



The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

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 Fall Edition

September 1st, 2022

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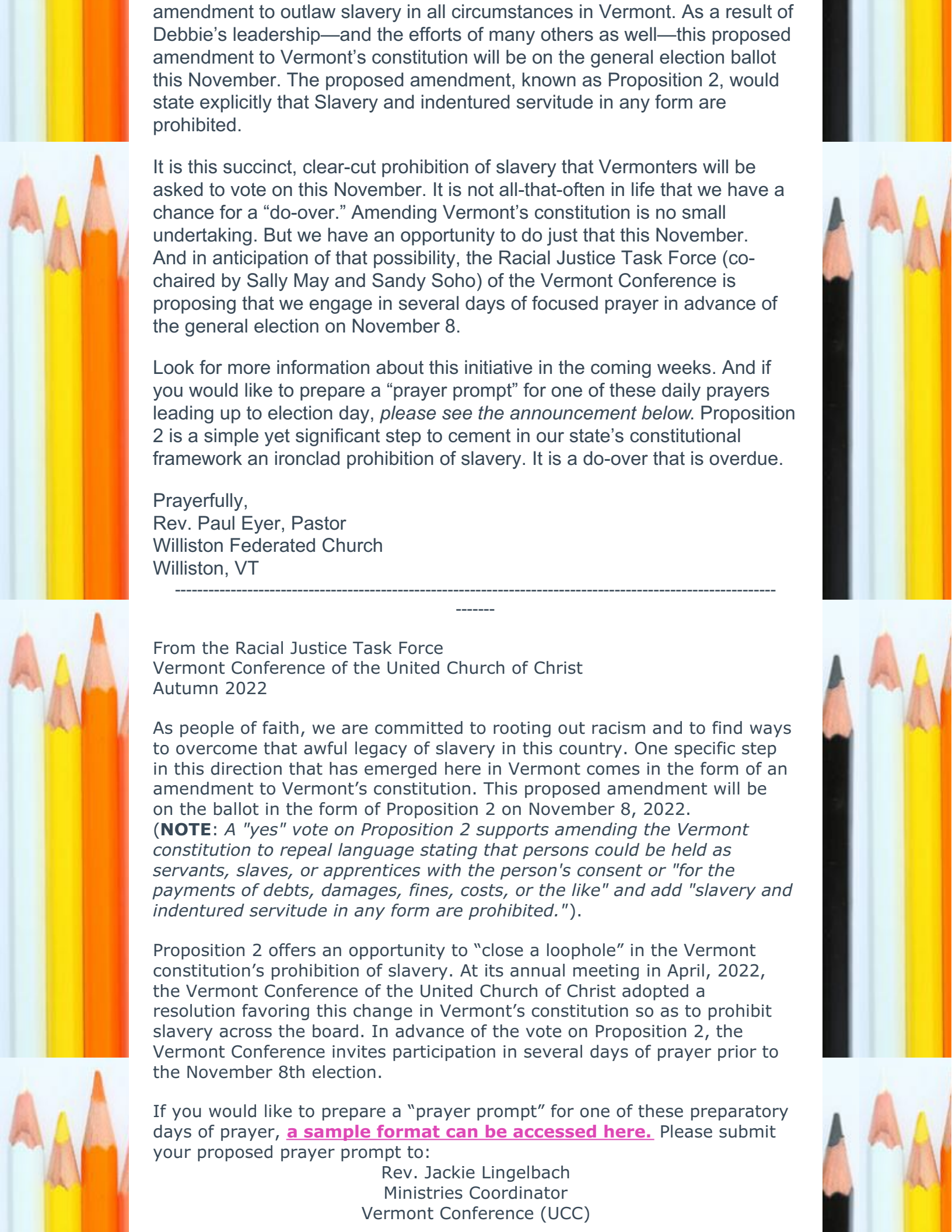
Message from the Conference

Dear Friends,

Have you ever wished you could have a “do-over”? Perhaps it was an email reply sent just a little too hastily. Or maybe it was a sermon that needed just a few more revisions, or perhaps a note to a friend that could have been worded more thoughtfully. I wonder if that is what the original authors of Vermont’s state constitution would feel like if they were alive today. After all, Vermont’s constitution was the first to include language specifically prohibiting slavery, a fact about which many Vermonters are justifiably proud.

