



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**

September 16, 2021

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Message from the Conference

There are so many things that are challenging about Covid, and all the recent variants. We all know about that. But one tiny silver lining about Covid is the change that has come about in how we get together. Churches are providing ways for people who have moved away or who are shut ins to participate in their life together, and pastors can more easily get together on Zoom than travelling 2-3 hours. And on Sunday mornings, many of our churches have been able to use music or speakers from many different sources.

The same is true with programming. Our friends and neighbors to the south of us in the Southern New England Conference of the UCC got a grant from the Lily Foundation last year for a program they are doing in cooperation with the Episcopal Church called "Together We Thrive." They sent us an email this week inviting us to join their pastors and lay people for their virtual programs, and I wanted you to know about these possibilities! There are a couple of groups forming this fall called "Becoming More Racially Conscious: A Learning Journey for White Ministers." Led by Dr. Diane Schmitz, they build on the Anti-Racism groups we started as a Conference last year. and would be a worthy follow up. They particularly will focus on helping white pastors come to grips with the racism in our culture and Church.

The second program is for a Leadership program on how to lead in a time of change. Former Pastor, Author and Consultant Todd Bolsinger is leading both a one night session, and a 5 afternoon series on Wednesdays. I love the introduction to both programs: "Ask any leader and they will tell you that leading change is hard work. But the hardest part of all? It's the part that almost none of us expect. The most soul-sucking thing for leaders is not the challenge of a changing world, but overcoming the resistance of our own people to make the changes they need to survive and thrive."

Look for the write up of both of these programs in this Ekit. May we continue to seek to grow as leaders during these times, for the glory of God!

Joyfully yours,
Paul



New News!!!



At the last Board of Director's meeting, they approved the final draft of the proposed new VTC UCC Constitution and Bylaws.

This must be shared with your church clerk!!!

[Vermont Conference Bylaws \(revised\)](#)

You can find all supporting documentation on our website [here](#).

Supporting documentation:

[Bylaw Rationale Statement](#)

[Bylaw FAQ](#)

[Proposed Bylaws vs. Current Bylaws](#)

The date of the special meeting has been changed to
November 13th at 10:00 am.

Register Here!

***(YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO
ATTEND)***



Together We THRIVE

[Fall 2021 Affinity Group Offerings](#)

Becoming More Racially Conscious: A Learning Journey for White Ministers

These cohort-based sessions create a trusting and confidential environment where white ministers can deepen their understanding of how race shows up at the personal, interpersonal, institutional and cultural levels and how they are called to recognize and

interrupt racism within their congregations and beyond.

Tempered Resilience - How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change

Ask any leader and they will tell you that leading change is hard work. But the hardest part of all? It's the part that almost none of us expect. Find the flyer [here!](#)

Find more information on both of these groups [here!](#)

Let's Help the United Community Church!!

I'm reaching out on behalf of the congregation of the United Community Church of St. Johnsbury Vermont.

As best as anyone can tell, at about 3:30 in the morning of February 2nd 2021, a pipe burst above the kitchen area of our church's Fellowship Hall. Fortunately, a neighbor walking their dog heard the noise of running water and called the fire department. However, the damage was done. The floor was flooded, walls and ceilings in the kitchen were ruined, as well as some equipment and furniture.



At this point, the ceiling has been repaired, the kitchen walls still need to be replaced, and the floor needs to be repainted. Gradually the kitchen is being restored.

We, the church congregation, also realize that this is the best time to replace a very old stove. The Garland stove has served well but is now difficult to maintain because parts are virtually unavailable. Now, while the kitchen is still in the process of repair, is the time to replace the old stove. (Check out the photos of the kitchen area and stove above.)

Read More Here!



Help Welcome Rev. Dr. Ezra Chapola!!

The Rev. Dr. Ezra Chapola will be officially installed at Old South Church within the Windsor Orange Association on **Sept 19** at 3:00pm. All members of the association are encouraged to attend and all others are very welcome.

Clergy may robe and bring red or a favorite stole.

**The First Congregational Church of Walpole, NH
United Church of Christ
Cordially Invites You
to the**

**Installation of Our Pastor
The Reverend Richard E. Malmberg**

3 pm, Sunday, September 26, 2021
15 Washington Street, Walpole, NH 03608
RSVP – 603-756-4075 or Walpolechurch@yahoo.com

Clergy are invited to robe and process wearing red stoles.

Anyone interested in participating in the mass choir, please contact us for details.

Only persons taking part in leading the service will be physically present in the sanctuary (including robed clergy and choir). Masks are required for everyone while inside the building. We want everyone to feel and be safe. We are grateful for your kind cooperation.

