



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

November 4, 2021

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Message from the Conference



Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

The Rev. Dr. Marjorie Purnine is on the staff of the New York Conference UCC. Among her many tasks in Leadership Development, she administers the New York School of Ministry, an online education program for those wishing to be licensed ministers or with more requirements, ordained ministers. Several people from our Conference have taken courses with this program.

Marjorie recently described a new family practice:

We started a family practice of *florilegia*. It's the gathering of quotations that stand out to us or "shimmer." As I understand it, medieval monks used to copy verses from the psalms into books of florilegia, creating bouquets of wisdom and beauty, as the various lines came together into a unique and meaningful whole.

I understand about quotations that "shimmer." If you are ever in my office you may notice a cork board on the wall that is mostly filled with quotations, bits of poetry and song lyrics. Some of these I haven't looked at for a long time. When I do, they always remind me of a time in my life where that particular quote spoke to me and more than that, grounded me, became a word from God. I begin my Monday mornings these days in a virtual circle of meditation where there is always a quote for us to consider, pray with and eventually struggle with together. These quotes "shimmered" for our leader and often they become that for group members as well.

Then I started thinking about these last months of COVID and systemic racism, of growing violence and incivility in our nation. I thought about the isolation of so many people, the grief work only partially completed because we could not gather together, sing and hug and tell stories. I thought about living with constant tension and uncertainty, of worry about ourselves and our children. Then, sneaking into my heart and mind I heard "all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." I have never heard this quote from Julian of Norwich as some Pollyanna denial of reality. I don't think it means there will always be a "happily ever after." Rather, in the very midst of the worst circumstances, I know I and we are loved by God for eternity. NO MATTER WHAT, all shall be well.

What are the quotes, poetry, songs, meditations, pictures that have shimmered for you? What has kept you going in the worst of times? Perhaps together we can gather a "bouquet of wisdom and beauty" to sustain us on our journey and remind us of God's never-failing presence.

In hope and peace,
Lynn

Special Meeting of the Vermont Conference

Saturday, November 13th

at 10:00 a.m.

on Zoom

For more information click [here](#).

Deadline to register is Nov. 5th!

[Register Here](#)

(YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND)



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](#)

Housing Crisis in Vermont: The Emergency Housing for the Homeless- Deadline (Dec. 31) is looming!



CALL TO ACTION

Please Call the Governor TODAY

802 828 3333

Right now advocates have taken to the State House steps to demand action and they need your help!

- ➔ Fully reinstate and extend the motel program through the winter, and for as long as the federal government will reimburse & until we can transition people to long term safe housing.
- ➔ End the 84 day benefit limit that is dangerous & outdated.
- ➔ Stop asking Vermonters to trade their shelter for money. If we have the resources, we should do both
- ➔ The Governor must create a cohesive and safe longer-term plan. He must provide notice to the public and to those experiencing homelessness that clearly explains their options and their rights.

Thurs. Nov. 11

VIA's regular Clergy Caucus meeting -- 10:30 am to 12 noon on Zoom:

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpduqvqTssHNFv6N8XskO-PkkKoAaL6a2c>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Mon. Nov. 15

Press Conference in person at Christ Episcopal Church in Montpelier, time TBA

Global H.O.P.E. Volunteer Ministries Booster Grant

Application Deadline: November 17, 2021 at 08:00 PM EST

Dear Colleagues in Ministry to Young Adults,

An update on this fall's United Church of Christ Volunteer Ministries Booster Grant~ United Church of Christ Volunteer Ministries, a member of Wider Church Ministries' Global H.O.P.E. Team, is offering eight (8) one-time booster grants to revive Service-Learning ministries with Young Adults. This is a quick-moving application process, designed to award grants this fall for 2022-23 implementation by the grantees. Ideal applicants are pastors or UCC instrumentality leaders who want to launch young adult service fellowships in 2022-23 (campus ministry, humanitarian/service and justice, Outdoor Ministries organizations, for example).

The application link is here: <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/76950-United-Church-Of-Christ> and full information is below, under my signature.

If you are interested in applying and have questions, please join me for a casual Q&A webinar:

Booster Grant Q&A on Zoom
Wednesday November 10th
4 p.m.-5 p.m. Eastern, and as follows:
10 a.m.-11a.m. Hawaii
1 p.m. Pacific
2 p.m. Mountain
3 p.m. Central

RSVP to me for the link: LarssenE@ucc.org or email me any questions.
Due date is a firm 11/17, as this is quick-moving process.