But like that email message that needed a little more time, or a sermon that would benefit from an additional revision or two, the Vermont state constitution could stand a bit of improvement. That prohibition on slavery is admirable—it was very forward-thinking, outlawing slavery nearly ninety years before the U.S. constitution would take a similar step at the end of the Civil War. Indeed, Vermont’s constitutional provision was the first on the entire continent to outlaw slavery. But while Vermont’s prohibition against slavery was broad, it was not all-encompassing. The archaic language in the state constitution’s anti-slavery provision includes notable exceptions for minors and debtors. This means, in theory, at least that those in debt and those under age could still be enslaved, according to the Vermont constitution.

Fortunately, leaders in Vermont were eager to close this long-standing loophole. Rev. Debbie Ingram, an ordained UCC minister who was then a state senator, helped lead legislative efforts to enact a constitutional



amendment to outlaw slavery in all circumstances in Vermont. As a result of Debbie's leadership—and the efforts of many others as well—this proposed amendment to Vermont's constitution will be on the general election ballot this November. The proposed amendment, known as Proposition 2, would state explicitly that Slavery and indentured servitude in any form are prohibited.

It is this succinct, clear-cut prohibition of slavery that Vermonters will be asked to vote on this November. It is not all-that-often in life that we have a chance for a “do-over.” Amending Vermont's constitution is no small undertaking. But we have an opportunity to do just that this November. And in anticipation of that possibility, the Racial Justice Task Force (co-chaired by Sally May and Sandy Soho) of the Vermont Conference is proposing that we engage in several days of focused prayer in advance of the general election on November 8.

Look for more information about this initiative in the coming weeks. And if you would like to prepare a “prayer prompt” for one of these daily prayers leading up to election day, *please see the announcement below*. Proposition 2 is a simple yet significant step to cement in our state's constitutional framework an ironclad prohibition of slavery. It is a do-over that is overdue.

Prayerfully,
Rev. Paul Eyer, Pastor
Williston Federated Church
Williston, VT

From the Racial Justice Task Force
Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ
Autumn 2022

As people of faith, we are committed to rooting out racism and to find ways to overcome that awful legacy of slavery in this country. One specific step in this direction that has emerged here in Vermont comes in the form of an amendment to Vermont's constitution. This proposed amendment will be on the ballot in the form of Proposition 2 on November 8, 2022.

(NOTE: *A “yes” vote on Proposition 2 supports amending the Vermont constitution to repeal language stating that persons could be held as servants, slaves, or apprentices with the person's consent or “for the payments of debts, damages, fines, costs, or the like” and add “slavery and indentured servitude in any form are prohibited.”*).

Proposition 2 offers an opportunity to “close a loophole” in the Vermont constitution's prohibition of slavery. At its annual meeting in April, 2022, the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ adopted a resolution favoring this change in Vermont's constitution so as to prohibit slavery across the board. In advance of the vote on Proposition 2, the Vermont Conference invites participation in several days of prayer prior to the November 8th election.

If you would like to prepare a “prayer prompt” for one of these preparatory days of prayer, **[a sample format can be accessed here](#)**. Please submit your proposed prayer prompt to:

Rev. Jackie Lingelbach
Ministries Coordinator
Vermont Conference (UCC)

Latest News

UCC Reproductive Liberty
Task Force

**WEBINAR ON ABORTION
ACCESS AND ACTION
FOR VERMONT**

Presentation by Planned Parenthood
of Northern New England

**THURSDAY
SEPT. 15th**

AT 5:30 PM VIA ZOOM



Overview of abortion care access in VT and
nationally

How did we get here? - brief history

Purpose of Article 22

Misinformation campaigns in VT and nationally

What can we do as individuals and churches?

