



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 "

February 4, 2021

Message from the Conference



Will it ever end? I think that is the question many of us ask about this Pandemic. At the same time, there is hopefulness about the future with the vaccinations that have begun and with a new administration in Washington. Is it time for your church to think about when and how to relaunch in person worship later this year and how to most effectively reach people in your community and area?

Church consultant Paul Nickerson, who has worked so effectively with several Vermont Conference churches, will be offering an online Saturday seminar for the Vermont Conference called "Relaunching Your Church" on Saturday, May 22nd from 9-2. Paul will be talking in this seminar about how to better connect with people in both in person worship and online in the wake of this Pandemic. Every church that comes is asked to bring at least one pastor and three lay people. In addition, Paul will offer 6 months of coaching for your team after the seminar in partnership with other Vermont Conference churches, as together we seek to bring the Good News of God's love to the people of our state.

Paul's normal charge for this is \$395 per church, but the first five churches that sign up will receive a \$200 stipend from the Conference, making the total cost for your church \$195. Please be in touch with me if you would like to be one of those churches. We together look forward to the future with hope,

Paul

Associate Conference Minister

**SMALL CHURCH WEBINAR
SERIES!**

Practical Resources for Churches is introducing a new webinar series specifically geared to smaller churches.



You can register [here](#) for "Small Church Series: Community Ministry" lead by Joy Skjegstad focusing on how small churches can effectively serve their community.

You can register [here](#) for "How Part-Time Ministry is Different – and What's Fair to Expect" lead by G. Jeffrey MacDonald.

You can register [here](#) for "Intergenerational Ministry" lead by Liz Perraud. This will focus on considering ways to adapt how you worship, study, serve, and fellowship to grow disciples with a more intentionally intergenerational approach.



Summer Outdoor Ministry Camps

Registration is OPEN!

Going into 5th – 8th in the fall?

***@ the Lake for 2021 is changing to ... VT Takes a Hike to the Mtn
July 18-24, 2021***

Join Laurie Chipman (VT) and Diane Tinkham (NH) as they co-dean this fun week. Come see some familiar faces from @ the Lake and explore all the fun on top of Pine Mtn outside of Gorham, NH at Horton Center Camp!

VT @ the Lake is taking a hiatus from the lake at Rock Point and hiking to the Mountain! Come unite with middle schoolers from the Green and White Mountains (VT & NH).

God's spirit will be in all we do at camp this week as we hike, rock climb, go caving, pray, sing, arts and crafts, and discover our own courage through games, challenges, and much more!

Three camps offered the week of July 18 :

[Information for Incoming 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders!](#)

[Information for Incoming 5-8th Graders!](#)

[Information for Incoming 9th-12th Graders!](#)

Like our *Vermont Outdoor Ministry UCC* Facebook page to help you connect more with God and camp before summer.

Recruiting counselors who are 18yrs or older. Email Laurie at lchipman@fccej.org or [find more information here!](#) Due to COVID guidelines, more counselors are needed for 2021 summer!

The 50th Annual AUCE Conference!

The Association of United Church Educators will be holding their 50th Annual Conference Virtually this year!

It will take place February 13th with guest speaker Melvin Bray! You can find more information [here](#) or register [here!](#)

SAVE THE DATE!



Virtual 50th Celebration
Saturday, February 13, 2021
12:00-3:30 PM ET
registration January 2021

Guest Speaker : Melvin Bray
Worship : Rev. Molly Baskette
with music by Mark Miller
reading by Kessie Runsbowe
closing song by Walter Runsbowe

AUCE members \$25
NON members \$35



auce-ucc.org




Wonderful Opportunity!

Hunger Free Vermont is looking for a Universal School Meals Campaign Manager! Join the team working to make Vermont the first state in the nation to provide universal school meals, making school breakfast and lunch available to all public school students in Vermont at no charge to them or their caregivers! You can find more information [here!](#)

The 50th Annual NEAUCE Conference!

