



The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ



Purpose (from the Gospel of Matthew):

To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves

Vision:

United in Christ's love, a just world for all

Mission:

United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all

Weekly E-News Autumn Edition

October 14, 2021

VERMONT CONFERENCE OFFICE UPDATE

Elise Foster our administrator is on maternity leave for the next six weeks.

During this time, Bev Anderson will be answering phones. Jackie Lingelbach, our Ministries Coordinator will be doing the e-kit news and Rev. Paul Sangree, our Associate Conference minister is back in-person in the office.

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Message from the Conference

Dear Friends,

In my ministry, October was almost always the kick off month for our church's stewardship campaign. We would have people turn in their pledge cards in November, but begin the important work of informing and reminding the congregation of the importance of their financial and other gifts in October. The most powerful thing we did virtually every year was to have people from the congregation talk about what the church meant to them and to their faith, and why they chose to give.

You may be in stewardship season yourself right now, or it may be at another time of year for you. Whenever it is, I encourage you to not to focus on the bills that must be paid or the need to keep the church's doors open. Instead, focus your attention on the unique mission work your congregation is carrying out in the community. In what ways is your community a better place because of your church? In what ways do people's faith make a difference in their lives?

Remember that money follows mission. Help people understand what you did this past year in terms of mission, and what your vision is for next year. Don't be afraid to ask for giving unapologetically, and stress proportional giving, reminding your people that whether you have a lot of money or a little, you can give a percentage of it back to God. May God be honored in your giving together,

Faithfully yours,
Paul

New News!!!

Black Lives Matter

Racial Justice Survey

The Racial Justice Taskforce of the VT UCC Conference is seeking your voice and opinion on matters of racial justice within the conference. This [anonymous survey](#) will help us to better understand the current experiences of those who participate in our congregations and provide information on how we can best move forward the work of racial justice. We anticipate [this survey](#) taking about 15 minutes to complete.

Take Survey

PLEASE FORWARD THIS SURVEY TO ALL YOUR CHURCH MEMBERS!



The HOPE FUND

The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ at their Conference meeting on Saturday, Nov. 13th will be voting on a resolution to

establish and raise money for a HOPE fund to encourage innovation, societal impact and new ministry in our midst. As we continue to deal with the effects of this pandemic and look to the future of a post-pandemic world, our churches need help to imagine new ways to be the church in this new landscape.

[For documentation and more info click here](#)

Special Meeting of the Vermont Conference

**Saturday, November 13th
at 10:00 a.m.
on Zoom**

For more information click [here](#).

[Register Here!](#)

(YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND)



Join COVID Support VT for a community workshop featuring **Hunger Free Vermont's** Food Security Team to learn more about 3SquaresVT, a workshop aimed to educate folks about the 3Squares Vermont food assistance program. This event will be facilitated by Hunger Free Vermont's Food Security Team to learn more about 3SquaresVT, a statewide program that gives

people money every month to buy groceries. This session will also explore how to positively and appropriately refer individuals to resources in general.

[Vermont 3SquaresVT Community Training Tickets, Wed, Oct 27, 2021 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)



NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY: AN INVITATION

Dear Open and Affirming family!

“Coming out” is a turning point in the life of any LGBTQ+ person, the beginning of a new life of integrity and truth. For LGBTQ+

Christians, it often begins with the awareness that God loves us as we are—our bodies, our gender identity, our capacity to love and seek love in return.

Coming out is also a force that changes lives: when we lose our fear, when we choose to live in the open, and not in the shadows, we can change the hearts and minds of our families and neighbors. We can begin to change the world.

Churches also can “come out.” This is the mission of Open and Affirming congregations in the United Church of Christ: to come out boldly and confidently in their communities, to stand with LGBTQ+ neighbors when their rights and dignity are under attack, to find new and creative ways to witness to the Gospel of God’s amazing love.

When ONA churches come out, they are showing that their Open and Affirming covenant is not a private agreement, but a public testimony.

Your congregation can breathe new life into your ONA commitment by “coming out!” I invite you to join me on Nov. 16 for “ONA NEXT,” a webinar sharing best practices from vital ONA churches—churches that are making a difference because they are visible in their communities. Please see the link below for more information and registration.

