



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 11, 2021

Message from the Conference



Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

In a few short days we will enter Lent. While Lent is often a time for action – fasting, praying, service, a new spiritual practice, the longed for fruit of our forty day journey is a deepening of relationship, a turning and returning. This poem fragment by Joyce Rupp captures this for me:

*The cosmos dreams in me
while I wait in stillness,
ready to lean a little further
into the heart of the Holy*

May we each lean a little further into the heart of the Holy.

Blessings on the journey,
Lynn

**226th Annual Meeting of the
Vermont Conference
REGISTRATION OPEN!!!**

[Find all the details and register HERE!!](#)



We absolutely cannot wait to see you!

Also, if you or someone you know is a youth who identifies as BIOPOC and/or LGBTQ and would like to take part in a panel at Annual Meeting, please get in touch with [Rev. Elisa Lucozzi](#) .

She would love to speak with you!

GENERAL SYNOD 2021

Since 1957, when the first “uniting” General Synod gathered in 1957 in Cleveland, Ohio, to the meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 2019, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has faithfully convened a meeting every two years in physical locations throughout the United States.



2021 will be different. We are moving through a pandemic that has taken many lives. This pandemic has disrupted our routines and many of our well-established practices as we adapt to the new demands for safety and social distancing. The meeting of the General Synod is no different, and the 2021 gathering of the General Synod will take place entirely online.

[You can find all the information you need here!!!](#)

United Church of Christ Musicians Association (UCCMA) All-Virtual Conference this Year *Brave New World - July 2021*



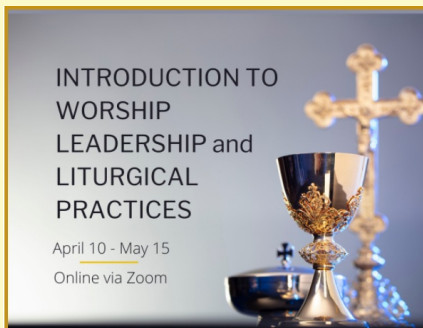
North Dakota Conference Minister Keith Mills, 65, dies unexpectedly



The Rev. Keith Mills, leader of the Northern Plains Conference of the United Church of Christ, died suddenly Monday, Feb. 1. He was 65. The unexpected death, of undetermined natural causes, occurred at his home near Streeter, N.D., said his wife, Denise Mills.

“His passion was for justice. He exhibited an inner strength and a fierce and dogged determinism for any soul beleaguered, ostracized or marginalized by those who wield power with malice. We saw him at Standing Rock fighting for indigenous rights, in D.C. fighting for immigrant rights, in Selma marching for racial equity.”

You can find the full article [here](#).



Introduction to Worship Leadership and Liturgical Practices

The Pennsylvania Academy of Ministry at Lancaster Theological Seminary is delighted to offer a new, six class series: **Introduction to Worship Leadership and Liturgical Practices.**

Taught by the Rev. Dr. Marty Kuchma, this class will prepare worship leaders to **plan, prepare, and practice** congregational worship, rites, and rituals, especially **baptisms, weddings, and funerals/memorial services.**

The six-week online class runs from **Saturday, April 10 through Saturday, May 15.** Five of the classes meet Saturdays from 10:00 am until noon. One class will be held on Thursday, May 6 from 6:00-8:00 pm.

You can find out more and register [here!](#)

Beverly Anderson

Please keep Beverly Anderson in your prayers as she goes into surgery today.

She is the retired Pastor of Shelburne United Church of Christ in Killington as well as Bridgewater Congregational Church, UCC.



Self-Care in a Pandemic



[Resources for resilience support clergy through COVID-19](#)

It's been almost a year since COVID-19 irrevocably changed United Church of Christ churches.

Members have become ill. Many never recovered. Countless buildings remain closed—some reopening, only to shut down again.

Congregations worship and gather virtually. Clergy have to find ways to cope and carry on. As Americans line up for vaccinations, health experts warn against darker days ahead.

Eleven months of uncertainty. The pandemic is taking an emotional toll on mental health and ministers are not immune.

Continue reading [here](#).

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!

To the Pastors and Voting Delegates for Annual Meeting:

Over the past year the Board of Directors has been working on a revised set of Conference Bylaws. The major work was done by Dick Dale and Jeanne Zammataro. What arose out of the discussion was not a technical fix of a few lines, but an entirely different way to envision the work and ministry of the Conference. In order to give the proposed Bylaws the attention needed, the Board has decided to set aside a date in October for a special meeting. In this way, we can keep the focus of Annual Meeting on systemic issues of race and the intersection with other justice issues along with our keynote speaker, the Reverend Traci Blackmon. A small amendment to the current Bylaws is necessary to call a special meeting. The attached will be presented for a vote at Annual Meeting.

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!](#)



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!)



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!

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](#).



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

Emotional Care in COVID-19

[click here for more info](#)

SAVE THE DATE!



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.

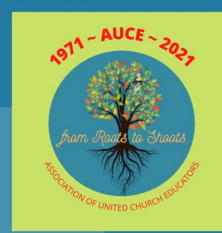
If this is something that you are interested in, you can find more information and a registration form [here!](#) You can also find more information at her website, www.tending-the-fire.com.

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!

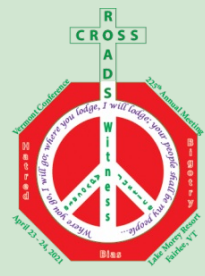


Virtual 50th Celebration

Saturday, February 13, 2021
12:00-3:30 PM ET
registration January 2021

AUCE members \$25
NON members \$50

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



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).

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!](#)

<p>New England Association of United Church Educators registration February 2021 auce-ucc.org</p> <p>NEAUCE 2021 Tear down, Transform, Transcend, A Call To Action</p> <p><i>Virtual 50th Celebration!</i> Jeremiah 18:1-4 The Potter and the Clay</p>	<p>SAVE THE DATE</p> <p>Friday April 30 6:30-9:00 pm & Saturday May 1 8:30am-1:30pm</p> <p>keynote Rev. Dr. Gay L. Byron</p> <p>worship & plenary Rev. Dr. Jason Brian Santos</p> <p>music Dan Brownell</p> <p>workshop Rev. Suzi Townsley</p> <p>AUCE members \$50 non-AUCE members \$55 Scholarship fee \$25</p>
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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](#)

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

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!



pass on the information!

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

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!"