



# 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

October 7, 2021

## **VERMONT CONFERENCE OFFICE UPDATE**

**Elise Foster our administrator is on maternity leave for the next six weeks.**

**During this time, Bev Anderson will be answering phones. Jackie Lingelbach, our Ministries Coordinator will be doing the e-kit news and Rev. Paul Sangree, our Associate Conference minister will be back physically in the office in Vermont Oct 12<sup>th</sup>.**

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## **Message from the Conference**

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

This morning as I read the news of the day I saw an article about the dramatic rise in the murders of black and brown girls and women. One woman who commented on the article simply said, no one cares about these victims because they are not white.

A short time later, I read a quote from Robert P. Jones who said, "In public opinion polls a clear pattern has emerged: white Christians are consistently more likely than whites who are religiously unaffiliated to deny the existence of structural racism." (White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity).

Why should we engage with systemic racism in our Conference and congregations? Because the need for change is so great and the price of racism continues to be the dead bodies of our black, brown and indigenous sisters and brothers. We engage racism to take off the blinders of white privilege and to live in to the gospel mandate to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

For the past few weeks a small group has been working on ideas to help us all be more aware and able to take steps to combat systemic racism in our congregations and Conference. A first step was to design a survey to get a better picture of work that is already being done as well as areas where more resources and information are needed. You will find the survey in this EKIT. Please take the time to fill it out and return it. This will help us all gain insight into what our congregations are already doing, where there are barriers and what resources are needed to continue our work combatting systemic racism. Once the survey results are collated, we will use the information to inform our next steps in seeking racial justice.

If you would like to be a part of this work, please contact me.

In hence and hope,  
Lynn

## New News!!!



## Racial Justice Survey

The Racial Justice Taskforce of the VT UCC Conference is seeking your voice and opinion on matters of racial justice within the conference. This [anonymous survey](#) will help us to better understand the current experiences of those who participate in our congregations and provide information on how we can best move forward the work of racial justice. We anticipate [this survey](#) taking about 15 minutes to complete.

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS SURVEY  
TO ALL YOUR CHURCH MEMBERS!**



## The HOPE FUND

The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ at their Conference meeting on Saturday, Nov. 13th will be voting on a resolution to establish and raise money for a HOPE fund to encourage innovation, societal impact and new ministry in our midst. As we continue to deal with the effects of this pandemic and look to the future of a post-pandemic world, our churches need help to imagine new ways to be the church in this new landscape.

[For documentation and more info click here](#)

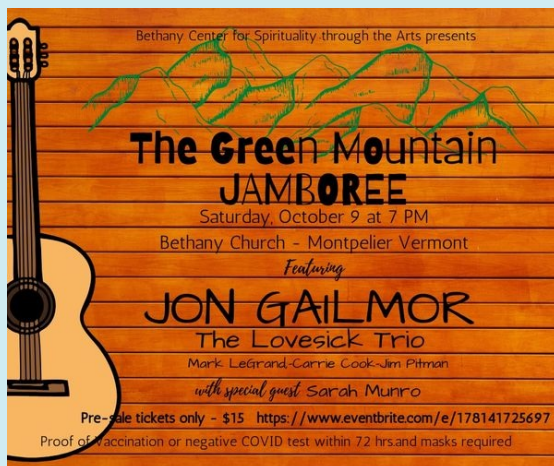
## Special Meeting of the Vermont Conference

**Saturday, November 13th  
at 10:00 a.m.  
on Zoom**

For more information click [here](#).

[Register Here!](#)

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



## Introducing Bethany Center for Spirituality through the Arts

Bethany Church, Montpelier is pleased to introduce a new venture to the wider Central Vermont community called Bethany Center for Spirituality through the Arts (BCSA). In the fall of 2021, BCSA will begin offering opportunities for folks to explore their own sense of spirituality through a variety of artistic experiences, from meditation practices, to art classes, to community events like concerts and dances. [For more information click here](#). You can access information about upcoming programs by following BCSA on facebook or clicking the link on the Bethany's website, [www.bethanychurchvt.org](http://www.bethanychurchvt.org).

BCSA is also looking for teachers who would like to offer art classes from a spiritual perspective. Contact Mark LeGrand, Program Director, for more information. Bethany Church is very excited to offer these opportunities to the wider Montpelier area. If you have questions, you can contact BCSA at [BethanyCSA21@gmail.com](mailto:BethanyCSA21@gmail.com), or call Mark LeGrand at 802-223-2424.

## 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. If churches express interest in helping with this effort, folks with housing to offer can contact Vermont Refugee Resettlement directly at [vrrp@uscrvt.org](mailto:vrrp@uscrvt.org). Monetary contributions can be made to [refugees.org](http://refugees.org) and then scroll to Refugees and Immigrants in Vermont.

