



# 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 Winter Edition

April 28th, 2022

## Table of Contents

- |                                |                                       |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1) Message from the Conference | 4) Around the Conference              |
| 2) Latest News                 | 5) Save the Date & Cont. Ed Resources |
| 3) Prayer Concerns             | 6) VTCUCC Classifieds                 |

## Message from the Conference

What a wonderful Annual Meeting we had this past weekend! If you were able to be there, you know how inspiring Rev. Darrell Goodwin from the Southern New England Conference was as we celebrated being an ONA Conference for the past 20 years. He challenged us to be more welcoming and inclusive as ONA churches and as an ONA Conference. We also had a number of great workshops, beautiful videos, and wonderful music from the team at the Guilford church. The closing Communion worship was particularly inspiring, with many of our LGBTQ clergy writing the liturgy and leading us in it. A number of people told me how uplifting and hopeful our whole time together was!

We also at Annual Meeting kicked off the public phase of our Hope Fund fundraising effort, as advance gifts have already totaled over \$50,000 of our \$200,000 goal. We saw on both Friday and Saturday an inspiring video about the difference pilot Hope Fund grants have made for our new church start Love Church, Centre Congregational Church in Brattleboro, and West Dover Congregational Church. This video and a shorter video will be available to all of our churches, as we all are being invited to take a special offering for the Hope Fund on Pentecost Sunday or any other Sunday in June.

Our Annual Meeting took place against the backdrop of the killing of Fern Feather, which reminded all of us of the consistent presence of hate in our midst. And then this week we heard that the Pride Center of Vermont in Burlington was vandalized, with two chunks of concrete thrown through the front glass door. Vermont needs more than ever our witness of being an Open and Affirming Conference, and of truly being welcoming and inclusive of all. May it be so to the glory of God,

Blessings, Paul

## Latest News

# Funding the Future of your Church: Tipplers to Tithers Event



Saturday, May 21st, 2022, From 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Sponsored by the Vermont UCC Conference

Location: TBA

After two years of pandemic, many churches are challenged to fund their ministry and mission. This workshop will give you the tools to plan your future finances.

## Topics will include:

- Latest trends in giving
- How to develop a year-round process of stewardship
- How to customize asking for pledges
- Alternative streams of funding including, capital campaigns, use of buildings, etc.

Each church should bring a Team of a Pastor and at least three lay people.

Every Church will come away with an Action Plan and will receive 6 months of group coaching.

**Cost- \$395/ church**  
**But the first 7 churches get a \$150 discount!!!**

(Email [VermontConference@gmail.com](mailto:VermontConference@gmail.com) for more details)

**REGISTER HERE!!!**

## Annual Meeting 2022

**Please fill out [this](#) survey to help us improve !!!**

**[First Plenary and Keynote](#)**

**[Second Plenary](#)**

**[Third Plenary and Worship](#)**

**[Peacemakers Gathering](#)**



[Recorded Workshops found here!!!](#)

**WEYBRIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
HAS BEEN HONORED AS THE  
**GREEN CONGREGATION OF THE YEAR**

BY

VERMONT INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT!!!

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**



## Richmond Congregational Church Offers Mental Health First Aid for Youth Training

*Part of a National Initiative to Increase Mental Health Literacy*

**Saturday, May 21, 2022**  
**8:30 am to 4:30 pm** (lunch provided)

**Richmond Congregational Church Fellowship Hall**  
(ground floor, side entrance – fully accessible)  
20 Church Street, Richmond

In response to our local (and national) mental health crisis, the Richmond Congregational Church will host Mental Health First Aid for Youth Training for any adult interested in learning how to support the youth in our community. This groundbreaking, skills-based course gives people the tools to identify, understand and respond to youth who might be struggling with a mental health or substance use challenge and connect them with appropriate support and resources.

To register, go to – <https://forms.gle/KYdmNqxZ7RJ7ec3f7>, or contact the church directly: (802) 434-2053, [church@rccucc.org](mailto:church@rccucc.org)

*If you're interested in a future MHFA offering (in-person or online), please let us know.*

To learn more about Mental Health First Aid USA, visit [MHFA.org](https://www.mhfa.org).



## **Summer Lunch Grants Available Again This Year!!!**

It's that time again...time to sit down with your Mission people and think/talk/plan how your church can help hungry kids in the summer months. All schools provide free or reduced priced lunches for qualified children and many also provide breakfast. This provides relief for the families of these children for most of the year. But summer time can be a stressful time on families' resources and many children go hungry. Is your congregation participating in a Summer Lunch Program in your town? If not, then do you want to help feed hungry children in your town in the summer

months?

