



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 Winter "

January 14, 2021

Message from the Conference



O Christ Jesus
When all is darkness
And we feel our weakness and helplessness,
Give us the sense of Your Presence,
Your Love and Your Strength.
Help us to have perfect trust
In Your protecting love
And strengthening power,
So that nothing may frighten or worry us,
For, living close to You,
We shall see Your Hand,
Your Purpose, Your Will through all things.
St. Ignatius

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

There is so much happening in our world and nation right now it is hard to know what to say. As we live in this time of COVID-19 seemingly out of control, as we live with a political situation that seems intent on violent overthrow of democracy, we dwell in a place of uncertainty, loss, fear and grief.

So today, I offer you the above prayer and the reminder that God is always with us, we are never alone.

Courage in the struggle and peace in our hearts,
Lynn



University of Vermont MLK CELEBRATION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of the Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Larner College of Medicine are excited to announce UVM's annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. This year's keynote speaker is Leon McDougle, MD, MPH, 121st President of the National Medical Association. For more information or how you can participate, click [here!](#)

Time to Update Your Church Membership Records!

This week is a reminder to update your church membership lists. UCC Yearbook reporting is scheduled to open January 8, 2021, 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.

*****UPDATE 01/14/2021*****

The Data Hub was opened on January 6th for church use as was scheduled. They have run into a few issues on their end that we are working to resolve. Please use [this redirect](#) or find further instruction [here](#).

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

Per Capita Dues 2020

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Vermont Conference | \$ 13.00 |
| Addison | \$ - |
| Champlain | \$ 1.10 |
| Grafton-Orange | \$ 0.50 |
| Northeast | \$ 1.00 |
| Southwest | \$ 1.00 |
| Washington | \$ - |
| Windham-Union | \$ 0.25 |
| Windsor-Orange | \$ 1.00 |

Per Capita rate for 2020

The Vermont Conference per capita rate has been established at \$13.00 per member. Association dues are *in addition* to the Conference per capita rate of \$13.00.

You can find an easy to use calculator [here!](#)

How has the Conference made use of the Basic Support (OCWM) contributed by our Local Churches in 2020?

You can learn all about how your generous donations have been utilized throughout the conference [HERE!](#)



ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS!

The deadline for Annual Meeting resolutions is February 28th. Please put your resolution in the correct format and remember to number the lines. Resolutions should be submitted by email to both Lynn (llbvct@gmail.com) and Board Chair, Doug Carter (DCarter36@charter.net).



Tending the Fire

Rev. Barbara Lemmel is going to be offering a *Tending the Fire* series online, beginning in February 2021, offering instruction in systems thinking, resilient leadership, and adaptive change to church leaders.

If this is something that you are interested in, you can find more information and a registration form [here!](#) You can also find more information at her website, www.tending-the-fire.com.

REV. DAVID DEAN NEEDS OUR PRAYERS!

Rev. David Dean - former minister of Grace Church in Rutland, now living in Cornwall, CT has been diagnosed with COVID-19. He entered the hospital on Jan. 7th. Please pray for his healing and for his family and caregivers who are now in quarantine. Rev. David Dean also turned 90 on January 12th.



Cards of birthday greeting or wishes for good health can be sent to:
Rev. David J. Dean
52 Missionary Road
Cromwell CT 06416

Calling all Andover Newton Seminarians and their Congregations!

Posted on the [Andover Newton Seminary at YDS Alumni/ae](#) page

“Andover Newton seminarians are offering a virtual worship service that can be shared with congregations either on Sunday, January 31st or Sunday, February 7th. The service will be a communion service so a lot of folks are opting to use it on Sunday, February 7th. If you are interested in using this service - please contact Ned Parker at Andover Newton Seminary at

YDS. His email is ned.parker@yale.edu! I think this is a wonderful gift from the seminarians and also gives them experience as well!"

EVENTS 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!)

COVID-19 NEWS

In light of: the growing number of Covid-19 infections in Vermont, increased hospitalizations, the onset of flu season, the potential spreading of the disease during holiday gatherings and the advice of our Governor and experts in infectious disease, we strongly urge that **worship not be held in person until criteria for safe in person gathers have been meet.**

[For more info click here](#)

The Vermont Department of Health has provided new guidance specifically for Communities of Faith including holidays, services, and events. This includes (but is not limited to) precautions and actions for organizational leaders. It can be found [here](#).



Need Extra Support During the Pandemic?

During these difficult times, could you use some emotional support and a listening ear? Are you looking for connections to community resources during the pandemic?

COVID Support VT is a statewide program offering free and confidential emotional support and connections to resources for anyone needing help. They offer a wide range of supports on their [website](#).

If you or someone you know could use some support coping with the pandemic, reach out to COVID Support VT. Call 2-1-1- to reach a Support Counselor. You can also access their [self-care tips and resources flyer](#), [daily stress management plan](#) and their online [Weekly Wellness Groups](#).

**DISASTER
MINISTRIES**



UCC launches "[Recovering Hope](#),"

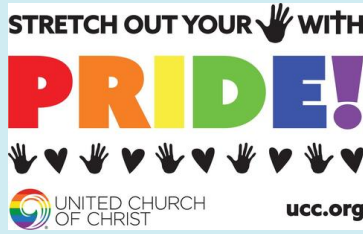
Emotional Care in COVID-19

[click here for more info](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

The UCC Just Peace Committee is inviting you to the next quarterly Just Peace Webinar to take place on January 27 (7 p.m. ET/6 p.m. CT/5 p.m.

"We now need to put as much effort into defining a just peace as we have done in the past in defining a just war."
-Dr. Robert V. Moss



Open and Affirming Zoom Gathering Jan. 30th!

The ONA Concerns Mission Group of the NH Conference of the UCC has sponsored a Zoom Gathering on Saturday, January 30, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

ALL are invited to join us!

[Click here for more information!](#)

RESOURCES FOR ONLINE MINISTRY!

Do you need help with getting your church services online?
Find resources and help here:

[Click here for WorshipWell information and resources](#)

[Worship Resource Links for How to Live Stream- from the Southern New England Conference UCC](#)

[Free-Use, No-Licensing Music and Worship Materials here](#)

[Zoom Worship Laboratory Video Tutorial](#)

[How to prevent Zoom Bombing](#)

If you have additional resources to share please email the conference office at VermontConference@gmail.com !



NAMI FaithNet Debut!

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Vermont (NAMI Vermont) is reaching out to faith communities to offer customized mental health presentations, resources, and information, known as NAMI FaithNet to create more welcoming,



caring, and supportive faith communities for persons and families affected by mental illness. Trained NAMI Vermont members are breaking the silence and eliminating stigma surrounding mental illness by sharing education and their lived experience stories virtually by zoom.

You can find more information [here!](#)

MISC. (But equally important!!!) NEWS!

New Deadline for eKit!

Any information you would like to have in the eKit must be received by the **Tuesday prior to the eKits release by noon** at the latest! Please send any and all information to Elise at vermontconference@gmail.com.

She looks forward to hearing from you!



Beyond Belief: A Marcus Borg Retrospective

50% off for Vermont Conference Churches

Beyond Belief is a six session DVD study. The series contains favorite moments, core teachings and extensive never-before seen material of Marcus Borg from the LtQ archives plus commentary from Rev. Marianne Borg. More information can be found [here!](#)

Don't Forget!

Order your UCC [Stewardship Theme materials](#).

Due to the increasing COVID-19 pandemic, the Vermont Conference Office will be closed beginning Monday, November 23rd, 2020. Staff will continue to work remotely.

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/>