REGISTER HERE


Save the date of Thursday, September 15 from 5:30-6:30pm for an
informational webinar on Vermont's Article 22 (Prop 5)
and reproductive rights.

The United Church of Christ, Vermont Conference, is hosting a

statewide virtual webinar about the issue of access to abortion care in Vermont and nationally as a result of the Supreme Court Dobbs vs Jackson decision in June, 2022 that overturned abortion access. Also, the webinar will address the November 8 voting on Article 22, the Reproductive Liberty Amendment, that insures reproductive health choice for Vermonters. The speaker will be Lucy LeRiche from Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. This webinar is for all churches and their membership in the UCC and will be recorded for further viewing. For more information, contact Elise Foster - VermontConference@gmail.com

CLERGY CONVOCATION IS HERE!!!

OCTOBER 3rd - 5th
CRAFTSBURY OUTDOOR CENTER!



THE 106TH CLERGY CONVOCATION VERMONT CONFERENCE, UCC

“Finding Joy in Social Justice”

[Register Here!](#)

[Find the Brochure Here!](#)

P.F.L.A.G. End of Summer Cook-out

(Free to all)

Sunday, Sept. 11th from 4:00 - 6 :00 P.M.

(Rain or Shine)

If "shine" at the Dorset Church manse next door to the church, if "rain" in the church vestry and new Upper Room Chapel.



Theme of the Event: "COMING OUT STORIES."

P.F.L.A.G. (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is a national network of support groups for anyone, gay or straight, who are concerned with L.G.B.T.Q. issues and loved ones. We are the only local chapter in our area and just celebrated our 10th anniversary last spring.

All are welcome but reservations are appreciated to have enough food. Call 802-867-2260 to let us know your coming or send an email to dorsetchurch@gmail.com

November Trip to El Salvador



You are invited! Yes, you! Bethany Church, Montpelier, is planning a weeklong trip to El Salvador to visit its rural sister parish—a 30-year relationship—and explore other areas of the country to learn about culture, history, and current issues affecting the lives of Salvadorans. We've been taking trips for three decades and they are ALWAYS

fabulous, opening minds and hearts in unexpected ways. This is not a work trip; it is about visiting friends and making new ones, being present in solidarity with people in their struggles, and learning about issues that touch on our responsibilities as Christians and as U.S. citizens. Past participants include members of churches in Montpelier, East Montpelier, Barre, Berlin, Waterbury, Randolph, Sherburne, Castleton, Thetford, and Brattleboro, which has its own Salvadoran sister parish. We have no firm dates or costs yet; we're trying for the beginning of November and the cost in the past has been around \$1,200, including flights. You probably have many questions, and we can answer them all!

Please contact Theresa Lever now, even if you only have a glimmer of interest. thelevers@comcast.net, 802-498-5019 call or text



Climate Changed

A Podcast from The BTS Center

hosted by Nicole Diroff and Ben Yosua-Davis
produced by Peterson Toscano

Episode 4 featuring Keyana Pardilla, Robin Wall Kimmerer, and Sherri Mitchell is now live! [Click here to listen and subscribe on your favorite podcast platform.](#)

DONUTS AND CIDER

Rally Sunday

SEPTEMBER 18

The United Church of Dorset and East Rupert invites all interested families with children 5-12 years old to join us as we begin a new year of Sunday School

Mark your calendars for our Meet 'n Greet opening session on Sunday, September 18, at 10am when we will share introductions, learn about our upcoming schedule of activities, and celebrate with donuts and apple cider!

Our church leaders are excited to join us with a Time With The Young message to help us celebrate our faith with one another and our church community. We look forward to meeting you!



