



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

January 25th, 2024

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Dear Beloved Community in the
Vermont Conference,

When I worked for the national setting of the UCC, I had responsibility in the area of ministerial vocation and formation. I worked with seminarians and with seminaries and other theological training programs. It was rewarding work and I learned a great deal about the diversity of needs for ministerial leaders, especially as I worked with the theological education program in Hawaii and the one begun by the Council of American Indian Ministries. The way a pastoral leader is recognized and what training and education is needed for the unique ways churches in a variety of settings and cultures are church together expanded my own understanding and approach to ministry.



One project I coordinated was raising awareness in our congregations to look for those who may be gifted and called to be pastors. "Ask the Question" was simply that - identifying persons who exhibit the qualities needed in pastors and speaking up! Ask them if they have thought about being called to be a pastor and tell them what you see in them.

In these days when many of our churches are no longer able to maintain a full or even part-time pastor coupled with less people going to seminary and pastors who are retiring or shifting out of pastoral ministry, it has become a crucial time for all of us to "Ask the Question." By September, the joint program we will be sharing with the New Hampshire Conference called the Ministry Preparation Program will launch. This program is designed to meet several needs for church leadership. There will be education and preparation for licensed pastors for our small churches, training for lay leaders in those churches and opportunities to keep building skills and knowledge through ongoing education and seminars. For more information, you can talk with our Vermont Conference Dean, Susie Webster-Toleno (susiewt@gmail.com).

God has a future for God's church. It may very well look and live its faith in different ways than it does now. There will always be a need for gifted leaders, lay and authorized (ordained and licensed). Please consider Asking the Question, maybe even of yourself!

In hope and peace,
Lynn

Latest News

Transformational and Compassion Resiliency: A Toolkit for Preventing Burnout in Work and Ministry

Description

This class invites participants to recognize the signs and symptoms of compassion fatigue and burnout and how it impacts their work and personal life. More importantly, this course offers effective self-care strategies for promoting compassion resiliency.

Key Content Areas Will Include

- Understanding the Impacts of the Work we do: Cumulative Stress, Collective Trauma and Burnout
- Introducing The 4 Phases of Erosion
- Expanding our Personal Resiliency Portfolio
- Exploring Post Traumatic Growth
- What is Self-Care Resistance?
- Growing as A Resiliency Aware Agency

This training is being provided by The New England Disaster Chaplaincy Association and The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services. There is no cost to participate but we ask that you register before-hand.

Please share this with anyone who may be interested.

Registration Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/MgzstjrHUu>

Training Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5085664590>

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 TH
2:00PM - 3:00PM.

Dear Vermont clergy and church leaders,
I encourage you to take this class from NEDCA – the New England Disaster Chaplaincy Association. As we approach the 6-month mark after the July 2023 flooding, feelings of fatigue and burnout can manifest among both survivors and caregivers. This class is focused on identifying and providing self-care strategies.

One of the co-founders is Rev. Fred Meade a UCC minister who has done disaster response since he was a pastor in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. He serves on the UCC's Emotional and Spiritual Care in Times of Disaster team.

As your communities continue to recover from the recent floods and severe storms, please don't neglect our emotional and spiritual care,

either. If I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me – pastor.greg.briggs@gmail.com

As a reminder, the "Light Our Way: A Guide for Spiritual Care in Times of Disaster" that was distributed at the Clergy Convocation discusses both long-term spiritual care and self-care for caregivers. If you didn't get a copy, please contact the conference office for a copy.

Greg Briggs

VT Conference Disaster Coordinator and E.S.C.T. member

FROM EXODUS TO JESUS AND BEYOND

Progressive Christianity,
Social Justice, and the Bible

AN ONLINE LENTEN SERIES

Ground yourself in this five-part series exploring the lessons and values of our faith tradition that can, sometimes surprisingly, inform our work to build a better world.