Shalom,
Elena Larssen

The Rev. Elena Larssen (She/Hers)
Minister for Volunteer Engagement
Global H.O.P.E. – *Humanitarian. Opportunities. Progress. Empowerment.*
United Church of Christ, National Ministries
700 Prospect Ave East | Cleveland, OH 44115-1100
216.736.2162 | LarssenE@ucc.org | UCC.org

[2021 Volunteer Ministries Booster Grant Application](#)

ATTENTION CLERGY

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

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.

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

Deadline Dec. 15th



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.

A Conversation with Pastors, for Pastors

Join us on Wednesday, November 10 at 12:00pm Eastern via Zoom for a conversation with pastors, for pastors about the pressing issues of ministry today. The Center for Continuing Education was launched in October 2019 to enable Yale Divinity School to “reach beyond the walls” and provide educational opportunities and resources for clergy, laity and community organizations to expand and enrich ministry and lay learning - all at little to no cost. The Center is home to some existing cornerstone programs (the YDS Summer Study, the Yale Youth Ministry Institute, and the Yale Bible Study program) and is charged with creating new opportunities for theological education and enrichment in three primary categories: Faith and Contemporary Issues, Church and Nonprofit Administration, and Leadership Development. If you haven't already, we invite you to explore our websites at: <https://divinity.yale.edu/continuing-education> .

While our programs have existing curriculum, content and programming, we are continually looking to expand our resources. We want to be sure that we are focused on what is truly needed by those working in local ministry. Please join fellow clergy members to talk about what ministry looks like in a world where we are being allowed to gather again, but the pandemic is still very much a concern. During our time together, we'll focus on the following questions:

- How have your various ministries survived this time and what do they look like this fall?
- What do you see as your most immediate challenge?
- What have you learned from the pivots required to minister to your congregation over the past 18 months?
- How can the Center for Continuing Education support you, either in terms of resources, informational/educational opportunities and/or connection to other clergy?

[Register Here!](#)

[for more educational opportunities click here](#)

The Massachusetts Convention of Congregationalist Ministers will be hosting its annual **Fall Book Seminar** on Monday, November 15th, 2021, via Zoom from 10 am to 12 pm. This year's featured speaker will be the author and translator **Dr. Sarah Ruden** who will be discussing her most recent work *The Gospels - a new translation*. Her work has received much popular coverage and numerous positive reviews in a variety of publications, including The New Yorker and Christian Science Monitor.

About the Speaker:

Sarah Ruden is an author of poetry, essays, translations of classic literature, and popular works on Biblical philology, religious criticism, and interpretation. She has translated a number of ancient literary works, among them Vergil's *Aeneid* and Augustine's *Confessions*, and is the author of *Paul Among the People: The Apostle Reinterpreted and Reimagined in His Own Time* and *The Face of Water: A Translator on Beauty and Meaning in the Bible*. She is a past recipient of the Guggenheim and Whiting awards. Formerly a scholar-in-residence at Yale Divinity School, she is currently a visiting researcher at the University of Pennsylvania.

About Us:

The Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers (MCCM) is the oldest professional body currently meeting in the United States. It has met almost continually since 1691 and gathers Trinitarian and Unitarian ministers and laypeople in Massachusetts and beyond. This event is free and open to the public. However, a small donation is suggested.

Registration is required. If you plan to attend, please register here:

<https://forms.gle/esj1tmfBAYHw861X6>

STEWARDSHIP THEME MATERIALS 2021 | "ROOTED IN LOVE"

[click here](#)

Looking for more Stewardship Resources: [click here](#)

Please Remember in Your Prayers

It is with deep condolences that we share with you that our bookkeeper, Tanya Frazier lost her Mother early this week. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Dear Conference Friends,

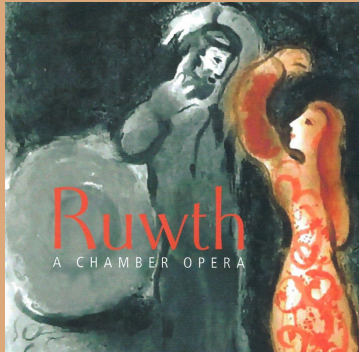
Especially during this miserable Covid, I have felt more and more out of the loop as to the Conference which has meant so much to me for so long, and your card brought back so many wonderful memories, and it was so inspiring to be surrounded by your love and prayers! Once the pressure was off my brain, I felt like a new woman. Much to decide, moving forward, but so far so good. Courage in the struggle for justice and peace!

