



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 Winter Edition

April 27th, 2023

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Message from the Conference

Dear Friends,

The 2019 Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference marked the last time an Annual Meeting took place in-person before the pandemic hit. That Annual Meeting also marked the first time our then-newly-called Associate Conference Minister Paul Sangree could join us and get to meet all of you! Our guest presenter that year was Rob Voyle, who spoke to us about Appreciative Inquiry. He challenged us in a gentle way to see what it is that God is calling us to do, either on our own or as part of a group.

At that time, none of us could have imagined what God would be calling us to do in the years that followed! But in the midst of the global tragedy resulting from COVID-19, some amazing things have happened. The movement of churches to find creative and new technological ways to stay connected and to care for one another has been inspiring. That isn't to say it hasn't been challenging--and it is certainly still an on-going process. But in the spirit of Appreciative Inquiry I am mindful of all that our folks have done to try to meet the needs of those in our communities during difficult times.

After that Annual Meeting back in 2019, Paul Sangree wrote that he was particularly moved by the following prayer, offered at the Friday night worship service, from "Gates of Remembrance":

"We cannot pray to You, O God, to banish war, for you have filled the world with paths to peace, if only we would take them. We cannot pray to You to end starvation for there is food enough for all, if only we would share it. We cannot merely pray for prejudice to cease, for we might see the good in all that lies before our eyes, if only we would use



them. We cannot merely pray 'Root out Despair', for the spark of hope already waits within the human heart, for us to fan it into flame. We must not ask of You, O God, to take the task that You have given us. We cannot shirk, we cannot flee away, avoiding obligation for ever. Therefore we pray, O God, for wisdom and will, for courage to do and to become, not only to look on with helpless yearning as though we had no strength."

As we gather again at Annual Meeting--whether in-person or online, may our hearts be filled with God's strength to see where God is calling us anew!

Peace,
Jackie

Latest News



What are people saying about BLM Choral Workshop in Guilford last Saturday?

"My heart is blown open by the reflections of the composers and how they deepened my relationship to their songs."

"Music is a universal language of all peoples."

"Emotional food for deep thought."

"There's so much love in the world. Let love prevail, not hatred."

**JOIN US At MALLETT'S BAY
on Saturday, MAY 13, 9am- 4 pm**

**Click here to register for Malletts
Bay**



QUESTIONS?
lingelbachj@vtucc.org

**Black
Lives
Matter
Commissioning
Project
Workshop
-Celebrating
Black
Composers-**

The workshop will be presented at two locations from 9:00 am -4:00 pm :

April 15, 2023
Guilford Community Church
38 Church Dr.
Guilford, VT 05301

May 13, 2023
Malletts Bay UCC
1672 W. Lakeshore Dr.
Colchester, VT 05446

Do you lead a choral group, choir, or do you simply love to sing? Join us for a workshop celebrating black composers this Spring.

The Racial Justice Task Force of the Vermont UCC is hosting two workshops featuring new choral music by contemporary black composers commissioned by the BLM Commissioning Project.



Renowned choral leader Kathy Bullock, Professor Emerita of Music from Berea College will lead the workshops, introducing the eight award-winning songs from black composers and teaching selected songs over the course of the day. In addition, she will host a panel discussion of the issue of appropriation of black music.

For more information on the Black Lives Matter Commissioning Project: <https://blmcommissioning.com/>

Funding Our Future by Paul Nickerson

Has your stewardship gone flat? Is your church dealing with financial issues? Make sure you don't miss this!

\$499.00

Saturday, May 20th from 9am -1pm on Zoom



THE FIRST FIVE CHURCHES TO REGISTER ONLY PAY \$300! (Use code FIRSTFIVE)

Register for Funding Our Future [HERE!](#)



Dorset Church Rummage Sale

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE most fabulous shopping experience of the spring season which will take place in Dorset on **April 29, 2023** when the Dorset Church holds its **Spring Rummage Sale** from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Outside sales begin at 8:30 a.m. There will be no **EARLY-BIRD SHOPPING!!**

The bag sale will take place from 12:00 Noon-1:00 PM.