JUSTICE
LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 20, 27, MARCH 5, 12, 19

4:00 - 6:00PM PST

[JUSTICELEADERSHIP.ORG/EVENTS](https://justiceleadership.org/events)

From Exodus to Jesus and Beyond:
A Lenten Series Workshop on Progressive Christianity, Social
Justice, and the Bible

There is an amazing and often hidden alternative understanding of what it means to be Christian. From Exodus to Jesus and beyond, the Bible offers an ancient, enduring, and surprisingly relevant story about people living in the light of the love of God. This five-part online workshop series will explore how the lessons and values of our faith can inform our work to build a better world.

Register and find more info [here](#).

This workshop meets online via Zoom on five Tuesdays during Lent at 4:00
- 6:00pm PST.

We ask that participants attend in person but recordings will be available
for registrants in the event of illness or unavoidable conflict.

\$75 per person for all 5 workshops. Group discounts available for groups
over 8 people.

This workshop is led by Rev. Rich Gamble who has hands-on experience in
leading congregations and a variety of social justice campaigns.

FACEBOOK

POST: <https://www.facebook.com/JusticeLeadershipProgram/posts/681181504097818>

INSTAGRAM POST: <https://www.instagram.com/p/C2NyzrBykNU/?igsh=Mmp6aWhwN3BnZmh1>

*Installation of
Rev. Amanda Swoyer*



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME CELEBRATE
THE COVENANT BETWEEN REV. SWOYER &
THE WEST LEBANON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023
2:00 PM**

**A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW
(THERE WILL BE NO 10:00 AM SERVICE)**

West Lebanon Congregational Church
18 Maple Street, West Lebanon 03784
603-298-8096

West Lebanon Congregational Church is pleased to announce that we'll be having the Installation of Rev. Amanda Swoyer on February 11th at 2pm (There will be no Sunday morning Worship Service that day.). A reception will follow. ***An Installation highlights and celebrates the relationship between a local church, their newly called pastor and the larger church association.***

The Installation will be in person and on Zoom. People on Zoom are welcome to join 30 minutes (1:30pm) before the start of the service.

Topic: Installation of Rev. Amanda Swoyer
Time: Feb 11, 2024 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84559295165?
pwd=VG5abFdneEpiWW1iZ0J1RFIzR1RFUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84559295165?pwd=VG5abFdneEpiWW1iZ0J1RFIzR1RFUT09)