To attend the installation by Zoom, use the link below:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87236977806?
pwd=YkxyK2FwY1oyTCt5cXYzREZwL1lxdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87236977806?pwd=YkxyK2FwY1oyTCt5cXYzREZwL1lxdz09)

One Man's View of Pacifism-
Peacemakers Pulpit September, 2021

Rev. David E. L. Brown (ret.), observing the 60th anniversary of ordination



David Dellinger was a self-sacrificial pacifist; he was willing to suffer for his convictions by being convicted, going to jail upon occasion. He emphasized this part of his story by calling his autobiography, *From Yale to Jail*.

Most famously, he was jailed as one of the Chicago Seven.

Readers might like to know that David Dellinger lived his later years in Peacham, Vermont. He was a member of the Peacham Congregational Church. His memorial service in Montpelier's Peace Park in 2004 was attended by Just Peace Advocates of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ. He was a peace activist on the national stage with local connections.

Pacifism is both time-honored and timely. It has roots in the Bible and yet it may be applied to current issues such as non-violent activism in Israel/Palestine, or gun violence prevention in Vermont. We can learn from David Dellinger that pacifism and conflict are not mutually exclusive. It would be in error to dismiss pacifism as idealistic, too impractical for another look.

A parable is circulating on the Internet:

An old man says to his grandson,
"There's a fight going on inside me. It's a terrible fight between two wolves. One is evil-angry, violent, and greedy. The other is good- Peaceful, loving, and generous. These two wolves are also fighting within you and every other person, too."

After a moment, the boy asks, "Which wolf will win?"

The old man smiles.

"The one you feed."

What would it take to make pacifism "the world we feed"?



**Celebration of Rev. Dr. Thomas
Campbells Life**

Friday, September 17, 2021 at 4 pm, we will be celebrating the life and ministry of Rev. Dr. Thomas Campbell. As requested by Tom, the Maple Leaf Seven will be providing the music and many of his colleagues will be participating in the service. All are welcome to

remember Tom. If you are not able to attend in person, a zoom link has been arranged and is listed below.

September 17, 2021 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: Rev. Dr. Thomas Campbell Celebration of Life

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82452764920?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82452764920?pwd=U3NPbytQaU9JVzFBTVdUc0JscUZ1dz09)
[pwd=U3NPbytQaU9JVzFBTVdUc0JscUZ1dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82452764920?pwd=U3NPbytQaU9JVzFBTVdUc0JscUZ1dz09)
Passcode: 803597



*To honor Vermonters lost to COVID-19 and to process our grief, join **Vermont Interfaith Action** and faith communities across the state of Vermont.*

COVID-19 Memorial Service

Sunday, Sept 19th, 3:00 p.m.
**Vermont Statehouse Lawn,
Montpelier**

The heart of the event will be a ceremonial reading of the names so that each individual who has died of COVID-19 is recognized. In addition, various clergy will offer brief interfaith prayers and readings.

For more information, contact Debbie
debbie@viavt.org | 802-651-8889



First Congregational of
Burlington



Rev. Joshua Simon,
Associate Pastor, First
Cong., Essex Junction



College Street
Congregational Church

Burlington Pride 2021!!!!



Naomi aka Bob Driver of Williston Federated Church Rev. Paul Eyer

First Congregational of Essex Junction paused to watch a proposal...



...As did Rev. Sally May of Malletts Bay



Spoiler Alert: He said "Yes!"



Check out a video created by our own Rev. Jackie Lingelbach below!



Rev. Sally May of Malletts Bay Congregational Church



Charlotte Congregational Church



First Congregational Church, Essex Junction



Rev. Kurt Herber letting everyone know with his tee shirt that "This Pastor Loves You"!



Members of the United Community Church, St. Johnsbury.

Generis[®] Barna

BEGINS OCT 19TH

Barna **CoLab** | Accelerating Generosity

A 6-Week Program to Grow Your Church's Impact by Inspiring Generosity

EARLY BIRD PRICING ENDS SEPTEMBER 24TH

Are you tired of seeing money limit your church's impact?
Do you want to better prepare your church for a healthy financial future?

Talking about church finances isn't always comfortable, but it is important.

That's why we created **Barna CoLab | Accelerating Generosity**, an interactive learning experience where we'll help you change the conversation around giving in your church.

Over the course of six weeks, we'll explore how to:

- Develop a data-driven perspective of your church's giving habits
- Establish and nurture a core team of givers to create stability
- Preach and communicate generosity in an effective way
- Activate non-givers to grow your opportunities for impact
- Instill a passion for generosity in younger generations to better prepare your church for a healthy financial future

Since this is a real-time, interactive experience (beginning October 19th), seating is limited.

If you'd like to participate, you can enroll in this 6-week program as an individual for just \$249 (\$199 early bird).