If you've shopped with us before, you'll remember that a few years ago we did some reorganizing which was a big hit and we want you to come to make it an even bigger hit!!! We will continue to have all of our **Babies' and Children's items** outside as well as **Linens and Crafts, Books**, and our "This and That" tent which will offer household

appliances, pet equipment, small furniture and many unusual treasures. **All of these tents will be open for shopping at 8:30 a.m.**

The **Inside** of the church will be overflowing with clothing and household items at reasonable prices. There will be Men's and Women's clothing and shoes, Ladies Boutique, Jewelry and Accessories, Attic Treasures, and Housewares. Men's and Women's Sweaters and Jeans will be inside with other clothing.

Spring and Summer clothing in good condition, jewelry, women's accessories, shoes, linens, kitchen and household items, toys, tools, sports gear, plants, garden equipment, small appliances and books will be accepted. Other items not listed are also accepted. **Please bring only items in good condition and be sure that everything is in working order!!**

We may accept by approval some larger items. Please contact Sandi at sandihedman@yahoo.com at 362-1459 or Ellen at ellen5150@gmail.com or 362-3610 to discuss the item or if you have any questions about donations.

We are sorry but we **cannot accept:** children's car seats, encyclopedias, large furniture or any items with mold.

Donations will be accepted from Monday, April 24th through Wednesday, April 26th, from 9 a.m. til 7 p.m., and Thursday, April 27th until noon. Please note, we cannot accept donations after noon on Thursday.

The church is located at 143 Church Street, off Route 30 in Dorset. Call 867-2260 with questions or for more information.

Do you or your church want to apply for a Hope Fund grant?

HOPE FUND FOR THE FUTURE



**"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see"
(Hebrews 11:1)**

You can now find the application online [HERE](#) or by clicking the link above!

Please help us thank the wonderful Discernment Team members who helped make this application happen! Those team members are:
Rev. Paul Sangree (Associate Minister, Vermont Conference),
Rev. Dan Haugh (Stowe Community Church),
Rev. Mary Hoadley (Brownington Congregational Church),
Rev. Jessica Moore (First Congregational, St. Albans),
Rev. Lava Mueller (Love Church, Randolph),
Rev. Paul Eyer (Williston Federated Church),
Rev. Caryne Eskridge (Weybridge Congregational Church)

Please send all completed applications to VermontConference@gmail.com.

PRAYER CONCERNS

The Rev. David J. Dean, Pastor Emeritus of Grace Congregational Church in Rutland. Rev. Dean died Palm Sunday April 2, 2023 in Pilgrim Manor, Cromwell, CT.

A Memorial Services will be held Saturday June 10, 2023 at 2 pm at Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, Rutland, VT. and on Saturday May 6, 2023 at



1 pm in the Event Center of Cromwell. CT.

Rev. Dean's obituary can be read here:

[Click here for obituary](#)

Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, 8 Court St., Rutland Vermont 05701, or the Benevolence Fund of Covenant Living Of Cromwell, 52 Missionary Rd., Cromwell. CT 06416. Tossing Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.



PATHWAYS THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc. is a 501c3 program that grew from a program of the Southeast Conference UCC. It remains affiliated with the Southeast Conference. The program offers a full menu of courses for those seeking authorized ministry, for those wanting continuing education, and for those looking for a progressive theology, ethics, or practical church course. The courses are asynchronous, geographically unbound, affordable, and aligned with the UCC Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers. Please be in touch with any questions. You may apply online at pathwaystheological.org.

Six-Week Course Schedule through the Early Fall 2023

Summer I: Courses Begin May 17, 2023

- **TH10608 Ethics and a Life of Meaning** (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun 27)
- **BF20604 New Testament Hermeneutics** (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun 27)
- **MP20611 Preaching for Special Occasions** (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun 27)
- **HT21206 UCC History & Polity** (12-weeks) (May 17 – Aug 8)
- **TH30608 Theology of Gender and Sexuality** (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun27)
- **MP10607 Faith Formation (Children, Youth, Adults)** (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun27)
- **MP20601 Introduction to Spiritual Health** (Pastoral Care) (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun27)

