



# 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 21, 2021

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## Message from the Conference

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,  
From the national setting of the UCC, Associations, Conferences, churches concern is being expressed for clergy. The pandemic has taken a toll on everyone. All of us are tired. All of us want the pandemic to be over. For our clergy, they are dealing with their own feelings and also listening to and ministering to their parishioners' anxiety, stress and feelings of being overwhelmed. Many clergy across denominations gave up their vacation in 2020 trying to get a handle on remote worship and how to best care for those who were hurting when we could neither gather in person nor touch. The consensus is that many clergy are in need of some time away to prevent burnout in its many forms. For local congregations, it is sometimes hard to find the financial resources to cover services when the pastor is away, especially if the pastor is also handling the tech for Sunday services. The Conference Board of Directors voted to offer congregations \$250 per week up to 4 weeks to allow their pastors to take time off. If your church is interested in this gift of money, please check with Lynn or Paul.

The Board of Directors also discussed the need for other, more continuing ways to care for clergy. They are continuing to explore options that would help sustain ongoing wellness issues. The Make a Difference Endowment Fund is being considered as a source of funding for this purpose. More information will be shared as the small working group is able to identify possibilities and funds. This remains a stressful time with many things unclear even as our churches have adapted to ways to continue their ministry and mission in the communities. This is a wonderful thing! Pastors and congregations have supported one another, reached out to help, prayed together, sought God's vision of the future together. We are not alone!

There is help available to care for our clergy who care for all of us.

In peace,  
Lynn

## Latest News

### VERMONT CONFERENCE OFFICE UPDATE

**Elise Foster our administrator is on maternity leave. During this time, Bev Anderson will be answering phones. Jackie Lingelbach, our Ministries Coordinator will be doing the e-kit news.**

## 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)  
Deadline Nov. 5th!*

## Racial Justice Survey

The Racial Justice Taskforce of the VT Conference, UCC 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](#)

## 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**



## 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 2021 Global Environmental Justice Conference Friday,  
October 29 at the Yale School of the Environment**

## 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 memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Oct. 23 at Grace Congregational Church. **[For full obituary click here](#)** Clergy are asked to robe and wear white stoles and arrive at 10:45 am. Please keep his family, church family and friends in your prayers.

## 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!)

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

## 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 zoom link

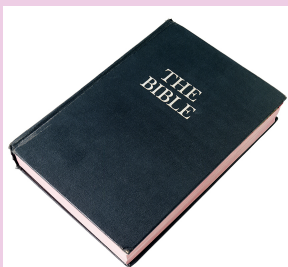
## Charlotte Congregational Church seeks Music Director

The Charlotte Congregational Church, an open and affirming congregation of the UCC, is seeking a new Music Director. Primary responsibilities include accompanying congregational singing, leading choir rehearsals, and conducting & accompanying the choir for Sunday morning worship services.

We are looking for someone who has classical training, eclectic musical tastes, inspiring energy, is eager to collaborate with guest musicians and is committed to having music be an integral part of the church's spiritual life. For a complete Job Description, navigate to <https://www.charlotteucc.org/work-with-us> or click **[HERE](#)**

The Search Committee will begin reviewing applications on October 27th, 2021. Please email a cover letter and resume to [charlotte@gmavt.net](mailto:charlotte@gmavt.net), or mail Charlotte Congregational Church, Music Ministry, PO Box 12, Charlotte, VT 05445. Church office phone number: 802-425-3176.

**[For other employment opportunities see below or click here.](#)**



## 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](mailto:gcrit@hotmail.com)

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.

## 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.

## Farewell, Welcome and Blessings

### Pastoral Transitions since the 2021 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting

#### Departing Pastors

#### Rev. Peter Hammond completed his interim ministry with Stowe Community Church

Ms. Theresa Lever and Nancy Fowler completed their interim ministry at Berlin Congregational Church.

Rev. Susan Scott is completing her interim ministry with Norwich Congregational Church.

Rev. Barbara Purinton is completing her transitional/interim ministry with Weybridge Congregational Church.

#### Arriving Pastors

Rev. Devon Thomas was called as pastor of Second Congregational Church, Hyde Park, VT

#### Rev. Dan Haugh - called as Pastor at Stowe Community Church

Rev. Julie Lombard- called as Pastor at United Church of Northfield

Rev. Alison Young called as Pastor of Berlin First Congregational Church

Mr. Michael Dwyer was called to be the settled pastor of the Pittsford Congregational Church.

