



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 Spring Edition

June 10, 2021

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Message from the Conference



Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

As you probably know, we received word that Hal Harrison died last Saturday night. Hal was a beloved and highly respected Associate Conference Minister in the Vermont Conference for thirty years. I have been reflecting on the many ways our lives entwine with those of others, how echoes reverberate long after events and ministries conclude.

As you can imagine, Hal touched a lot of lives. There are men and women who entered the ministry because of Hal's wise words and gentle encouragement. Hal served as spiritual director to clergy and laity alike. He had a profound influence on the faith and spiritual maturity of those who sought him out. He was so rooted in the ethos of Vermont that he once said of a pastor who declined a call here because it did not pay as well as a Massachusetts church, "They don't deserve

Vermont.”

Who have been your important mentors and spiritual guides? How did those relationships change you and help to shape the person you are today? How have you been a mentor or spiritual guide to others? We never fully know who or how our lives impact those of others, but we can be sure that they do, indeed, have an impact. The ties that bind us one to another are sacred, sacred relationships, sacred journeys, sacred connections far beyond what we can see.

In hope and peace,
Lynn



New News!!!



In loving memory of Rev. Hal Harrison, former Associate Conference Minister of the Vermont Conference



Rev. Harold L. (“Hal”) Harrison, age 90, died peacefully early on Sunday morning.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his many friends. We are so grateful for his life and ministry in the Vermont Conference.

A service in celebration of the life of Rev. Hal Harrison will be held at First Congregational Church (UCC), Springfield, Vermont on Sunday, June 20th at 3 pm.

Remembering Rev. Hal Harrison

Do you have a favorite story about Rev. Hal Harrison?

Though he may no longer be with us, we can still share his joy, wisdom, and inspiration.

We are looking for your fondest memories to share with the rest of the Vermont Conference to further the already enormous reach he had.

Please help us celebrate his remarkable life by sharing your story [here](#).



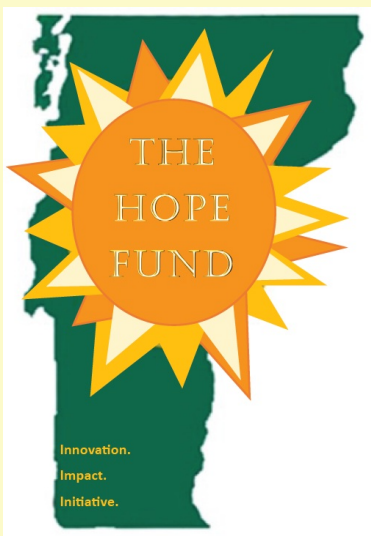
GENERAL SYNOD 2021

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!!!](#)



Follow The Hope Fund!

The Hope Fund now has a live page on the Vermont Conference Website! It is a great place to find information about the Fund, as well as see what Churches within the Conference have done to make their communities a better place!

[You can read all about it here!](#)

Service for Martin "Charlie" Hanley

Martin "Charlie" Hanley, father of Terry Hanley (former Assistant Pastor of the Federated Church of Castleton) passed into the next phase of his journey on May 8, 2021, some 15 years after receiving a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. His service will be held at Grace Congregational Church UCC in Rutland on Sunday, June 27th at 1:30 PM.

His full obituary can be found [here](#).



In Need of Your Prayers

Please continue praying for Marisa Laviola's brother who remains gravely ill.

Mourning and prayers follow find of remains at Canada Indigenous school

United Church of Christ leaders are reaching out to colleagues at The **United Church of Canada** in prayer and support after the remains of hundreds of Indigenous children were found buried on the grounds of Canada's largest residential school.

Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk'emlups te Secwépemc First Nation said in a news release that the remains **were discovered last weekend** — at a school for Indigenous children taken from their families, run by the Roman Catholic Church — with the help of ground-penetrating radar.



[Continue Reading Here](#)



36th Annual Karl Barth Seminar

The Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers will be hosting its 36th annual Karl Barth seminar via ZOOM over two days, **June 14th and 15th**. Each day will feature two sessions: morning (10AM -12PM) and afternoon (1PM-2PM)

Our guest speaker this year will be Dr. Ian McFarland of Emory University who will guide our morning sessions as we discuss this year's reading from Church Dogmatics.