Summer II: Courses Begin July 5, 2023

- **HT10608 Pluralism and Religion in North America** (6-weeks) (July 5-Aug 15)
- **TH10610 Living the Heart of Progressive Christian Theology** (6-weeks) (July 5- Aug 15)
- **BF20602 Old Testament Hermeneutics** (6-weeks) (July 5- Aug 15)
- **MP30601 Congregational Ministry and the Future Church** (6-weeks) (July 5-Aug 15)
- **MP30604 Contemporary Homiletics** (6-weeks) (July 5- Aug15)

Fall I: Courses Begin August 21, 2023

- **TH10603 Variety of Belief within Christianity Today** (6-weeks) (Aug 21-Sept30)
- **MP10605 Spiritual Care of Self and Others** (6-weeks) (Aug 21 – Sept 30)
- **MP20603 Small Church Administration** (6-weeks) (Aug 21 – Sept 30)
- **TH30607 Contextual Theology** (6-weeks) (Aug21 – Sept 30)
- **HT21206 UCC History & Polity** (12-weeks) (Sept 6 – Dec 5)

Supervised Ministry Program

PATHWAYS offers a six-course series in Supervised Ministry. The participant finds a ministry site and supervisor. The supervisor oversees the participant's internship as the participant takes the facilitated asynchronous online courses. There is a four-week introduction to supervised ministry followed by six 9-week courses. The titles and schedule of courses are listed below:

Supervised Ministry 2023-2024 Schedule

Intro to Supervised Ministry (June 3- June30, 2023)

Supervised Ministry I Entering a Place of Ministry (July 10 - Sept 17, 2023)

Supervised Ministry II The Transformative Context of Pastoral Care (Oct 2 – Dec 17, 2023)

Supervised Ministry III The Practice of Worship Leadership (Jan 8 - Mar 10, 2024)

Supervised Ministry IV Faith Formation in the Parish (April 8- June 9, 2024)

Supervised Ministry V Leadership in the Midst of Change (July 8 - Sept 15, 2024)

Supervised Ministry VI Leaving a Place of Ministry (Oct 1 - Dec 17, 2024)

ACPE-certified Community-Centered Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

PATHWAYS will offer a 24-week ACPE-certified CPE course in the Fall 2023.

Applications are due by mid-August for a November 2023 course. The course originates with the Sankofa CPE Center but you apply through PATHWAYS. From the website: "Learners can choose diverse learning settings including social justice/activism venues to meet their clinical hours. Digital ministry can also be a focus including tele-chaplaincy and online worship. This 24 week program.

NEAUCE 2023

"Beyond Church Walls:
Hearing New Voices"

May 4 - 6 (Th, F, S)

Pilgrim Pines
Swansey, NH

SAVE
THE
DATE

PRC - Practical Resources for Churches

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

Celebrating Pentecost with Children

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

1:00 - 2:00 PM EDT

Leaders - Elizabeth Christie, Rebekah McLeod Hutto, Juniper LaNunziata

Join us for fun and meaningful ways to help children connect with Pentecost. We'll have ideas for worship, education, and home.

Becoming a Mental Health WISE Congregation

Thursday, May 4, 2023

2:00 - 3:00 PM EDT

Leader - Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund

A WISE congregation has joined the mission to being Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged in the Mental Health of the community and the wider world.

A Common Sense Guide to the Enneagram for Youth Ministry

Thursday, May 11, 2023

2:00 - 3:00 PM EDT

Leader - Beth Mueller

Learn how "A Common Sense Guide to the Enneagram for Youth Ministry" can help you - as an adult working with young people—understand yourself as a leader and cultivate a broader awareness of the motivations and obstacles of others. Drawing upon her decades of experience with the Enneagram and ministry with young people, Beth Mueller will help you see how this book can be a tool for better ministry and relationships. A Common Sense Guide to the Enneagram for Youth Ministry also introduces the Intimacy Triads, developed by Beth to help us better understand our intimate relationships with God and each other.

Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry

You are Invited to the 2023 Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry event at Princeton Theological Seminary. This year's theme is "A Time to Heal: Trauma and Grace in Youth Ministry." We think that the Forum is a unique opportunity for youth ministry leaders who crave a community of peers seeking to be transformed through theological reflection that meets practical application in ministry with young people.