United Church of Dorset and East Rupert
143 Church Street
Dorset, VT 05251
802.867.2260

The Installation of **Pastor Michael Dwyer** at Pittsford Congregational Church UCC that was celebrated on Sunday, August 14th.

Congratulations!



Installation Service For Pastor Michael F. Dwyer

The members of First Congregational Church of Berlin proudly invite you to join us as we celebrate the Installation of our new pastor,

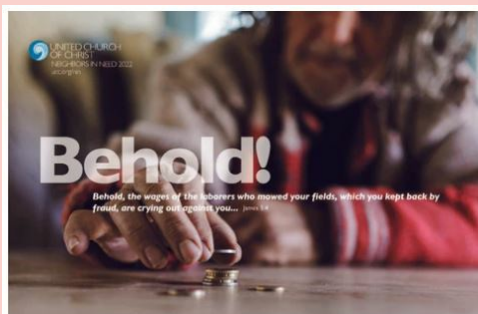
Rev. Alison Andrea Young.

We will celebrate this blessed occasion through worship and with God's Word. Your presence will make this event a memorable experience for Pastor Alison and the congregation.

September 18, 2022 at 3:00 pm
First Congregational Church of Berlin
1808 Scott Hill Rd., Berlin, VT 05602
802-229-0338

Reception will be held immediately following the service.
Clergy are invited to vest in **red**.

Neighbors in Need 2022



In 2022, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" offering focuses on economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households, we wanted to provide a way to discuss this topic through a faith lens.

Join us by promoting this year's NIN "Behold!" campaign at your church.

Explore the **FREE exciting**

promotional toolkit, which contains a four-week bible study, a coloring book, three posters, social media banners, and a leader's guide. These

materials will assist you in planning and carrying out the 2022 NIN campaign. As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Justice and Witness Ministries use two-thirds to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations and support various justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Most churches will collect the offering on October 2nd, 2022, as a part of World Communion Sunday, but contributions can be made at any time.

TO CELEBRATE THE
INSTALLATION
OF
**REV. JULIE
LOMBARD**

SUNDAY
October
16th

TWO THOUSAND
AND TWENTY TWO

3:00 PM

The United
Church of
Northfield

58 S. MAIN ST.,
NORTHFIELD

PLEASE JOIN US

The Waitsfield UCC is blessed to host the artwork of Vermont artist Janet McKenzie - Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays Noon - 4 now through Labor Day Weekend. And yes, the original "Jesus of the People" is

in the house!



Courage, Justice, and Hope

The Inclusive Paintings of Janet McKenzie
August 13–September 4

Children's Ministry Cohort starts in September - Still 5 places left!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
cohort

- four monthly sessions
- topics relevant to your ministry in this current time
- sharing of research, best practices, and new materials

PRC

EXCLUSIVE SERVICE FOR OUR SUBSCRIBERS

For Those New to Children's Ministry - a Cohort

This fall we are offering this opportunity to 15 to 20 people who are New to Children's Ministry. This ecumenical cohort will be a place to learn, vision, and plan together.

The excitement, rigors, and challenges of children's ministries are improved when you have a

cohort to help you along. Here is your opportunity to access current research, best practices, and the new materials you need to help you launch your ministry in today's dynamic context that requires us to be more flexible than ever before. Beginning in September, we will gather once a month for four months on Zoom to examine:

- § first things first: how to successfully launch your ministry
 - § curriculum and resources
 - § classroom management
 - § living the liturgical year

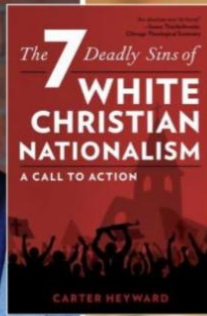
Have questions email elizabeth@prcli.org



Author and Theologian

CARTER HEYWARD

A public conversation
discussing her book
*The 7 Deadly Sins of White
Christian Nationalism*



Wednesday, September 21
4.00 – 5.30pm Eastern • Online



The Seven Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism book event

A conversation with author and theologian Carter Heyward

Co-hosted by the Maine Council of Churches and The BTS Center

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
4:00 pm-5:30 pm (Eastern) • Online

This book event is free, but we are accepting donations to go directly to **Faithful America** as they work to challenge Christian nationalism and white supremacy and to renew the church's prophetic role in building a more free and just society. You will have the opportunity to make a donation on the registration form.