On this National Coming Out Day, we honor YOU: the 350,000 members of our more than 1,700 ONA churches and ministries who have come out—as LGBTQ+ persons, and as allies, friends and family. Your courage has brought healing and blessing to many others. You are changing the world.

Blessings and gratitude as you continue on your journey,

Andy Lang
Executive Director
Open and Affirming Coalition
United Church of Christ

REGISTER FOR WEBINAR



TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR ONA AND NOT-YET ONA CHURCHES

This webinar explores how and why congregations can become ONA—in ways that do not divide, but unite the church. Applying the basic ONA principles of “graceful engagement” and “covenant,” ONA 101 has helped hundreds of congregations successfully navigate through an ONA process.

REGISTER

TAKE THE ONA SURVEY! HOW DOES YOUR CHURCH COMPARE?

Complete this survey, and see how your congregation compares with other ONA churches! If you answer “NO” to some of the questions, don’t worry! Your honest answer just means there are exciting opportunities awaiting your church! Use our **Self-Evaluation Tool for ONA Churches** and other resources throughout our website to discover new ways to strengthen your ONA commitment! Our goal: a church that’s 100% Open and Affirming! [click here for survey](#)

Introducing Bethany Center for Spirituality through the Arts

Bethany Church, Montpelier is pleased to introduce a new venture to the wider Central Vermont community called Bethany Center for Spirituality through the Arts (BCSA). In the fall of 2021, BCSA will begin offering opportunities for folks to explore their own sense of spirituality through a variety of artistic experiences, from meditation practices, to art classes, to community events like concerts and dances. [For more information click here](#). You can access information about upcoming programs by following BCSA on facebook or clicking the link on the Bethany’s website, www.bethanychurchvt.org.

BCSA is also looking for teachers who would like to offer art classes from a spiritual perspective. Contact Mark LeGrand, Program Director, for more information. Bethany Church is very excited to offer these opportunities to the wider Montpelier area. If you have questions, you can contact BCSA at BethanyCSA21@gmail.com, or call Mark LeGrand at 802-223-2424.

Help Afghan Refugees coming to Vermont!

Vermont will likely receive close to 100 Afghan refugees, mostly in the Burlington Area to start but possibly in Middlebury/Barre and Rutland. If churches express interest in helping with this effort, folks with housing to offer can contact Vermont Refugee Resettlement directly at vrrp@uscrivt.org. Monetary contributions can be made

to refugees.org and then scroll to Refugees and Immigrants in Vermont.

Training for UCC Churches: Serving Afghan Refugees

A 90-minute presentation, "[Training for UCC Churches: Serving Afghan Refugees](#)" can be viewed at the UCC YouTube channel.

The 2021 Global Environmental Justice Conference Friday, October 29 at the Yale School of the Environment

[More more information or to register click here](#)

ANNUAL INFORMATION REVIEW

To: All Authorized Ministers (ordained, licensed, commissioned) with standing in the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ

Dear Colleagues,

The 2021 Information Review is now available for your updates. The information review is a part of the covenantal responsibilities for all authorized clergy in the United Church of Christ and updating it helps the Conference and associations keep in contact with you and your ministerial needs.

There are two ways to provide this information to the conference.

1. Please download the **[2021 Information Review fillable form here](#)**, fill it in and then save the file and title it as: last name, first name 2021 Information Review. (ex. Lingelbach, Jackie-2021Informationreview.pdf) and email it to **[Jackie Lingelbach, Ministries Coordinator](mailto:Jackie.Lingelbach@ministrycoordinator.org)** at **vtconmincoor@gmail.com**.

2. Or/ download the form **[2021 printable Information Review form here](#)**, print it out, complete and sign the document and mail it to

Attn: Jackie Lingelbach
Vermont Conference, UCC
36 North Main Street Randolph, VT 05060

If your standing is held in the Grafton-Orange Association, we will update your information in the data base and then send your form to your own Committee on Ministry.

The new Vermont Conference directory will be prepared based upon the information you provide. It is important that the office have accurate information for all our ministers. This form includes questions covering two years: 2020-2021. We ask that all of you complete the form and return it to the office no later than **December 15**.