Our primary topic will be Church Dogmatics IV/3.2. "The Doctrine of Reconciliation" - discussing Paragraph 72 "Holy Spirit and the Sending of the Christian Community" (pp. 681-729)

During the Monday afternoon session we will also discuss Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock's lecture "Let My People Go" originally published in the Harvard Divinity School Bulletin.

This seminar is open to the general-public. Please feel free to join us for one or all the sessions. The discussion readings can be requested by contacting our Moderator, Rev. Dr. Kazimierz Bem at kdebem@gmail.com.

A free-will donation of \$20 for pastors and \$10 for students & retirees is suggested.

We hope you will join us for some lively theological discussion and fellowship.

If you would like to attend, please register [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!)



How can you help Williamstown United Federated Church?

Update from Pastor Doug Cameron:

"We have received so many items and donations from many different churches from in state and out of state. From a piano to a pulpit bible to candle stick holders, communion sets, hymnals, altar, desk, Sunday school supplies and books, etc. etc. We at this time have all the items to conduct a church service. We are still of course taking donations to our fire fund."

The **Fire Donation Fund** can be found at Bar Harbor Bank and Trust. Anyone can donate either anonymously or with recognition. Please tell the teller or note on your check that you are making a deposit to the United Federated Church of Williamstown Fire Donation Fund.

You can also mail your donation to:
P.O. Box 438
Williamstown, VT 05679

WANTED:



PART-TIME OFFICE COORDINATOR

Greensboro United Church of Christ is seeking a multi-skilled individual to manage the office of a small, progressive, socially engaged church.

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

Lunch Grants for your Summer Programs!!

The Department of Justice and Witness Ministries, through the Vermont Conference of the UCC, will again be giving grants for Summer Lunch operations. Please check with your local school district to find out what they already have planned. Please have your application in by June 10th. Applications can be mailed to Mary Lou DeCosta, 353 Prim Road, Colchester, VT 05446; or emailed to colchsummerlunch@aol.com.



[Fill out an application HERE!](#)



The Racial Justice Task Force Needs You!!

"I joined this group because I've come to realize that all the issues of justice are interconnected, in the spirit of Traci Blackmon's keynote on Crossroads. My own passion is the environment, and you can't separate a healthy environment out from racial justice, since unhealthy environments have disproportionate impacts on communities of color, causing immense suffering. In the group, I appreciate the way we've explored many facets of activism around this issue, ranging from self-examination and book study, to political witness, to community collaborations, and as an activist myself, I've gained insight into the ways these different forms of racial justice advocacy all work together." - Fred Taylor

You can learn more (including how to join!!!) [here!](#)



Outdoor Ministry Camp

Register online for a week at Horton Center this summer!
www.hortoncenter.org
Watch this! <https://youtu.be/rLZm8fzCV2Y>

Join us for... **VT Takes a Hike to the Mtn**
Deans: Laurie Chipman & Diane Tinkham
for those going into 5th – 8th in the fall

July 18-24, 2021

VT @ the Lake is taking a hiatus from the lake at Rock Point and hiking to the Mountain! Come join us up at Pine Mountain and unite with middle schoolers from the Green (VT) and White (NH) Mountains. God's spirit will be in all we do at camp this week as we hike, play, pray, sing, rock climb, do some arts and crafts, and discover our own courage through games, challenges, and much more!

We have 2 awesome counselors lined up so far!
Pastor Ed Sunday-Winters (Greensboro Congregational) & Jeffrey Tuper-Giles (Barre Congregational)!

These are two fun guys who have a big heart and a love for God, youth & nature!