Or, you can participate with your team and get everyone on the same page for just \$399 (\$329 early bird). With this package, you can bring up to 5 people, plus \$49 for each additional person.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

New Online Course!!! **Leading Transformational Ministry** **September 20 - 24, 2021**

The Office of Continuing Education at Princeton Theological Seminary would like to invite you to register for a new online course, Leading Transformational Ministry, taught by United Methodist Bishop Peter Weaver. This intensive online course will explore planning and leading transformational ministry, especially in our current times.

This five day intensive course will focus on planning and leading transformational ministry (TM) that is spiritually energized, theologically grounded, contextually relevant, team facilitated and missionally innovative for congregations or ministry organizations.

The course will draw on Biblical/Theological themes of "New Creation," the organizational theories and practices of "Adaptive Leadership," the strategic tools of "Design Thinking," readings, and each participant's experiences and insights in their ministry context.

Important Details About the Course

You will need to purchase and read *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger by the first session.

Dates: September 20 — 24, 2021

Live 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon ET daily

Participate in all sessions and complete course work to earn 1.5 CEUs

Register by September 15, 2021.

Leading Transformational Ministry will meet Monday through Friday, September 20-24, 2021 from 9 am to noon ET. The course fee is \$150.

For other questions, please email Sushama Austin-Connor, Program Administrator for Continuing Education at coned@ptsem.edu.



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.

Join us on September 29th at 2:00 p.m. EST

[Click Here to Register!](#)

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.

The most immediate need now as they prepare is for \$\$ donations and temporary to longterm housing. Second homes are obvious options.

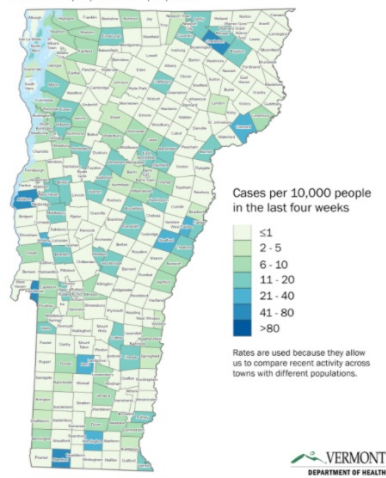
If churches express interest in helping with this effort,

folks with housing to offer can contact Vermont Refugee Resettlement directly at vrrp@uscrrvt.org.

Monetary contributions can be made to refugees.org and then scroll to Refugees and Immigrants in Vermont.

VTC UCC Covid 19 Update

With respect to everyone the Vermont Conference holds dear, the Conference



office will be reopening **Oct. 1, 2021** at the absolute earliest.

We do understand that this may be disappointing to some, however our main goal is to make sure we play our part in maintaining the health and safety of all who look forward to stepping through our doors.

We understand there are quite a few congregations in our conference struggling with what is best for their church. With that, we hope you find the next few articles as helpful as we did.

Nine VT Counties Enter CDC Masking Guidance

CDC Guidance for Those Fully Vaccinated **Covid-19 in Vermont Communities**

2021 Clergy Convocation **Registration is OPEN!!!**



Monday, Oct 4th – Wednesday, Oct 6th
At The Craftsbury Outdoor Center
(note the NEW location***)***

Masks will be required indoors!!!

***Theme: “Leaning Into Change When We Don’t Know
Where We Might Land”***

Just like riding a bike, when the roads ahead of our communities shift, we need to both turn and lean into the turn to keep our balance. In this post-Covid season, we know we need to turn, but knowing how and which way to lean is both essential and hard to imagine when we can’t see the path ahead. This convocation is about learning how to lean into a turn in community, discerning the path together and building the muscles and practices to stay balanced and agile in the face of turns.

Read 2021 Clergy Convocation brochure [here!!!](#)

The room block at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center has sold out.
If you hope to stay on campus, please [join the waitlist](#) when you register below.

YOU MUST BE VACCINATED TO ATTEND IN PERSON!!!

Due to this, we now have a *hybrid option*.

REGISTER HERE!!!

Florence Boutwell

Rev. Robert (Bob) Boutwell's wife, Florence passed away peacefully in their home on July 28th. Celebration of Life was held on August 9th at 11am at Grace Church.



Cards can be sent to:

Rev. Robert Boutwell
690 Town Line Road,
Rutland, Vt. 05701



Matthew Hoag

It is with great sadness we report that after a long and valiant effort to conquer Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare and aggressive form of cancer, Matthew passed away Sept. 8th at Albany Medical Center surrounded by family. His passing was swift and relatively painless. He died with the same brave dignity that he lived. Matthew is the most amazing person we have ever known, and he will be missed by many. He was loved always and will continue to be loved forever...

From his birth on May 8, 1999, Matthew David Asher Hoag brought a gentle sweetness, mild humor, great joy, and abundant love to our world.

His mother, Robin, is the Office Administrator for Second Congregational Church in Bennington.