## Training for UCC Churches: Serving Afghan Refugees

A 90-minute presentation, "[Training for UCC Churches: Serving Afghan Refugees](#)" can be viewed at the UCC YouTube channel.

The 2021 Global Environmental Justice Conference at the Yale School of the Environment will focus on a just green recovery.



[More more information or to register click here](#)

## ANNUAL INFORMATION REVIEW

**To: All Authorized Ministers (ordained, licensed, commissioned) with standing in the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ**

Dear Colleagues,

The 2021 Information Review is now available for your updates. The information review is a part of the covenantal responsibilities for all authorized clergy in the United Church of Christ and updating it helps the Conference and associations keep in contact with you and your ministerial needs.

There are two ways to provide this information to the conference.

1. Please download the **[2021 Information Review fillable form here](#)**, fill it in and then save the file and title it as: last name, first name 2021 Information Review. (ex. Lingelbach,Jackie-2021Informationreview.pdf) and email it to **[Jackie Lingelbach, Ministries Coordinator](mailto:Jackie.Lingelbach@vtconmincoor@gmail.com)** at [vtconmincoor@gmail.com](mailto:vtconmincoor@gmail.com).

2. Or/ download the form **[2021 printable Information Review form here](#)**, print it out, complete and sign the document and mail it to

Attn: Jackie Lingelbach  
Vermont Conference, UCC  
36 North Main Street Randolph, VT 05060

If your standing is held in the Grafton-Orange Association, we will update your information in the data base and then send your form to your own Committee on Ministry.

The new Vermont Conference directory will be prepared based upon the information you provide. It is important that the office have accurate information for all our ministers. This form includes questions covering two years: 2020-2021. We ask that all of you complete the form and return it to the office no later than **December 15**.

You will note that there is a question about Boundary Awareness training. Attending regular boundary training every 3 years is a covenantal expectation. If you have not sent your latest and most up to date certificate for boundary training to the office please send that to Jackie. If you still need boundary training below are some options for you to consider.

If you have questions, please contact **Jackie Lingelbach, Ministries Coordinator** at [vtconmincoor@gmail.com](mailto:vtconmincoor@gmail.com) or 802-505-0186.

Hello Clergy of Grafton Orange Sullivan (GOS). Please complete and return the Information Review for Vermont Conference Ministers. This form helps us to confirm your standing in the UCC. That standing allows you to serve churches, and do pulpit supply, as well as perform weddings and preside at funerals. Retired clergy should complete a form, too. You never know where or when God might call you to use your gifts!

Thank you,  
Rev. KellyAnn Donahue, Chair of GOS Committee on Church and Ministry.

## In Person Boundary Awareness Training - Level 2.

Save the date for in-person Boundary Awareness Training level 2 on Friday, November 5th, 9:00 - 3:00 with Rev. Skye Murray. Cost for the training is: \$45.00. This training is for all authorized ministers who have already done the Level 1 training and need an updated Boundary Awareness Training! We will wear masks for the training and have distanced seating as needed. Location: Bethany UCC, Randolph

If you are in need of a level 1 Boundary Awareness Training, please contact Lucia Jackson ([revlucia13@gmail.com](mailto:revlucia13@gmail.com)) for a list of online options.

[Register](#)



## Not-Your-Average Boundaries Training

NOVEMBER 17 & NOVEMBER 18  
(10:00 AM TO 12:30 PM CENTRAL BOTH DAYS)

Online via Zoom

\$75

[Register](#)

LeaderWise's online boundaries training workshop is lively and interactive, full of reflection and conversation. This live online boundaries training is 5 total hours split over 2 consecutive days (2.5 hours each day). Following the first session, participants are asked to engage in a bit of reflection work in preparation for the second session. This online boundaries training will be conducted via secure Zoom video conferencing. This will cover level 1 and level 2.

# UCC | NEWS

[Pension Boards begins process to establish UCC credit union](#)

[Take a tour of the new UCC national office space](#)

[Online audience learns more about UCC building sale, office move](#)

[for more UCC News click here](#)



## Please Remember in Your Prayers

- The Rev. Robert B. Boutwell, 88, died Oct. 6, 2021, at Rutland Regional Medical Center. Bob was a member of Grace Congregational Church UCC and Minister of Healing at Grace. A full obituary will be published at a later date. Arrangements are by Tossing Funeral Home. Please keep his family, church family and friends in your prayers
- 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](mailto:VermontConference@gmail.com) .

You may just see yourself or someone you love in the eKit or our Facebook page!)



The First Congregational Church of Berlin is pleased to announce that Rev. Alison Young has been approved as our settled part-time pastor, beginning her tenure on October 1, 2021.

Pastor Alison holds a degree in A.B. English (cum laude) from Oberlin College (Ohio), and has full standing with the United Church of Christ, being ordained in 1993 after graduating from Andover Newton Theological School with a M. Div. (with Honors). She has served several New England churches as pastor or transitional minister, and has built a strong portfolio of working with local communities and wider church organizations in her ministrations.

