post Mills Congregational Church.
- Rev. Elissa Johnk was installed as

Prayers and Thanksgivings

Please hold Associate Conference Minister Rev. Paul Sangree in your prayers as he mourns the passing of his mother.

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

Pastor and Teacher at First
Congregational Church in Burlington.

received as Tristan has recovered
from a heart attack.

[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](#)
- [Prevent frozen pipes](#)
- [Australia wildfire resources](#)

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

Justice & Witness Ministries news

The VT Conference Department of Justice and Witness Ministries is contacting all the local churches in the Conference to gather information and offer support and information. We do not have e-mail contact info for each church, but we would like to hear from everyone. A letter with a link to a brief survey is available. Please identify your church when answering the first question of the survey. Please contact Mary Brownlow if you would like to receive the letter or pass it along to a committee in your church.

[Contact Mary Brownlow](#)

Peacemakers Pulpit

Betty Edson, Bethany UCC (Randolph)

Dear Friends:

I am a pretty optimistic person, by nature, but I find myself, as I write, very uneasy about the future of our democracy. I am not a great student of history, but I do realize that there have been very unpleasant and uncivilized periods in our history over the years. That said, should not our goal be never to "go there" again, as opposed to diving right in. We are sadly in need of a spiritual revolution.

[Continue reading](#)

[Click here for a reflection from Judi Joy](#)

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

Annual UCC Church Yearbook upload period continues through February 2020.

Valentines Day breakfast - February 15, 8:30 - 10:00 at Shoreham Congregational Church [More information here](#)

The Magic of Hogwarts - February 28 & 29 at Bethany UCC in Montpelier [Click here for more](#)

Click
here
for
local
church
events

Boundary Training for Retired Clergy - March 4, 10:00 - 2:30 at
United Church of Bethel [Register here](#)

Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Association spring meeting - March 8,
2:00 at Bradford Congregational Church

Vermont Conference Annual Meeting - April 24 & 25 at Lake
Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT - [Click here to register](#)

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