The 50th Annual New England Association of United Church Educators Conference is Virtual this year! The Keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Gay Byron addressing "Racism in the Bible". You can find more information [here!](#)

New England Association of United Church Educators
registration February 2021 auce-ucc.org



Virtual 50th Celebration!
Jeremiah 18:1-4 The Potter and the Clay

SAVE THE DATE


Friday April 30 6:30-9:00 pm
&
Saturday May 1 8:30am-1:30pm

keynote
Rev. Dr. Gay L. Byron

worship & plenary
Rev. Dr. Jason Brian Santos

music
Dan Brownell

workshop
Rev. Suzi Townsley



AUCE members \$50
non-AUCE members \$55
Scholarship fee \$25



ONA WEBINAR SERIES STARTS FEB. 4!

Whether your church is just beginning its journey towards an Open and Affirming covenant, or you've been ONA for many years, you'll find a webinar that meets your needs! The UCC's Open and Affirming Coalitions'

popular webinar series has helped congregations plan for an ONA journey that builds consensus and reduces the risk of conflict, and existing ONA churches have learned how to breathe new life into their ONA commitment. The UCC's ONA Coalitions' services are priced to fit almost any budget, and there are deep discounts when you buy a season pass.

You can find all ONA Webinars [here!](#)
You can find more information on starting your ONA journey [here!](#)



MLK Day of Service

The UCC's MLK Day of Service will be held February 15th from 6pm to 8pm.

Join Chuck Alphin, Certified Kingian Non-violence Trainer, in two, 2-hour teach-in sessions as we explore:

- The Myths and Facts of Nonviolence
- Types and Levels of Conflict
- Six Principals of Kingian Non-violence
- Six Applications of Kingian Non-violence

You can register for this event [here!](#)

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!)

Update on Rev. David Dean!

Quote from his daughter Mary:

"Covid is in the rearview mirror. Let the 90th birthday celebration begin. "



Cards of birthday greeting or congratulations for good health can be sent to:

Rev. David J. Dean
52 Missionary Road
Cromwell CT 06416



Who doesn't love a great Podcast!?!?!?

"Faith in Vermont" is a podcast produced by Rev. Sally May (Pastor of Malletts Bay Congregational Church) and Rev Josh Simon (Associate Pastor of First Congregational Church in Essex Junction). Their most current episode is "part of a series on how a person's faith (in other words, their values) influences their reasons for seeking public office and what motivates them in their decision-making process as elected leaders". You can find that episode (as well as many others!) [here!](#)

Huge thank you to Reverends Sally May and Josh Simon for sharing this with us!

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!](#)



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!



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.



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).

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!”

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](#)

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!

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.

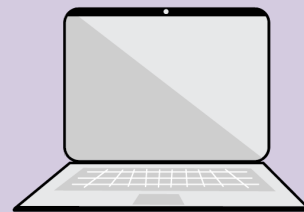
*****UPDATE 01/14/2021*****

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 \(listed by town\)](#)

Does your Church have a Website, Facebook, YouTube Channel or Email Blast?

If so, you will want to become more knowledgeable about the Consolidated Appropriations Act which just became a Public Law on December 27, 2020. It applies to copyright infringement not only for photos, but videos and music used in any production without permission of the creator.



You can find the Bill in its entirety [here](#).
You can find an abridged, user friendly version [here](#).

In Addition....

The same Consolidated Appropriations Act provides \$900 billion dollars in stimulus allows churches that have already received PPP loans the

ability to apply for a second loan. If you would like to know more, you can read the article published by Christianity Today by Ted Bateson (an attorney and CPA who specializes in Church Law & Tax).

You can find that article [here!](#)



Tax Season is almost upon us!

We have had a multitude of inquiries requesting someone who is spectacular with clergy taxes.

If you have a suggestion, please email the contact information to llbvtc@gmail.com so we can be sure to

pass on the information!

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/>

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"