You can read his full obituary [here](#).

In Need of Our Prayer

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!)

Be Aware!

There are many different scams currently circulating whether via email, text message, or phone call.

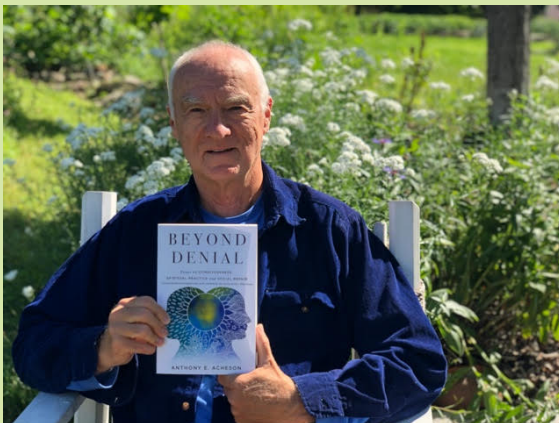
Here are some of the best tricks (courtesy of Yahoo.com) to make sure you are not scammed!

- 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!](#)

REV. ANTHONY ACHESON PUBLISHES HIS FIRST BOOK!!!!



One of our retired pastors, the Rev. Anthony Acheson, has recently launched his first book, *Beyond Denial: Essays on Consciousness, Spiritual Practice and Social Repair*. The book, published by Green Writers Press in Brattleboro, presents revised versions of religion page columns he wrote for the Brattleboro Reformer and other New England newspapers.

The Rev. Maren Tirabassi has praised the book as offering “resources of lasting hope and value in a time of dizzying change and social disruption.” You can read excerpts from Beyond Denial on his new website:

<https://www.anthonyeacheson.com> .

Massive congratulations to Tony on this amazing accomplishment!!!

Resources from the Justice Workshop from Annual Meeting Available Now!!!!

Would you like some resources to help your congregation explore issues of climate change and climate justice? Fred Taylor from Justice and Witness Ministries, with the help of Pam Piper from Norwich UCC, have put together a set of resources - books, films, organizations to connect with, etc. These have been shared with participants from the Climate Justice workshop of this year's Annual Meeting, and are available now for anyone interested. Fred is also eager to assist any churches in the conference who are looking for guidance in starting or developing their ministry around environmental/climate justice issues.



Contact Fred at rtaylor@antioch.edu.



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!](#)

HAL & BETTSY

KNEW THE JOYS & COSTS OF SEMINARY.

THEY MET AT ANDOVER NEWTON; WERE ORDAINED;
AND THEN MENTORED, COUNSELED & ENCOURAGED
GENERATIONS OF CLERGY.



TO HONOR HAL & BETTSY,
WE ARE ESTABLISHING A FUND IN THEIR NAME
THROUGH THE VERMONT CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

*"A scholarship in my parents' name... would be the height of immodesty.
And the family's great joy." - Jeremy Harrison*

ONCE FUNDED TO SIZE, THESE GIFTS WILL BE TRANSFERRED
TO ANDOVER NEWTON SEMINARY AT YALE
WITH THE INTENT OF FUNDING AN ENDOWED
HARRISON SCHOLARSHIP.

YOU MAY SEND GIFTS TO: HARRISON FUND
c/o VTCUCC, 36 NORTH MAIN STREET, RANDOLPH, VT 05060 OR [WWW.VTCUCC.ORG](http://www.vtcucc.org)



SAVE THE DATE!

New York School of Ministry

The New York School of Ministry
Fall 2021 Course Schedule

Fall Short Courses

Religious Fundraising – Past and Present

Rev. David Cleaver-Bartholomew, Ph.D., instructor Saturday, September 25, 2021:

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Continuing Education for Ministers, Stewardship Teams, and Everyone

“What does it mean to be both progressive and Christian?”

Rev. David Kaden, Ph.D., inst. Tuesday Evenings, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2021: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Continuing Education for All. Registration Opens August 18.

[Register here!](#)



MESOM FALL 2021 CLASSES

Join the Maine School of Ministry this fall for continuing education classes on Zoom-

Two Courses Are Being Offered This Fall 2021 Semester and Registration is Now Open!

***Biblical Storytelling for Advent and Christmas
&
Christian Theology for the Twenty-First Century***

[Register Here!!!](#)

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**



Gorgeous FREE Pulpit!

Laurie Krooss (Minister of Second Congregational Church in Londonderry) was recently given a handmade pulpit. It is made of Aspen! Sadly, they do not have room in Londonderry for it, so she would love to pass it on to someone who can use it. She is also happy to assist with transporting it to its new home. If you or your church are interested in this marvelous piece, please contact Laurie [here!](#)

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 providing 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 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!](#)

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 !



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.

Donate

Connect with us



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