[Download a flyer](#)

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!)

Justice Witness Ministries

Your conference has a robust group of social justice-minded folks working together on several issues. Here's an update on our activities:

Justice "Road Show"

We're putting together a 90-minute workshop to share current activities and brainstorm ideas around racial, reproductive, and environmental justice, global mission, and gun safety. This workshop will involve videos, discussion, and hands-on activities to get folks excited about our UCC witness to justice in the world!

This "Road Show" will be piloted as a Workshop at Annual Meeting (April 28-29) and will be available to be presented at Association Meetings. Please contact Debbie Ingram at debbie@viavt.org if you would like to feature it as the program at your next Association gathering.

Racial Justice

Our VTCUCC Task Force is sponsoring two workshops in which church choirs and community choruses can learn spiritual music by black composers, to honor them and give them the recognition these composers deserve and have been unfairly denied for decades. The southern workshop is in Guilford on April 15 and the northern one is in Mallett's Bay on May 13. Contact the Conference office for more information.

Also, Vermont Interfaith Action is looking for congregations that would like to help in their towns advance racial justice initiatives around the Declaration of Inclusion, a statement your Selectboard can sign onto to make your town more hospitable and welcoming to all, and a

Community Engagement Guide with Local Police, to build a meaningful relationship with your police department around racial equity and true public safety for all. If you would like to know more, please contact Debbie at debbie@viavt.org.

Gun safety

The issue of gun safety is important to the VTCUCC, but we need a point person to help us stay connected with the efforts of other groups. If you would like to be that person, please let us know by contacting Debbie at debbie@viavt.org.

Global mission

Did you know that Rev. Kim McKerley is our Conference's liaison to the national setting's Global Mission? She can help your church connect with visiting Mission Co-Workers to speak at an event, or help your church plan a pilgrimage to another country, and so much more! Contact kmbethanyucc@gmail.com to find out more.

Our JWM group meets regularly the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm for an hour. If you are interested in joining us, let Debbie know at debbie@viavt.org. As people of faith, let us "do justice" together!



The **Justice & Witness Ministries Team** is looking for full sets of Tinker Toys. If you have a set you are not using or would like to donate for us to use at our Annual Meeting Workshop and at presentations offered through your Association, please contact Rev. Sally May at revsallymbucc@gmail.com or Sally Kruschnek at smwkersch@comcast.net.

You can order send them to Justice & Witness Ministries directly
from their

[Amazon wish list here.](#)



[Happy Birthday to our Clergy!](#)

[April 6th](#)
Robert C. Hamm
Rona Kinsley

[April 9th](#)
Christine S. Boardman

[April 12th](#)
Cynthia Jane Batten

[April 13th](#)
Sandra Lee Daly

[April 15th](#)
Elizabeth H. Fisher

[April 16th](#)
Lynn Bujnak

[April 19th](#)
Kim Larose

[April 21st](#)
Rameen Zahed

[April 23rd](#)
Ezra Chapola

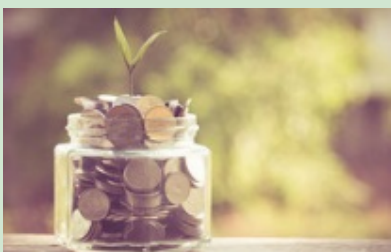
[April 27th](#)
Mark Blank

[Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!](#)

[April 14th](#)
Laurie Krooss
Robin Junker-Boyce

[April 29th](#)
Judith Waible

[April 30th](#)
Anne Hancock



[Financial Seminars in West Dover!](#)

If your church is anything like ours, you probably have a good number of folks over 55 which in some circles qualifies them as “seniors”. After hearing some scary stories of friends who experienced a loss of their spouse and had little or no knowledge

about their finances, the **Loose Knit Group (LKG)** of the West Dover Congregational Church came up with an idea to help our members be more prepared for such an event. Thus, Financial Seminars were established. One of our church members was a financial services professional who agreed to help us understand financial planning for the future. He presented his thoughts on how to be “Money Wise”, including budgeting, why to plan financially, the first important steps and how to begin. In addition, he discussed how to protect one’s income, retirement and other topics. Scott then arranged for a local attorney to share his knowledge about wills and trusts. A second session with the attorney is scheduled for March. We hope that this information will prove to be helpful to our members.