You will note that there is a question about Boundary Awareness training. Attending regular boundary training every 3 years is a covenantal expectation. If you have not sent your latest and most up to date certificate for boundary training to the office please send that to Jackie. If you still need boundary training below are some options for you to consider.

If you have questions, please contact **[Jackie Lingelbach, Ministries Coordinator](mailto:Jackie.Lingelbach@ministrycoordinator.org)** at **vtconmincoor@gmail.com** or 802-505-0186.

Hello Clergy of Grafton Orange Sullivan (GOS). Please complete and return the Information Review for Vermont Conference Ministers. This form helps us to confirm your standing in the UCC. That standing allows you to serve churches, and do pulpit supply, as well as perform weddings and preside at funerals. Retired clergy should complete a form, too. You never know where or when God might call you to use your gifts!

Thank you,

Rev. KellyAnn Donahue, Chair of GOS Committee on Church and Ministry.

In Person Boundary Awareness Training - Level 2.

Save the date for in-person Boundary Awareness Training level 2 on Friday, November 5th, 9:00 - 3:00 with Rev. Skye Murray. Cost for the training is: \$45.00. This training is for all authorized ministers who have already done the Level 1 training and need an updated Boundary Awareness Training! We will wear masks for the training and have distanced seating as needed. Location: Bethany UCC, Randolph

If you are in need of a level 1 Boundary Awareness Training, please contact Lucia Jackson (revlucia13@gmail.com) for a list of online options.

[Register](#)



Not-Your-Average Boundaries Training

NOVEMBER 17 & NOVEMBER 18
(10:00 AM TO 12:30 PM CENTRAL BOTH DAYS)

Online via Zoom

\$75

[Register](#)

LeaderWise's online boundaries training workshop is lively and interactive, full of reflection and conversation. This live online boundaries training is 5 total hours split over 2 consecutive days (2.5 hours each day). Following the first session, participants are asked to engage in a bit of reflection work in preparation for the second session. This online boundaries training will be conducted via secure Zoom video conferencing. This will cover level 1 and level 2.

UCC | NEWS

[Pension Boards begins process to establish UCC credit union](#)

[Take a tour of the new UCC national office space](#)

[Online audience learns more about UCC building sale, office move](#)

[for more UCC News click here](#)

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- The Rev. Robert B. Boutwell, 88, died Oct. 6, 2021, at Rutland Regional Medical Center. Bob was a member of Grace Congregational Church UCC and Minister of Healing at Grace. A full obituary will be published at a later date. Arrangements are by Tossing Funeral Home. Please keep his family, church family and friends in your prayers
- Please pray for for Sherry Baer's grandson, Lev who is undergoing treatment for a neural blastoma cancer. Lev is one year old. Please pray for him and his family. Sherry is the retired pastor of the United Church of Northfield.
- Please add Susanna and Michael Griefen your prayers. Michael is living with a progressive illness and this is a particularly bad time for them. Susanna is a retired Pastor who served Dummerston Congregational Church for many years.

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

(Please let us know what your Congregation is up to by sending an email to
VermontConference@gmail.com .

You may just see yourself or someone you love in the eKit or our Facebook page!)

Farewell, Welcome and Blessings

Pastoral transitions since the 2021 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting

Departing Pastors

Rev. Peter Hammond completed his interim ministry with Stowe Community Church

Ms. Theresa Lever and Nancy Fowler completed their interim ministry at
Berlin Congregational Church.

Rev. Susan Scott is completing her interim ministry with Norwich Congregational Church.

Rev. Barbara Purinton is completing her transitional/interim ministry with Weybridge Congregational
Church.

Arriving Pastors

Rev. Devon Thomas was called as pastor of Second Congregational Church, Hyde Park, VT

Rev. Dan Haugh - called as Pastor at Stowe Community Church

Rev. Julie Lombard- called as Pastor at United Church of Northfield

Rev. Alison Young called as Pastor of Berlin First Congregational Church

Mr. Michael Dwyer was called to be the settled pastor of the Pittsford Congregational Church.