All of your questions about summer lunch programs should first be directed to The Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger at [www.vtnohunger.org](http://www.vtnohunger.org). The staff members there are working with community and/or church members in most towns in Vermont to establish or maintain/augment summer lunch programs.

Secondly, contact the Vermont Conference, Department of Justice & Witness, Summer Lunch Grant Coordinator Mary Lou DeCosta ([colchsummerlunch@aol.com](mailto:colchsummerlunch@aol.com)) and she will give you advice and recommendations gleaned from 35 Vermont UCC congregations who participate in Summer Lunch Programs. Malletts Bay has begun fundraising by taking a special "Rice Bowl" offering. It seems that there are more people than ever that are in need of nutritious food in the summer. An application form for a summer lunch grant is attached. Forms must be received by May 30th.

**[FIND THE FORM HERE!!!](#)**

## ***Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership***

Support for the spiritual heart of clergy of all denominations

**Class of 2023 – on Zoom – Enrolling Now**

*Are you looking for a new way to live and lead faithfully?*

Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life & Leadership Program addresses the challenges of a life that ideally is centered in God and committed to spiritual practice but is all too quickly overtaken by stress, isolation, burnout and time management issues. Going Deeper provides an opportunity for clergy of all denominations to focus intentionally on the inner work that can foster a transformation of heart and embody a Spirit-led practice of ministry. In the face of administrative and cultural pressures, clergy are invited to “center down,” as Howard Thurman describes, and listen for the Spirit’s guidance in challenging times.

**[Apply Here!](#)**



Stowe Community Church  
members and friends invite you to join us for a  
Service of Installation  
for our pastor,  
The Reverend Daniel Gary Haugh



Sunday, June 12, 2022 at 6:00PM  
Stowe Community Church  
137 Main Street  
Stowe, Vermont  
RSVP to [info@stowechurch.org](mailto:info@stowechurch.org)

We write you with gratitude and sadness to tell you of the passing of Rev. Richard Bingham, 92 who died peacefully with family members at his side at the University of Vermont Medical Center on April 15, 2022.

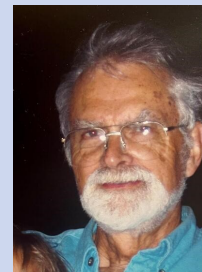
There will be a **memorial service** this **Saturday, April 23rd, at 2:00 PM** at the **College Street Congregational Church in Burlington, VT.**

In lieu of flowers you may give to CIDER (Champlain Islanders Developing Essential Resources) or the UVM Hospice Respite House.

Please keep all of Richard's family, friends, and colleagues in your prayers.

You will find his obituary here:

<https://www.legacy.com/amp/obituaries/batesville/201844232>



**Vermont Interfaith Action**  
*Transforming People and Communities*



**VIA is offering two dates for an initial**



# training for our Prop 2 campaign

## Vermont Interfaith Action voter campaign training

As a follow-up to our Prop 2 presentations about abolishing slavery in the Vermont constitution, no exceptions, VIA will be holding an initial training on Zoom about joining our campaign to pass Prop 2. The same training will be offered on two different days: Wed, May 4 from 7 to 8:30 pm, and Sat, May 7 from 10 to 11:30 am. We will go over the timeline of the campaign, explain tools to organize and turn out voters, and offer practical advice on how to talk with your friends, neighbors and family about Prop 2. To join us, please register:

Wednesday, May 4th, 7 pm to 8:30 pm: <https://bit.ly/WedLeaderTraining>, OR Saturday, May 7th, 10 am to 11:30 am: <https://bit.ly/SatLeaderTraining>.

Any questions? Contact Debbie at [debbie@viavt.org](mailto:debbie@viavt.org) or (802) 310-4625.



## 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 CLINICS** on Sundays April 24 & May 15, 2022

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

**Phone in between 12 and 1pm for an afternoon appointment.**

**A Legal Clinic volunteer will check you in by phone.**

*Due to the volume of calls we may not be able to offer all callers appointments.*

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

**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)



*Do you love children and youth? Do you have good communication and organizational skills? Are you someone with a strong affinity for teamwork and collaboration? Are you craving a supportive work environment?*

The Congregational Church of Middlebury is searching for a part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministries (DCYM).

This new staff member will carry on a rich tradition. Our congregation's

Church School (est. 1815) was one of the first programs of its kind in New England, and it continues to serve and inspire children of all ages.

The DCYM has five main areas of responsibility:

Administer Church School

Engage children, youth, and families in the worship life of the church

Lead Jr. Youth Group (6th-8th grades)

Assist with Sr. Youth Group (9th-12th grades)

Oversee Nursery

We encourage interested applicants to visit our **church website**, <https://www.midducc.org>, to learn more about our children and youth program offerings.