**BLACK
HISTORY:
UNsung HEROES
OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE MOVEMENT**

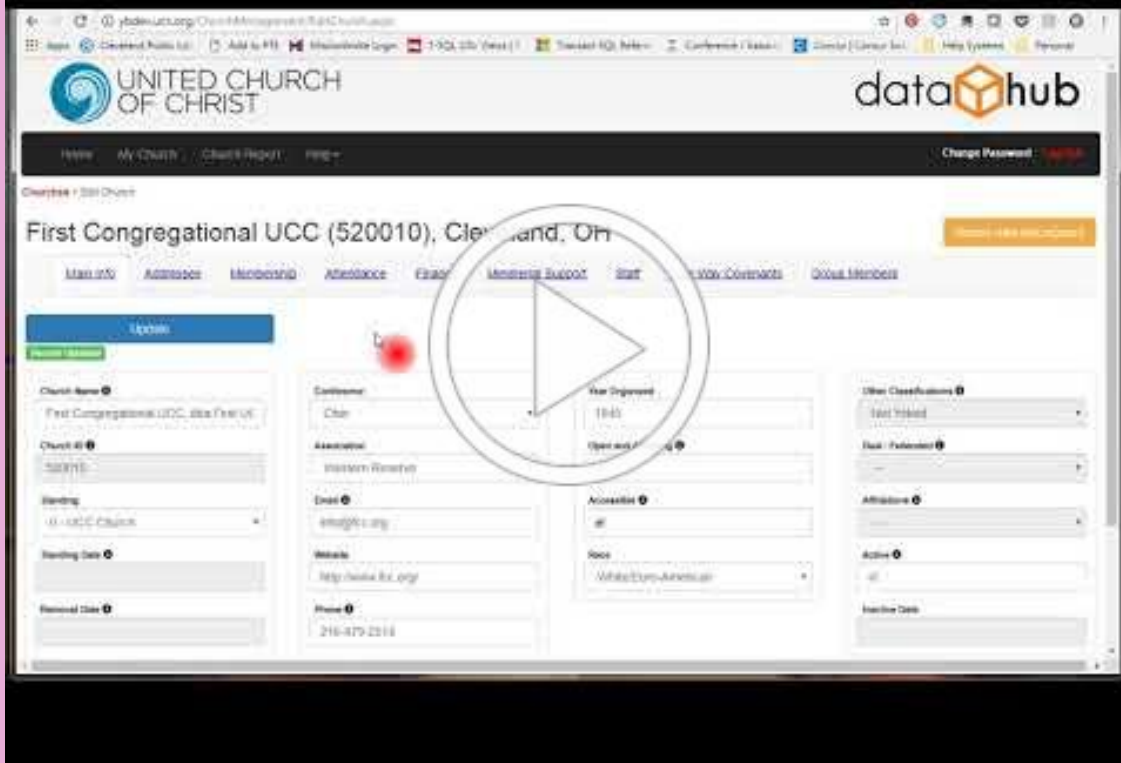
FEBRUARY 14 | 1 PM ET

**UCC Webinar—Black History: Unsung Heroes of the
Environmental Justice Movement**

For Black History Month, the UCC will be celebrating past environmental justice leaders and their historic contributions to the movement. We will lift up and reflect upon the lives of champions for justice such as Dana Alston, Damu Smith, Hazel Johnson, and others. To fully appreciate their impact and legacy, we will hear from those in the movement who knew them. Featured speakers will include those who have been at the forefront of the movement: Robert Bullard, Vernice Miller-Travis, and Peggy Shepard. Even if you cannot make the webinar at its scheduled time on February 14th at 1 pm ET, still sign-up, and we will send you a link to a recording of it.

[Register now!](#)

[It's Yearbook Time!!!](#)



Hi Friends!

'Tis the season for the national yearbook! I hope you are as excited as I am!!

[You can sign in here!](#)

[You can find instructions here!](#)

[You can find the paper form here!](#)

[And you can always email Elise here!](#)

RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE PROGRAM VIA ZOOM

Monday January 29, 2024 4:30-6:00 PM

[Register here](#)

Unpacking Privilege is a workshop looking at the privileges that some people have that others do not with a focus on considering how privilege can be shared.

What is privilege?
What is a privilege that you know
you have?

Unpacking Privilege

—
By Michelle Fountain

ACTION ITEM: Prior to the program, we are asking you watch "Traces of the Trade" and "Cost of Inheritance".

THE COST OF INHERITANCE -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUCFF8e0yYs>

THE TRACES OF THE TRADE -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXdBLEnigBA>

Michelle Fountain is a journalist, teacher, student and preacher. In a previous life, she was the Public Affairs Manager for the Pennsylvania Region for State Farm Insurance where she was in charge of media, community and political outreach, as well as employee publications. She worked as a journalist writing primarily for *The Vermont Standard* for close to 15 years and occasionally still dabbles in journalistic writing. Michelle taught English at Woodstock Union High School for 16 years and now teaches English at Proctor High School. She holds a Masters Degree in Education from Plymouth State and has taken courses at the Middlebury Bread Loaf School of English in African American Rhetoric and How to be an Anti-racist Teacher. She has led teachers in looking at their privilege by working through Layla Saad's *Me and White Supremacy*. Michelle is also the licensed minister at the United Church of Ludlow. She developed "Unpacking Privilege" as a workshop for attendees at the annual meeting for the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ in April, 2022.



HOW TO HELP YOUR CHURCH GROW!

Each church will be asked to bring a team of a Pastor and at least 3 lay people. Each of the above topics will be overviewed, and then each church will choose the two areas they wish to address first. Churches will be clustered in cohorts around these topics for a year of training and coaching. In my experience, the year of coaching helps a church to put the principles of a seminar into practice.

The Hope Fund is funding special scholarships for Vermont Conference churches to participate. We ask for \$100 for your church to come to the seminar (lunch included for all your participants) and \$250 for a year of coaching for your church.

Saturday, March 9 th from 9:30-3 at the
Federated Church of
Williston or online via Zoom.