Ms. Caryne Eskridge – was called as Pastor of the Weybridge Congregational Church

Ms. Michelle Fountain called as Pastor of the United Church of Ludlow

Rev. Jonathan Hauze called as Pastor of Norwich Congregational Church

Installations

Mr. Michael Mario, First Congregational Church, Springfield, VT

Rev. Leigh McCaffrey, Barre Congregational Church

Rev. Dr. Ezra Chapola, Old South Church, Windsor Orange Association

Mark Wilson, Waitsfield UCC , Village Meeting House

In Memorium

Rev. Thomas D. Steffen

Rev. Harold H. Harrison

Rev. Robert B. Boutwell

The Champlain Association Fall Business Meeting

is Sunday October 24 at 1 pm

via Zoom

contact Rev. Barbara Purinton at revbarbarapurinton@gmail.com for zoom link



SAVE THE DATE!

FREE ONLINE TRAINING AND INFORMATION FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP.

Church extends beyond any four walls. From human resources concerns to legal questions and property maintenance, Insurance Board offers a variety of resources to protect the church and its ministries. [Click here](#) for interactive webcasts that address a wide variety of topics essential to keeping churches and ministries safe; these trainings are led by industry experts from Insurance Board and its partners, including our denominational partners.

Abuse Prevention: Back To The Basics

Friday, October 29th @2pm EST

www.InsuranceBoard.org

Featuring: Ross Mitchell, JD Risk Consultant, Praesidium Inc.

This webcast offers insight to best practices from the nation's leading expert in abuse prevention through the Insurance Board's partnership with Praesidium. As churches open back up, reevaluating safety considerations are critical. Our facilitator, Ross Mitchell, JD., will discuss the need to review child abuse prevention policies for necessary updates, considerations for electronic communications, and appropriate guidelines for staff and volunteers.

Please consider signing up – the Registration link is in the flyer or can be found on the IB website: <https://www.insuranceboard.org/online-learning/>

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Copyright Concerns For Ministries

During these challenging times, ministries rely heavily on the virtual environment and various electronic mediums to share the printed forms of inspiring poetry, quotes from prayer books and daily affirmations, as well as words from songs during worship and through other forms of ministry. As a result, some ministries have been shocked to discover they are actually in violation of copyright infringement; join us as Heather Kimmell General Counsel, United Church of Christ, offers valuable information on how to help your ministry avoid this situation.

[For pre-recorded video webinar click here](#)
[additional resource click here](#)



The Vermont Emergency Management – Homeland Security Unit will be providing several webinar opportunities about the State

Homeland Security Grant Program and the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. These FEMA grant opportunities provide local units of government and nonprofit entities with the capability to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from a terrorist attack.

To learn more [click here](#)

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Training Online Available

Pastoral Crisis Intervention
- October 18 - 20, 2021

Strategic Response to Crisis
- November 11 - 12, 2021

Spiritual and Psychological First Aid
- November 12 - 13, 2021

Grief Following Trauma
- November 19 - 20, 2021

Additional courses are also being offered!

[Click here for more info and LIVE TRAINING courses](#)

PRC - Practical Resources for Churches

PRC's Upcoming Webinars

All webinars are recorded. Click the title to register or read the description.

[Getting and Keeping Talented, Engaged Volunteers](#)

Tuesday October 19, 2021
2:00 - 3:00 PM
Leader - Judy Urban

[Narrative Budgets](#)

Thursday, Oct 21, 2021
2:00 - 3:00 PM
Leader: Cesie Delve Scheuermann

[Sustaining Faith Online](#)

Thursday, October 28
2:00 - 3:00 PM
Leader - Natalie Perkins

[The New Normal - Hybrid Worship for Small Churches](#)

Tuesday, November 9, 2021
2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern
Leader: Justin Bishop

[Supporting a Hybrid Ministry with Office 365](#)