Register Here!

Justice Leadership Program

Fall application deadline September 23rd

Building on the success of the online spring Jubilee cohort, we're excited to be accepting applications for the fall Jubilee cohort that will run from October 2022 to May 2023. All participants from the spring cohort, hailing from five PNW congregations, agreed that the program was instrumental in their growth as justice leaders. Jubilee is an introductory justice course for adults of any age who want to deepen their understanding of justice and learn practical organizing skills. Program participants meet weekly for skill and knowledge building workshops, spiritual reflection, and group discussion and support.

Apply now for Fall 2022

JUSTICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Justice Leadership Jubilee is an online ecumenical program for adults of any age who want to deepen their understanding of justice and learn practical organizing skills with a community of their peers.

The Jubilee program consists of four complementary components:

- Education:** We'll explore the Bible, history, and current events through a lens of justice. You'll learn about the history of the church and its role in society, as well as practical applications and tools for your own community and engagement.
- Learning:** Through self-reflection and group discussion, you'll explore your own beliefs and values, and how they relate to the work of justice. You'll also learn about the history of the church and its role in society, as well as practical applications and tools for your own community and engagement.
- Community Work:** You'll learn about the history of the church and its role in society, as well as practical applications and tools for your own community and engagement.
- Check Engagement:** You'll learn about the history of the church and its role in society, as well as practical applications and tools for your own community and engagement.

Next cohort starts Fall 2022
Apply online today!
justiceleadership.org

www.justiceleadership.org
info@justiceleadership.com

*Jubilee is a booster grant recipient of Volunteer Ministries of the National UCC,
supported by GLOBAL H.O.P.E.*



NEAUCE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

NEAUCE: New England Association of United Church Educators

Request for Faith Innovators –

Panelists/Facilitators for May 4-5 2023

Conference: “Beyond Church Walls: Hearing New Voices”

Panelists will be selected by the members of the NEAUCE Coordinating Committee on the bases of local/regional/demographic applicability, diversity of practice, and contemporary trends in faith formation. This opportunity is open to coordinators of adult ministries, youth/teen ministries, intergenerational ministries, and specialized or professional ministries associated with faith bodies currently in covenant (full, partial, or union/federated churches) with the UCC.

[READ MORE HERE!!!](#)

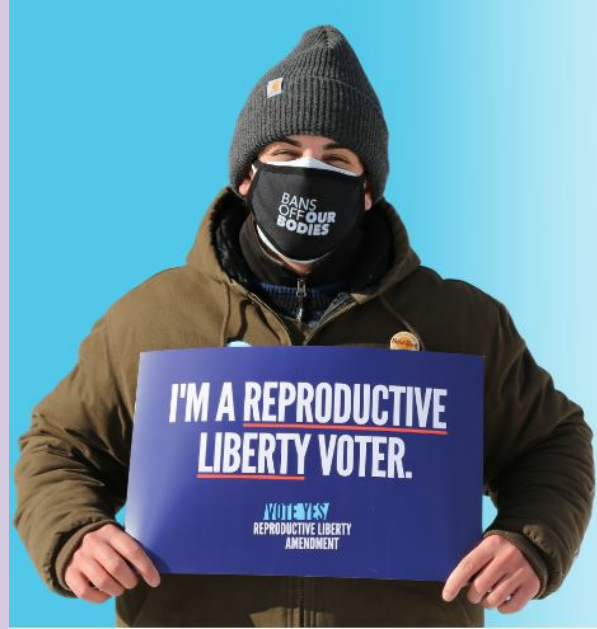
VERMONT'S REPRODUCTIVE LIBERTY AMENDMENT

NO TO YES
REPRODUCTIVE LIBERTY
AMENDMENT

A ballot measure amending Vermont's constitution to protect every person's right to make their own reproductive decisions.