Love, Betty Edson

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

(Please let us know what your Congregation is up to by sending an email to VermontConference@gmail.com .

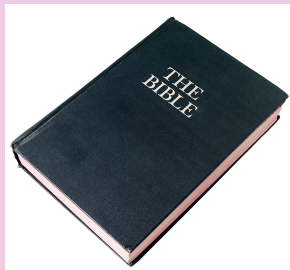
You may just see yourself or someone you love in the eKit or our Facebook page!)



Live Re-Broadcast of *Ruwth: A Chamber Opera* by Lotta Suter and Rob Griffin

Please join us on Sunday afternoon November 14th at 4 pm for a Zoom re-broadcast of the premiere performance of *Ruwth*, a chamber opera with libretto by Lotta Suter and music by Rob Griffin. Premiered at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge MA in October 2014, *Ruwth* tells the biblical story of Ruth, Naomi and Boaz from the perspective of the community that must overcome their mistrust of foreigners and learn to welcome strangers from another land. Lotta and Rob will host the re-broadcast of the video recording of the premiere performance, directed by Mark Latham with soloists Maria Ferrante, Jayne West and Donald Wilkinson. The 90-minute Zoom event, offered jointly with FCCB, is free and open to all. Please contact Rob and Lotta at griffinsuter@hotmail.com to register and get the Zoom link for the event. For more information on *Ruwth*, see the article by Lotta Suter in this Corner Chronicle.

Don't forget to click below in your email to view the entire newsletter



Windam Congregational Church offering Hymnals/Bibles to a church/churches:

19 New Century Hymnals + 2 Musician Hymnals
12 Pilgrim Hymnals + 1 Musician Hymnal
31 Chalice Hymnals + 2 Musician Hymnals
21 NRSV Bibles Regular Print
26 NRSV Bibles Small Print, Brand New
Contact Virginia Crittenden at 802-874-4049 or email at gcrit@hotmail.com

Farewell, Welcome and Blessings

Pastoral Transitions since the 2021 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting

[For the most up to date information click here](#)



SAVE THE DATE!

TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR ONA AND NOT-YET ONA CHURCHES

This webinar explores how and why congregations can become ONA—in ways that do not divide, but unite the church. Applying the basic ONA principles of “graceful engagement” and



“covenant,” ONA 101 has helped hundreds of congregations successfully navigate through an ONA process.

REGISTER

TAKE THE ONA SURVEY! HOW DOES YOUR CHURCH COMPARE?

Complete this survey, and see how your congregation compares with other ONA churches! If you answer “NO” to some of the questions, don’t worry! Your honest answer just means there are exciting opportunities awaiting your church! Use our **Self-Evaluation Tool for ONA Churches** and other resources throughout our website to discover new ways to strengthen your ONA commitment! Our goal: a church that’s 100% Open and Affirming! [click here for survey](#)

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.

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.

For pre-recorded video webinar click here
additional resource click here

VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS

VT CONFERENCE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Christian Education:

Christian Education Coordinator- United Church of Hinesburg
Faith Formation Coordinator- Barre Congregational

Administration & Finance:

Office Coordinator- Greensboro UCC

Music & Other Lay Ministries:

Music Director - Bethany UCC, Montpelier
Music Director- North Pomfret Congregational
Church Musician- Tunbridge Church
Music Director- First Congregational, Burlington
Music Director- Charlotte Congregational Church

[Signs, symbols abound at interfaith call for bold U.S. social programs](#)
[Join the Movement 'griot' will collect anti-racist stories from across the UCC](#)
[Report to the church from the United Church of Christ Board, October 2021](#)
[UCC will say goodbye to Church House and Amistad Chapel — online — on Dec. 4](#)

[For more news click here](#)
<https://frontline-faith.teachable.com/>

How to Contact Vermont Conference Staff

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DEADLINE for E-Kit News must be received by **Tuesday of each week.**
Please send any and all information to 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/>