Hours:

30 hours a week on average. Flexible schedule.

6 weeks off in the summer.

Compensation:

Negotiable. Commensurate with professional/life experience.

Projected start date:

The ideal candidate would be available for an initial orientation/training during a few weeks in the month of June, and then transition fully into their role by August 15, 2022.

We will begin reviewing applications on May 1, 2022. Candidates should send a cover letter and resume to Rev. Andy Nagy-Benson: [andy@midducc.org](mailto:andy@midducc.org)



## Youth Minister, Star Island United Church of Christ



The Star Island United Church of Christ (SIUCC) Board of Directors seeks a Youth Minister to lead the Star Gathering Youth Conference during the week of July 31<sup>st</sup>-August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Star Island, off the New Hampshire coast, is home to a retreat center with a faithful community of summer attendees. SIUCC organizes four conferences each year. Star Gathering Youth Conference shares the island with Star Gathering I Family Conference, and others. By way of compensation, SIUCC will provide full room and board, boat transport to and from the island on scheduled days, parking for one car, and a \$1000 stipend.

The Youth Minister will design and implement the program for the Star Gathering Youth Conference. Before the conference, the minister will work with the Youth Committee of the Board in recruiting Youth Program Leaders. In partnership with Family Conference leaders, the Youth Minister creates a program that focuses on **relationship-building, renewal, and spiritual growth** for up to 20 vacationing high school students. On the island, the minister leads worship, works with the Youth Program Leaders to implement the program, and is on-call for pastoral care and youth issues that emerge. They should expect occasional on-call responsibilities during the evenings and night-time hours. The theme of the SIUCC conferences this year is "Nourishment", which the Youth Minister can take in the direction of their choosing (the purpose of the conference is not primarily didactic but rather relationship- and faith-building). The minister is also asked to collaborate with leaders from the family program and island staff to carry forward Star Island traditions as appropriate.

The successful candidate should be:

- Ordained in the United Church of Christ or a related tradition (or MID close to finishing);
- Experienced in youth work, including mission trips and/or other programs *in loco parentis*;
- Able to commit to the entire week;
- Creatively inspired to design or adapt a relationship-building, renewing, and spiritual-growth promoting curriculum for youth.

SIUCC will receive applications immediately, and the search will continue until the appropriate candidate is identified. Applications should include a letter of interest and resume, and can be sent by email to:

Neil Simister, SIUCC Personnel and Nominating Committee

[neil.simister@stargathering.org](mailto:neil.simister@stargathering.org)

Candidates interviewed will be asked to submit references and authorize a background check.

## PRAYER CONCERNS



Please keep the family, friends, and colleagues of Rev. Richard Bingham in your prayers.

All those experiencing war and violence  
All those dealing with illness and pain  
All who are grieving

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## 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) .

## Farewell, Welcome and Blessings

Pastoral Transitions since the 2021 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting  
[For the most up to date information click here](#)

On January 23, 2022 at an Ecclesiastical Council held by the Addison Association Abigail Diehl-Noble was approved for ordination.

On February 6, 2022 at an Ecclesiastical Council held by the Addison Association Andrea (Andi) Lloyd was approved for ordination pending call.

## Celebrate!!

### Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

May 2nd  
\*Gary Lewis\*  
\*Anne Hancock\*

### Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

April 29th  
\*Judith Waible\*

April 30th  
\*Anne Hancock\*

May 1st  
\*Laura Engelken\*

May 2nd  
\*Mark Pitton\*

May 4th  
\*Jackie Lingelbach\*



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



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Save the Date!!!**

The Racial Justice Task Force is meeting this



spring every fourth Wednesday of the month from 5 pm -6 pm via zoom. Mark your calendars! If you are interested in joining the meeting and learning what is happening please email us to register. We invite you to join us in these ongoing efforts to combat racism and make the world a more just place!

April 27th  
May 25th



## **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**

## **VT CONFERENCE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Christian Education:**

**Christian Education Coordinator- United Church of Hinesburg**

**Faith Formation Coordinator- Barre Congregational**

### **Administration & Finance:**

### **Music & Other Lay Ministries:**

**Music Director- North Pomfret Congregational**

**Church Musician- Tunbridge Church**

**Music Director- First Congregational, Burlington**

**Music Director- Charlotte Congregational Church**

# **UCC | NEWS**

**Visibility matters at Texas church and in UCC push for transgender rights**

**Fair Food advocates target Wendy's in a march through Palm Beach**

**'Praising Plate,' now in Indiana, is first chapel item to find a new home**

**Climate summit speakers urge churches to act now — and act like a jazz band**



[For more news click here](#)

## [The Online Learning Platform of the United Church of Christ](#)

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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**

Connect with us



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

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