Pastor Alison and her husband Denis have returned to Vermont in their retirement and will live in the Montpelier area until they complete plans to build their new home.

The First Congregational Church of Berlin is inclusive, open and welcoming; Sunday worship is at 9:30 am every Sunday (in person or on Zoom). 1808 Scott Hill Road, Berlin, VT 802-229-0338



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY HUNTER!

Congratulations to Elise and George O'Grady on the birth of their gorgeous daughter!

Hunter Deborah Dylan O'Grady was welcomed into the world by her loving

parents, Elise Foster O'Grady and George O'Grady on September 24, 2021 at 12:33 am weighing 6 lbs. 5 oz.. Elise Foster O'Grady is our Administrative Assistant at the Vermont Conference.

**The Champlain Association Fall  
Business Meeting is  
Sunday October 24 at 1 pm  
via Zoom  
contact Rev. Barbara Purinton at  
[revbarbarapurinton@gmail.com](mailto:revbarbarapurinton@gmail.com)  
for link**



**SAVE THE DATE!**

# PRC - Practical Resources for Churches

## PRC's October Webinars

All webinars are recorded. Click the title to register or read the description.

### [Finding Intentional Community Online: The Story Of Queeranteen Camp](#)

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern

Leaders: Drew Stever, Hazel Salazar Davidson

The internet has a lot to offer - both good and bad. In the last couple decades, many communities have had to negotiate how they incorporate and leave out technology from their spaces. How can it enhance the experience? How can it take away? What many faith communities have forgotten is that faith is bigger than a building, or specific location. It expands beyond our own borders and meets us where we are at - whether we are in our bedroom, living room, or garage office, on our screens, in our hands, on our desks.

### [Getting and Keeping Talented, Engaged Volunteers](#)

Tuesday October 19, 2021

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Leader - Judy Urban

Learn about the challenges of getting volunteers to use their talents in your faith community and how you can create an effective system model. We'll cover ways to help people identify their gifts, collecting and using the data, and the importance of position descriptions for each ministry. Ms. Urban will outline an annual recruitment plan and suggest ways to involve the entire congregation in a celebration of ministries.

### [Narrative Budgets](#)

Thursday, Oct 21, 2021

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Leader: Cesie Delve Scheuermann

### [Sustaining Faith Online](#)

Thursday, October 28

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Leader - Natalie Perkins

Join us for strategies to help you sustain a consistent and life-giving presence online. We'll look at ways to simplify and target your online content, but we'll also be considering how to integrate your online work into your life and that of your community of faith.

### **FREE ONLINE TRAINING AND INFORMATION FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP.**

Church extends beyond any four walls. From human resources concerns to legal questions and property maintenance, Insurance Board offers a variety of resources to protect the church and its ministries. [Click here](#) for interactive webcasts that address a wide variety of topics essential to keeping churches and ministries safe; these trainings are led by industry experts from Insurance Board and its partners, including our denominational partners.

## **VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS**



### **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!](#)

## 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](mailto:unitedchurch@gmavt.net)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Npomfretcc@gmail.com) or North Pomfret Church, PO Box 308, North Pomfret, VT 05053

## First Congregational Church, Burlington 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!](#)





# First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington

38 S. Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT –  
the host site for *JUMP* and *Small Potatoes* is offering a:

## **PHONE IN FREE LEGAL CLINIC** on Sundays Sept. 26, Oct. 17 and Nov. 21, 2021 Phone in from 1 to 3 pm

Volunteer Vermont attorneys will offer pro-bono **FREE** legal counsel to anyone in the community by phone – call: 802-862-5010

A Legal Clinic volunteer will check you in by phone and will arrange for one of our lawyers to call you back that afternoon.

*We will be ready for your calls at 1:00pm - if you don't get thru – leave a message – we will call you back.*

### **All LEGAL CONCERNS including Family Law.**

All are welcome to access this service with any legal questions. Confidentiality is (of course) guaranteed.

Questions? Want to learn more? Contact Communications Coordinator, Lucy Samara at the First Congregational Church UCC of BTV: [Lsamara@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:Lsamara@firstchurchburlington.org)

### **Be Aware of Scams and Email Phishing!**

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!](#)



### **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](mailto:llbvtc@gmail.com)

Associate Conference Minister: Rev. Paul Sangree [sangreepucc@gmail.com](mailto:sangreepucc@gmail.com)

Office Administrator: Elise Foster [vermontconference@gmail.com](mailto:vermontconference@gmail.com)

Ministries Coordinator: Rev. Jackie Lingelbach [vtconmincoor@gmail.com](mailto:vtconmincoor@gmail.com)

Bookkeeper: Tanya Frazier [vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com](mailto:vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com)

DEADLINE for E-Kit News must be received by **Tuesday of each week.**  
Please send any and all information to [vermontconference@gmail.com](mailto: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/>