Wednesday, November 10, 2021
1:00 - 2:00 PM Eastern
Leader: Joshua Carroll

VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS

Christian Education Coordinator Needed

The United Church of Hinesburg is looking for a Christian Education Coordinator to work 8 hours/week, mid-August 2021 to mid-June 2022 (42 weeks/336 hours). The CE Coordinator would be responsible for coordinating the Christian Education programs, facilitating the recruitment and training of Sunday School leaders, welcoming new families and assisting with Sunday School registration, and assisting with teaching classes when required. Hours include three Sunday mornings per month from 9:45-11:30am. The individual may work from home for the additional hours. \$16-\$18/hr. For a complete job description, go to: <https://www.ucofh.org/employment-opportunities.html>

If interested, send resume to unitedchurch@gmavt.net

[Tunbridge Church seeks Church Musician!](#)

Do you know anyone who plays piano? Organ? Keyboard? The Tunbridge Church seeks one or several people to provide Sunday and religious holiday and contemporary worship music. If you are interested in this paid position, please send a letter of interest to the tunbridgechurch@gmail.com.



Barre Congregational is looking for a Faith Formation Coordinator



The role of the Faith Formation Coordinator (FFC) will be to build relationships with families with children in Central Vermont, both those who are members of the church, and those without a connection with the church. Out of the insights gained from those relationships, the FFC will resource program planning to serve families and promote Christian Education within Central Vermont.

[Click here for more information!](#)



Seeking Church Musician/Music Director for North Pomfret Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Music Director/church musician shall be responsible for organizing and directing church choirs and

coordinating special music. Musician will also have the responsibility of the sources of music used in the worship services, working with the Minister in selecting the weekly music.

Send resumé and inquires to Npomfretcc@gmail.com or North Pomfret Church, PO Box 308, North Pomfret, VT 05053

First Congregational Church, Burlington seeks a Director of Music

We seek a creative and spirit-filled Music Director to lead a vibrant music program that contributes to the ministry and growth of our church. With a strong foundation in classical sacred music, our congregation now hopes to evolve our music program to include a greater diversity of musical expression. The successful applicant will be skilled at creating sacred space through music, cultivating the musical gifts of our congregation, inviting participation from the wider community, and collaborating as a full member of the ministerial team.

[Learn more or apply here!](#)

Be Aware of Scams and Email Phishing!

There are many different scams currently circulating whether via email, text message, or phone call. Here are some of the best tricks (courtesy of Yahoo.com) to make sure you are not scammed!

- Hang up immediately if you hear a recording when you answer the phone.
- Avoid picking up calls from unknown numbers, even if they appear to be local. (This can be applied to emails, as well. Make sure you check the return address to make sure matches the contact information you have even if it appears the sender is a pal, family member, coworker, etc.)
- Reporting spam text messages can help cut down on another major technological annoyance.

You can read more [here!](#)



First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington

38 S. Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT –
the host site for *JUMP* and *Small Potatoes* is offering a:

PHONE IN FREE LEGAL CLINIC **on Sundays Sept. 26, Oct. 17 and Nov. 21, 2021** **Phone in from 1 to 3 pm**

Volunteer Vermont attorneys will offer pro-bono **FREE** legal counsel to anyone in the community by phone – call: 802-862-5010

A Legal Clinic volunteer will check you in by phone and will arrange for one of our lawyers to call you back that afternoon.

We will be ready for your calls at 1:00pm - if you don't get thru - leave a message - we will call you back.

All LEGAL CONCERNS including Family Law.

All are welcome to access this service with any legal questions. Confidentiality is (of course) guaranteed.

Questions? Want to learn more? Contact Communications Coordinator, Lucy Samara at the First Congregational Church UCC of BTW: Lsamara@firstchurchburlington.org

How to Contact Conference Staff

Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak llbvtc@gmail.com

Associate Conference Minister: Rev. Paul Sangree sangreepucc@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Elise Foster vermontconference@gmail.com

Ministries Coordinator: Rev. Jackie Lingelbach vtconmincoor@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Tanya Frazier vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com

DEADLINE for E-Kit News must be received by **Tuesday of each week.**
Please send any and all information to vermontconference@gmail.com.

Thank You for Your Support!

Our Churches Wider Mission Basic Support, Association Dues, and Friends of the Vermont Conference make this communication possible.

Donate

Connect with us



visit our website at <http://www.vtcucc.org/>