The Reproductive Liberty Amendment, previously Prop 5, will be a ballot measure in Vermont's 2022 General Election. If passed, it would amend Vermont's constitution to protect every person's right to make their own reproductive decisions, like whether and when to become pregnant, use

temporary or permanent birth control, or seek abortion care.



[Read More HERE](#)

PRAYER CONCERNS



Please Keep Rev. Katherine Buechner Arthud and family in your prayers. Katherine's father Fred Buechner, died two weeks ago and she lost her mother this week.

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!)

Farewell, Welcome and Blessings

Pastoral Transitions since the 2021 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting

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

Paul Speaks on the Channel 3 News!!

Religious leaders speak out on Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision



By Cam Smith

[Click here to watch!!!](#)

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



News from The BTS Center!

[Religion News Service](#), an independent, nonprofit, award-winning source of global news on religion, spirituality, culture, and ethics, just published an article on The BTS Center written by journalist Marika Proctor. We are proud of the work we are doing and pleased that it's being recognized by an ever-widening audience.

[PRC - Practical Resources for Churches](#)
Everyone Has a Calling - Ours Is Helping You!

My Summer Vacation, Thinking

July is the beginning of our fiscal year a perfect time to think about new ideas and programs.

Lately I've thinking about small churches. What is the difference between a small church that is stable and a small church that going to close in a few years. How do we work with churches in each category?

Lucky for me other people have already thought about this. I remembered that we had done a webinar on this a number of years ago. Here is a link to the recording **Small Church Checkup: Assessing Your Church's Health and Creating a Treatment Plan** Leader: Kay Kotan



[Read more about subscriptions HERE!](#)

Celebrate!!

Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

September 2nd
Alden Launer
Judith Waible

September 6th
Amelia Pitton
Margaret Wright

September 8th
Wayne Holsman

September 10th
Robert Moyer

September 11th
Marjorie MacNeill

September 16th
Paul Sangree

September 17th
Kathy Clark

September 18th
Laura Engelken

September 22nd
Susan Webster-Toleno

September 23rd
Jane LoBrutto

September 24th
Daniel Cooperrider
Gail Dimick

September 27th
Benjamin Thurber

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

September 1st
Karen Lipinczyk

September 17th
Gary Lewis

September 18th
Sally May

September 22nd
Barbara Purinton

September 23rd
Evelyn Coupe

September 24th
Mary Simpson Thompson

September 26th
Sandra Daly

September 27th
James MacIntyre

September 28th
John Weatherhogg
Tracy Weatherhogg



VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS



Stowe Community Church
Director of Youth Ministry Job Description

MINISTRY DESCRIPTION: The Director of Youth Ministry is responsible for developing and delivering a comprehensive program of Christian Education for youth (6th-12th grades). It is important that the Director inspires and excites the youth of SCC to learn and study the faith by communicating and demonstrating a personal passion for Jesus Christ.

[Read more \(including how to apply!\) HERE!](#)



**UNITED CHURCH
OF HINESBURG**

The Pastoral Assistant will be directly responsible to the pastor as a facilitator of the congregational ministry programs and communications. The Pastoral Assistant will coordinate and/or support work in the following areas: Christian Education (children and family faith formation, Adult small groups), Missions & Social Justice, and other areas of programming and communication as needed.

[Read more HERE!](#)

VCC Seeking a Church Musician!!!!

The Vergennes Congregational Church, United Church Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation of 135 members that is seeking a Church Musician. We are a vibrant, Christian community—full of life, music, and laughter. We have a long history of deeply appreciating the gifts of our staff in supporting an inclusive, loving, and compassionate ministry in the heart of our small city. We seek a skilled musician that is comfortable with the classics and new pieces that grow our appreciation of the diverse ways to worship God through music. The successful applicant will be a team player, eager to collaborate with other musicians inside and outside of our community to enrich our music ministry.