REGISTER HERE!

**REGISTRATION IS
OPEN!**



Sign up for camp at www.HortonCenter.org TODAY!



REGISTRATION IS OPEN
AT HORTON CENTER!
It's time to sign up for a week
(or more) at Horton Center!
Take a look at our summer
schedule with camps for all
ages HERE.
Questions? Give Tivi a call!

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024 AT NOON

SAVE THE DATE

**JOIN POOR AND IMPACTED PEOPLE, CLERGY,
AND ADVOCATES IN YOUR STATE!**

MASS POOR PEOPLE'S & LOW-WAGE WORKERS' STATE HOUSE ASSEMBLIES & TO THE POLLS

**A DAY OF NATIONALLY-COORDINATED, SIMULTANEOUS
DIRECT ACTION ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**

CALLING ALL PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN & DEMAND

**LIVING WAGES,
HEALTHCARE,
VOTING RIGHTS &
STOPPING VOTER SUPPRESSION,
EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL,
WORKER/LABOR RIGHTS,
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE,
ACCESS TO HOUSING,
FULLY-FUNDED
PUBLIC EDUCATION,
ABOLISHING POVERTY,
AND THE UNITY OF LOVE,
NOT THE DIVISION OF HATE.**

**BRING THE DEMANDS OF 140 MILLION POOR & LOW-WEALTH PEOPLE
DIRECTLY TO LAWMAKERS AT STATE CAPITOLS. EVERYBODY IN, NOBODY OUT!**

**WE MUST CHALLENGE POVERTY BEING
THE 4TH LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN THIS COUNTRY!**

**WE MUST ACTIVATE 85 MILLION POOR & LOW-WEALTH
ELIGIBLE VOTERS!**

WE WON'T BE SILENT ANYMORE!

REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH **POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN** **KAIROSCENTER**

The Vermont Conference UCC Justice and Witness Ministry urges all of us to become familiar with and make use of the content of the many UCC Resolutions that have been created over the past years. These resolutions, dealing with church governance and social justice issues, help us understand who we are as members of the UCC and act as guidance for our work within our Faith. The UCC

has three types of resolutions: Pronouncements, Proposals for Action, and Resolutions and other formal motions that address policy or moral issues. For example, in 2022 when the Vermont Conference supported the passage of VT Article 22, a declaration in the state constitution of the right to personal reproductive autonomy, we were able to refer to the long history of UCC action and statements supporting reproductive liberty: <https://www.ucc.org/the-ucc-fight-for-reproductive-justice/>. This past month, the UCC resolutions have offered solid guidance for the complex and volatile issue of the latest escalation of the conflict between Israel and Palestine. The 2021 General Synod, under the leadership of Rev. Elliott Munn of the Vergennes Congregational Church, passed a resolution “decrying the oppression of Palestinian people;” adding this resolution to similar statements crafted by the UCC over the past



Justice and
Witness Ministries
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

many years: <https://www.ucc.org/synod-delegates-approve-resolution-decrying-oppression-of-palestinian-people/> As we work together within our UCC congregations, with other secular and faith partners, these resolutions offer guidance and legitimacy to our work and act as a witness to others about our UCC mission.



PATHWAYS
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Affordable, Accessible, Awesome

Are you busy with work, family, caring for others, standing up for justice but need a moment each day to deepen your faith and explore ways to hold on in a broken, fearful, too often violent world? We invite you to check out our online courses where community grows, questions arise, peace comes, and faith deepens. Courses offerings can be found on the website [here](#). Now is a good time to look ahead to the 2024 course schedule and contact **PATHWAYS** with any questions you may have. Whether you would like to take one course or a whole program, PATHWAYS welcomes you. Heidi Hulme writes, “I have never been one to do things “traditionally,” and PATHWAYS allowed me the opportunity to continue to prepare my alternative path to ordination, while allowing me to serve a church, and be a wife and mother. ... I am grateful for this experience and education; it has blossomed my ministry, and changed my life.”

PRAYER CONCERNS

We pray for all affected by the ongoing work and recovery from flooding and other natural disasters.