Are you 18yrs or older? Love the outdoors and spending time helping young youth? Watch this

one! <https://youtu.be/gecZ0v3BGZk> Then reach out to Laurie Chipman lchipman@fcej.org Counselors get a reduction in cost for their own child/youth to attend a camp this summer. No cost for counselors. Volunteering will be the most fun you've had in a real

long time. You'll be exhausted every night and will sleep deep, breathing in the fresh mountain air, not to mention worship on Chapel Rock! Click on 'volunteer' on their website for more information. *(College youth – this looks great on your resume!)*



NEWS UPDATE from Horton Center

NOTE: We are ready to go for in-person camp this summer! However, if any camp session must be cancelled, you can get a full refund.

Check out the latest Camp COVID19 Info at: <https://hortoncenter.org/COVID>

IMPORTANT NOTICE of changes:

1. Our Spring Workdays Weekend will happen one week later than planned on the schedule. It will now be May 21-23. No registration needed but let us know if you're coming so we have enough food! No charge, donations welcome.
2. Open House will NOT be happening in-person after all, due to preparations for in-person camp sessions We will be doing a virtual Live Open House from camp June 19th so be on the lookout for how to attend from home!

ALSO if you're 18 or older you could:

- Be a Counselor for a week and change the lives of our young people at camp. Check out the [video](#) to find out why "We Need You!"
- Be part of the Summer Staff! Get more info and details [Here!](#)

Churches: We have provided two 'Virtual Bulletin Inserts' [Come to your camp](#) and [Come to your camp2](#)) for you to add to your church e-news letter, your Sunday bulletin, or your Sunday worship videos to help us get more campers to camp!

See you on the mountain.

As always you can contact Tim Hughes with any questions at: thughes@nhucc.org or 603-545-9660.

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](#)

GETTING THE COVID-19 VACCINE!!!

The Vermont Forward Plan ties reopening to specific vaccine milestones in the state. All Vermonters are encouraged to get the vaccine when it is their turn. At this time, Education, Health Care, Sports/Organized Sports and Youth Summer Camps will retain individualized guidance and not move to universal guidance.



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

[You can find an appointment time here!](#)



COVID 19 FUNERAL ASSISTANCE

As part of the federal funds allocated for COVID relief, there are monies for funeral assistance for the families anyone who dies of COVID. The number of those filing a claim is much less than the number eligible, and because of privacy rules, the state can't just email a list of families. We need help getting word out there to clergy and funeral homes that this assistance is available, (and retroactive). Please share the attached document with anyone that seems appropriate to help raise awareness about this.

Please read more about this [here!](#)



[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](#).

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?

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](#).



SAVE THE DATE!

UCCMA Conference 2021 - Registration is now open!

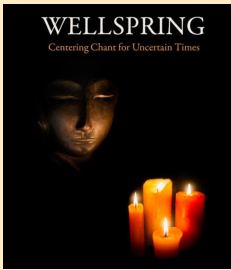
Join the UCCMA online for workshops, worship services, a wonderful concert, vendors and networking. We will be virtually hosted by the First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC in the historic town of Glastonbury, Connecticut. From Thursday evening through the Saturday 4 pm closing worship service, we provide a plethora of activities that will enhance your music skills and give you resources and ideas for new ways of expressing God's Spirit in these pandemic times. We also provide glimpses of the historic scenery around the church in Glastonbury, which you would have enjoyed if you had come in person as originally planned. Join us instead online for a mental reset and spiritual refreshment with a taste of Connecticut.



[Find out more and register HERE!](#)

RESOURCES FOR ONLINE MINISTRY!





WELLSPRING CHANTS are Published!

Kathy Wonson Eddy's collection of 25 chants has been published by Subito Music Corporation, just in time for when churches are making plans to gather in person!

You can order copies of WELLSPRING: Centering Chant for Uncertain Times for your church, choir, or for gifts at store.subitomusic.com (Type "Kathy Wonson Eddy" into the search bar.) The cost is \$13.95 each.

As you know, the chants may be heard on Kathy's website: kathywonsoneddy.com (click on "chant"), and these recordings may be used by churches for free.

**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 !



How to Contact Conference Staff

We are having some TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES with the email servers, so until further notice the only emails that are working at the conference are:

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 Elise at 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.

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Connect with us



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