

# CHARLOTTE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## United Church of Christ

### Hope Grant Proposal to the New Ministries Team of the Vermont Conference, UCC

*CCC Mission Statement: Embraced by the healing love of Jesus Christ, and inspired by his teachings, we commit ourselves to prayerful, compassionate and courageous action in the world.*

#### Overview

For a long time, our congregation has been intentional about increasing the *permeability* of our campus to allow relationships and partnerships between the congregation and the wider community to flourish. Inviting community groups of all kinds to use our buildings, partnering with the local pre-school to provide an extension program on our campus, a community dinner and lecture series, an annual “Messiah Sing,” and most recently, embracing streaming worship services, are all examples of our growing *permeability*.

As our community begins to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we anticipate the opportunity for our church to provide activities that will help us all connect after an extended period of disconnection and isolation. We see an opportunity to build on our congregation’s longstanding arts tradition to bring our community together, strengthen existing relationships, and begin new relationships, all within the context of our faith in Jesus Christ. A grant from the Vermont Conference would enable us to live out our mission through art to engage in “prayerful, compassionate and courageous action in the world.”

#### Vision: Artist-in-Residence

Our vision is to identify a visual artist to lead our congregation and the wider community in the creation of a public art installation, inspired by this verse from Isaiah 58: *“If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.”*

Over the course of two-weeks, we would engage in a series of activities, open to the congregation and wider community, to conceive, plan and create the installation. We would ask the artist to join us for Sunday morning worship. Once completed, the congregation and wider community would be invited to view, celebrate and discuss the installation. The installation would remain for some time afterwards to serve as on-going inspiration and leaven.

#### Anticipated Costs and Use of Grant Funds

##### VTCUCC Grant Funds

- \$2000 - artist honorarium
- \$500 – installation materials

##### Other Funds/Donations

- In-kind donation – artist housing if needed
- \$500 – hospitality and incidentals funded by church

#### Purpose & Hope

Through this project we hope:

1. To live out our mission statement through art
2. Increase the permeability of our congregation
3. Enhance new, and develop existing, relationships with our neighbors
4. Aid our community in the processes of reconnection after an extended period of pandemic-induced isolation
5. Rekindle our ongoing work of being “repairers of the breach, restorer of streets to live in”
6. Learn, have fun, and spread love

#### Gratitude

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this proposal. We are most certainly open to any suggestions that further clarify our purpose and refine our vision.

Faithfully submitted,  
Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen  
for Charlotte Congregational Church, United Church of Christ