[Read More Here!!](#)

We are hiring.

If you have a passion for young people, outdoor recreation and building a community of faith, we should talk!

Stowe Community Church is seeking a Director of Youth Ministry who is ready to build on a solid foundation and bring new life to the growing ministries of SOC. Experience in education or leading a youth-based program is preferred, but a love of Christ and passion for our youth group is a must. Duties include developing an inspiring and engaging ministry for students 6th grades and up; including curriculum, programs, music and maybe a trip to the mountain every once in a while.

Any interested applicants should send a resume or a letter of interest to Marylou Durett at info@stowechurch.org. The position is available for the right person to start immediately.

NURSERY

COORDINATOR NEEDED

Stowe Community Church is seeking a Nursery Coordinator, teen or adult, who will provide a dependable, safe, nurturing environment to infants and toddlers, ages three and under. Duties include being silly, giving big hugs, reading stories, cuddling and a diaper change or two.

Any interested applicants should send a resume or a letter of interest to Marylou Durett at info@stowechurch.org. The position is available for the right person to start immediately.

It takes a big heart to help shape little minds and we believe the nursery is the most important room in the Church building. Please help to keep this very important ministry growing!!

VT CONFERENCE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Christian Education:

Faith Formation Coordinator- Barre Congregational

Administration & Finance:

Music & Other Lay Ministries:

Music Director- North Pomfret Congregational

Church Musician- Tunbridge Church

Music Director- Charlotte Congregational Church

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



SAVE THE DATE!

The Church in a Post-Pandemic World

Join us as we envision what a vibrant, healthy church looks like as it emerges from the pandemic.

[Learn More and Register Here!!!](#)

UCC SUMMIT

THE CHURCH IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

Join us as we envision what a vibrant, healthy church looks like as it emerges from the pandemic.

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2022
ONLINE - AND IN ST. LOUIS, MO



GREENSBORO UCC READ WITH US 2022!

Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery

by Mark Charles & Soong-Chan Rah

Discussion on Thursdays
July 14- August 4 at 10:30 am
in Fellowship Hall

Learning to Walk in the Dark

by Barbara Brown Taylor

Discussion on
Thursdays
October 6- October 27
at 7 pm in Fellowship
Hall



Sign Up and Join Us! Email greensborochurch@gmail.com



The PATHWAYS Theological Education Board of Directors invites all questioning, curious people of faith to join us for our 6-week courses beginning Fall I (mid-August) and Fall II (beginning late September) ([see website for details and registration links](#)). The 12-week UCC Polity course runs three times a year beginning September 7, January 11 and May 17.

Enroll now at [PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc.](#)

It can be very difficult for people to pick up their lives and go to seminary these days, especially if they're just beginning to sense a call. [PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc.](#), offers people the opportunity to start at the beginning of the education journey for substantially less money and time investment per course than seminary courses.

In six weeks, participants can learn basic theological principles of Progressive Christianity or encounter the lives of important figures in Christian history, from their own computers on their weekly schedule in the comfort of their own homes. They'll work with participants from all over the country and skilled facilitators with expertise and passion for the subject matter.

For \$325 per 6-week course, PATHWAYS is affordable, flexible, and convenient—and PATHWAYS courses are designed to help participants build confidence and competence each step of the way. The 12-week UCC Polity course is a bargain at \$625.

PATHWAYS Website Addresses:

Website: <https://www.pathwaystheological.org/>

Course Calendar: <https://www.pathwaystheological.org/calendar/>

Our Stories: <https://www.pathwaystheological.org/our-stories/>

UCC | NEWS

For the latest [news click here](#)

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

How to Contact Vermont Conference Staff

Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak lbvtc@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 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/>

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"