



E-Kit February 26, 2020

DONATE

That which dominates our imaginations and our thoughts will determine our life and our character. Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshiping we are becoming. -Ralph Waldo Emerson



Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

Today the journey of Lent begins. Today we are invited to turn once more towards God and towards the mystery of God's great love for us revealed in Jesus the Christ. What are you taking on your journey? Do you have a favorite or new book or devotional to companion you? Will you join me in journaling with *Me and White Supremacy* ([available for purchase here](#)) Are there spiritual practices you intend to live out? Are you giving something up or perhaps adding something in? Will you join a group of fellow pilgrims to encourage one another?

[Continue reading](#)

225th Annual Meeting Registration now open!



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

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

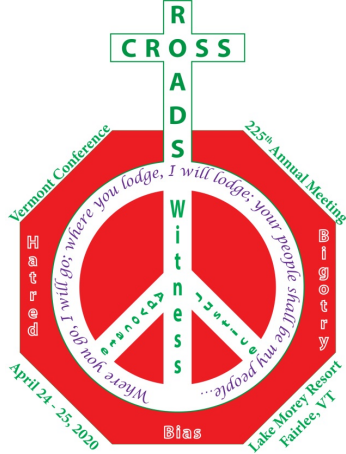


[See Rev. Traci Blackmon preach at Riverside Church](#)

Youth at Annual Meeting is here! Y@AM 2020 takes place on April 25th and includes dedicated time with Rev. Traci Blackmon as well as participation in worship and their own dedicated workshop. Cost is \$60 per church. Click the Y@AM 2020 button to learn more and to register your church's youth group.

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.

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](#)

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

[Click here for instructions](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

[Which churches have completed their Yearbook upload?](#)

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

UCC Yearbook deadline approaching - March 4

UCC Yearbook reporting period ends at 11:59p.m. on March 4, 2020, and it is important that your church report current and accurate membership information.

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

Boundary Awareness Training for Retired Clergy *Registration closes February 27th*

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!](#)



Advocate for low income Vermonters at the Statehouse

Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council (VLIAC) invites Vermont's UCC churches to do justice by attending the annual day at the Vermont State House, Friday, March 13. This is an event the Vermont Conference has supported for many years. For the first time, VLIAC and

Vermont's Community Action Agencies are teaming up for Legislative Day. Karen Lafayette, the lobbyist for low-income concerns, has remarked that our presence will play a crucial role because the Governor's proposed budget includes the elimination of two key economic programs that benefit low-income Vermonters. So please mark your calendars to join your UCC family at the Statehouse that day.

[Contact Theresa Lever for more details](#)

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

From the UCC officers: The 2020 election cycle is stirring strong interest and concern across the United States and around the world. In these difficult and challenging times, this is not surprising. There is much at stake as we head to the voting booth this November.



Divisive, mean-spirited rhetoric dominates the airwaves and the public dialogue. Thoughtful, respectful, constructive exchange across differences on the key issues of the day is becoming more difficult to achieve. This is precisely why our voice and efforts as people of faith are needed. We can play a unique role in this election cycle by encouraging respectful, informed dialogue that builds community and a hope-filled vision of the future that includes all people.

[Read more from the UCC officers: Our Faith, Our Vote, Our Voice](#)

[Our Faith, Our Vote resources](#)

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](#)

[New Podcast Available](#)

[Update on Puerto Rico earthquake](#)

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](#)

Pastoral Transitions

- Rev. Cass Poulos has been called as Pastor of the Post Mills Congregational Church.
- Rev. Elissa Johnk was installed as Pastor and Teacher at First Congregational Church in Burlington.
- Lava Mueller was granted the status of Ordination Pending Call by the Windsor-Orange Association following an ecclesiastical council.
- Rev. WendyJane Summers has been called as Pastor of Second Congregational Church of Hyde Park.

[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](#)

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

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](#)

[Donate to UCC Puerto Rico recovery](#)

Prayers and Thanksgivings

Please hold Rev. Lucia Jackson in your prayers as she cares for her husband Michael Heaney who is facing a health crisis. Lucia and Michael are not able to accept visitors but are grateful for prayers and well wishes.

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

Who should I contact for...?

- Conference Minister: Rev. Lynn Bujnak
 - bujnak@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

Disaster Case Manager Training

In cooperation with the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont and your Disaster Ministries Committee, The Vermont Agency of Human Services and Vermont

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](#)

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters are offering a 2-day training program in Williston on March 12 and 13 to teach anyone how to assist with case management during a disaster.

Is this a ministry that might interest you? If you'd like to help your community in the event of a disaster but don't want to or are not capable of physical labor, learn how to be a key support by providing case management services. A case manager serves as the primary contact for a person or family suffering loss due to a disaster and assists with coordinating the necessary services and resources to recover.

[Learn more & register](#)

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

Annual UCC Church Yearbook upload period ends on March 4th.

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

Strafford Choral Singing Workshop - February 29, 10:00 - 3:00, United Church of Strafford - [More information here](#)

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

Chili Supper - February 29, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Shoreham Congregational Church [More information here](#)

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

Vermont Low Income Advocacy Legislative Day - March 13 at the Vermont Statehouse - [Contact Theresa Lever for details](#)

Disaster Case Management training - March 12 & 13 at FEMA Joint Field Office, Williston - [Click here for more information](#)

Sugar on Snow Supper - March 14th at First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro. Call 802-257-7557 for reservations.

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

Click here for local church events

Search & Call Resources

Lay Ministry Openings

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

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



[Local Agent](#)
James Stewart
[Email James](#)

P.O. Box 9031
Springfield, MA 01102-9031
413-788-4531
[Website](#)

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