Ms. Caryne Eskridge – was called as Pastor of the Weybridge Congregational Church

Ms. Michelle Fountain called as Pastor of the United Church of Ludlow

Rev. Jonathan Hauze called as Pastor of Norwich Congregational Church

**Mr. Matt Deen called as pastor of Marlboro Congregational Church**

### Installations

**Mr. Michael Mario, First Congregational Church, Springfield, VT**

**Rev. Leigh McCaffrey, Barre Congregational Church**

**Rev. Dr. Ezra Chapola, Old South Church, Windsor Orange Association**

**Mark Wilson, Waitsfield UCC , Village Meeting House**

### In Memorium

**Rev. Thomas D. Steffen**

**Rev. Harold H. Harrison**

**Rev. Robert B. Boutwell**



## SAVE THE DATE!



## **NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY: AN INVITATION**

Dear Open and Affirming family!

“Coming out” is a turning point in the life of any LGBTQ+ person, the beginning of a new life of integrity and truth. For LGBTQ+ Christians, it often begins with the awareness that God loves us as we are—our bodies, our gender identity, our capacity to love

and seek love in return. Coming out is also a force that changes lives: when we lose our fear, when we choose to live in the open, and not in the shadows, we can change the hearts and minds of our families and neighbors. We can begin to change the world.

Churches also can “come out.” This is the mission of Open and Affirming congregations in the United Church of Christ: to come out boldly and confidently in their communities, to stand with LGBTQ+ neighbors when their rights and dignity are under attack, to find new and creative ways to witness to the Gospel of God’s amazing love. When ONA churches come out, they are showing that their Open and Affirming covenant is not a private agreement, but a public testimony.

Your congregation can breathe new life into your ONA commitment by “coming out!” I invite you to join me on Nov. 16 for “ONA NEXT,” a webinar sharing best practices from vital ONA churches—churches that are making a difference because they are visible in their communities. Please see the link below for more information and registration. On this National Coming Out Day, we honor YOU: the 350,000 members of our more than 1,700 ONA churches and ministries who have come out—as LGBTQ+ persons, and as allies, friends and family. Your courage has brought healing and blessing to many others. You are changing the world.

Blessings and gratitude as you continue on your journey,  
Andy Lang  
Executive Director  
Open and Affirming Coalition  
United Church of Christ

**REGISTER FOR WEBINAR**

**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](#)



Join COVID Support VT for a community workshop featuring **Hunger Free Vermont’s** Food Security Team to learn more about 3SquaresVT, a workshop aimed to educate folks about the 3Squares Vermont food assistance program. This event will be facilitated by Hunger Free Vermont’s Food Security Team to learn more about 3SquaresVT, a statewide program that gives

people money every month to buy groceries. This session will also explore how to positively and appropriately refer individuals to resources in general.

[Vermont 3SquaresVT Community Training Tickets, Wed, Oct 27, 2021 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

### **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.

### **Abuse Prevention: Back To The Basics**

**Friday, October 29th @2pm EST**

[www.InsuranceBoard.org](http://www.InsuranceBoard.org)

Featuring: Ross Mitchell, JD Risk Consultant, Praesidium Inc.

This webcast offers insight to best practices from the nation’s leading expert in abuse prevention through the Insurance Board’s partnership with Praesidium. As churches open back up, reevaluating safety considerations are critical. Our facilitator, Ross Mitchell, JD., will discuss the need to review child abuse prevention policies for necessary updates, considerations for electronic communications, and appropriate guidelines for staff and volunteers.

Please consider signing up – the Registration link is in the flyer or can be found on the

IB website: <https://www.insuranceboard.org/online-learning/>

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)**

### **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](#)**



The Vermont Emergency Management – Homeland Security Unit will be providing several webinar opportunities about the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. These FEMA grant opportunities provide local units of government and nonprofit entities with the capability to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from a terrorist attack.

To learn more [click here](#)

## Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Training Online Available

**Strategic Response to Crisis**  
- November 11 - 12, 2021

**Spiritual and Psychological First Aid**  
- November 12 - 13, 2021

**Grief Following Trauma**  
- November 19 - 20, 2021

Additional courses are also being offered!

[Click here for more info and LIVE TRAINING courses](#)

## PRC - Practical Resources for Churches Upcoming Webinars

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

### [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

### [The New Normal - Hybrid Worship for Small Churches](#)

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern

Leader: Justin Bishop

### [Supporting a Hybrid Ministry with Office 365](#)

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

1:00 - 2:00 PM Eastern

Leader: Joshua Carroll

## VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS



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 BTU: [Lsamara@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:Lsamara@firstchurchburlington.org)

## **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**

# UCC | NEWS

[UCC tops \\$71.2 million in medical debt relief ... and counting](#)

[Latinx members celebrate, invite UCC allies to their Nov. 13 assembly](#)

[D.C. advocate: Please act now to protect the sacred right to vote](#)

[UCC national mandates COVID-19 vaccines for staff](#)  
[UCC continues — and expands — its ways to be anti-racist](#)  
[Colorado church becomes 'firearms recycling center'](#)

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### How to Contact Vermont Conference Staff

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).

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**Thank You for Your Support!**

**Our Churches Wider Mission Basic Support, Association Dues, and Friends of the Vermont Conference make this communication possible.**

**Donate**

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Connect with us



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

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