Prayers for all our first responders, volunteers who are working so hard during this difficult time.

For those grieving and harmed by violence and hate, including Hisham Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid, and Tahseen Ali Ahmad.

Reverend Doctor Harry R. Flad died peacefully on Saturday

evening, December 30th, 2023 .Please keep all of Rev. Dr. Flad's family, friends, and colleagues in your prayers.

Reverend Richard White died peacefully, January 2nd, 2024. Please keep all of Rev. White's family, friends, and colleagues in your prayers.

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!)



Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

January 1st
Erin Reardon

January 3rd
Debbie Ingram

January 7th
Jeremy Kirk
Peter Plagge

January 9th
Douglas J. Cameron

January 12th
Scott Couper
Nancy G. Devor

January 18th
Roger C.B. Daly

January 22nd
Joan W. Vincent

January 23rd
Tracy Weatherhogg

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

January 7th
Bill Borrer
Debbie Ingram

January 14th
Kurt F. Shaffert

January 17th
Kevin E. Goldenbogen

January 24th
Amelia C. Pitton

January 28th
Dereen C. Vanderlinde-Abernathy

January 29th
Mary Hoadley

January 24th
Douglas S. Moore
Mark D. Wilson

January 26th
Thomas C. Kinder



Farewell, Welcome and Blessings
Pastoral Transitions since the 2022 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting
[For the most up to date information click here](#)

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

HOPE FUND FOR THE **FUTURE**

BUILDING DISCIPLES
Children, Youth and Adults

WELCOMING THE COMMUNITY
by seeking justice and the common good

NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS
with people who don't go to church

Love God Love Your Neighbor

"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 .

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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP, CONTACT:

Sue Balfe 802-989-3134

VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS



WE'RE HIRING!

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Stowe Community Church is seeking a Part-Time Administrative Assistant. This staff member attends to many different office and administrative duties of the church, to further the goals of the Pastor and church leaders. Primary responsibility would be book-keeping; recording donations, transfer deposits, preparing budget reports.

Any interested applicants should send a resume or a letter of interest to jobs@stowecommunitychurch.org. The position is available for the right person to start immediately.



JUMP - the Joint Urban Ministry Project - an interfaith and community organization with support from many individuals, businesses, foundations and more than 20 faith communities - manages a direct services Drop-In Center (in donated space) at First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington, VT.

[Read Job Descriptions Here!](#)

Client Services & Outreach/ Development Managers



Based in Burlington, JUMP has been providing direct assistance to people in need in Vermont for 35 years. If you are a team player who cares about people and community, apply to work with JUMP!

MANAGER OF CLIENT SERVICES:

Manage JUMP Drop-In Center; meet with clients; allocate direct assistance; maintain records; supervise volunteers; collaborate with JUMP staff/leader team.

MANAGER OF OUTREACH & DEVELOPMENT: Coordinate JUMP communications, outreach, social media; JUMP Drop-In Center involvement, collaborate with JUMP staff/leader team.

Apply with letter and resume: JUMP, P.O. Box 1657, Burlington, VT 05402.

Positions @20 hours/week. Details: jumpvt.org

Music Director Wanted

The Danville Congregational Church in Danville, Vermont is seeking a part- time Organist/Music Director. Responsibilities include providing organ/piano music for the church's weekly worship service, providing for/or performing anthems and special music at all services, directing the church's choir, coordinating guest musicians, etc..

Salary and hours are negotiable.

For more information please contact Rev. Douglas Carter.

dcarter36@charter.net ; 802-684-1151

The Bradford Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ is searching for a part time organist/pianist. All interested persons should contact Pastor Jeff Long-Middleton. A job description is available upon request.

Phone: 978-273-6399

Email: pastorjeffuccbradford@gmail.com



[Read More 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 Munnat elliott@vergenesucc.org.

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

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



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.

VT CONFERENCE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Christian Education:

Administration & Finance:

Music & Other Lay Ministries:

**Music Director- North Pomfret Congregational
Church Musician- Tunbridge Church**

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 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 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/>

Vermont Conference, UCC | 36 N Main St, Randolph, VT 05060

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