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!](#)

Vergennes is seeking a Sunday School Coordinator!!!

The Congregational Church of Vergennes, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation of 135 members seeking a Sunday School Coordinator. 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 little city.

The pay rate is \$25 per hour, and the hours range from 8 to 15 hours per week depending upon applicant interest. We seek a person of faith with experience working with children, who will direct a program of stimulating and nourishing faith formation. If this sounds like the way you want to make a big impact in our community, please contact Rev. Elliott Munn at elliott@vergenesucc.org.

For more information, including the Job Description, please go to the church's website:

<https://www.vergenesucc.org/ccfmsearch>

The Waitsfield United Church of Christ in Waitsfield, Vermont, an Open and Affirming church, is seeking a MUSIC DIRECTOR AND ACCOMPANIST to join our church ministry. We are seeking one person to fill both roles or two people to fill the two roles individually. This person should possess strong interpersonal skills, keeping lines of communication open between the choir and the pastor, and build and maintain relationships in the church.

[READ MORE HERE!!!](#)



Middle School Ministries Coordinator:
First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington Vermont is looking for a team player ready to work with youth in a great location – Burlington, Vermont! The person hired for this new part-time position will work with our great team to oversee

programs and service-learning opportunities, facilitating the spiritual development of youth (6th-12th grade). You'll work with middle school youth on Sunday mornings at FirstChurchBTV and with our collaborative youth program (youth in grades 6 thru 12 from both the College Street Church and FirstChurchBTV) one evening per week and periodically on weekends. Learn more about this opportunity

here: <https://bit.ly/middleschoolcoordinator> Approx. 6 hours per week - \$20/hour.

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR POSITION - available Summer 2023
Second Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Londonderry, Vermont
(About 45 minutes from Rutland, Bennington and Brattleboro)

We: are a faithful, music-loving congregation that seeks an enthusiastic, creative organist and choir director. We have a beautiful Essex upright piano and a new (2017) Rodgers Classic and Artist series windless 2-Manual (559) organ.

Our Church: Our weekly attendance averages 45; official church membership is 83. Our commitment to music is long standing. The choir – while small! - is energetic and enthusiastic. On any given Sunday the choir may be as small as a soloist or up to six people, with a mix of parts and singing experience.

You: We are looking for someone who is energetic and flexible. Experience as a church musician would be great but is not required. We will consider a pianist who does not have organ experience, and we will pay for short term organ lessons.

Musical requirements: Play gathering music before worship service and a postlude at end. During the worship service: accompany 3 hymns, play the Doxology, Gloria Patri, Introit, Call to Prayer, and offertory. Accompany anthem (sung by soloist, small ensemble or choir). Also play for two special services during the year (Christmas Eve and a Holy Week service).

Weekly Schedule: Warm up and choir rehearsal (if needed) 8:30 AM-9:15 AM; Worship 9:30AM-10:30 AM; (coffee hour/snack 10:30 AM-11:00 AM); Choir rehearsal for the next week and beyond (generally) 11:00 AM-12:00 Noon.
Salary: \$9,000-\$9500 (depending on experience), which includes 6 paid Sundays off, where the church finds the substitutes.

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:

Administration & Finance:

Music & Other Lay Ministries:

Music Director- North Pomfret Congregational

Church Musician- Tunbridge Church



SAVE THE DATE!

Not-Your-Average Boundaries Training

LeaderWise's online boundaries training workshop is lively and interactive, full of reflection and conversation. Attendees have given us feedback that our boundaries training was a great experience, AND caused them to re-evaluate some of their own practices.



The following Boundaries Training sessions are scheduled for 2023:

- May 22 & 23 from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm Central
- August 22 & 23 from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm Central

· October 11 & 12 from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm Central

[Read more HERE!](#)

UCC | NEWS

For the latest [news click here](#)

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



[**Click here to update your contact information!!!**](#)

How to Contact Vermont Conference Staff

Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak llbvtc@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 vtfinanceucc@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/>
