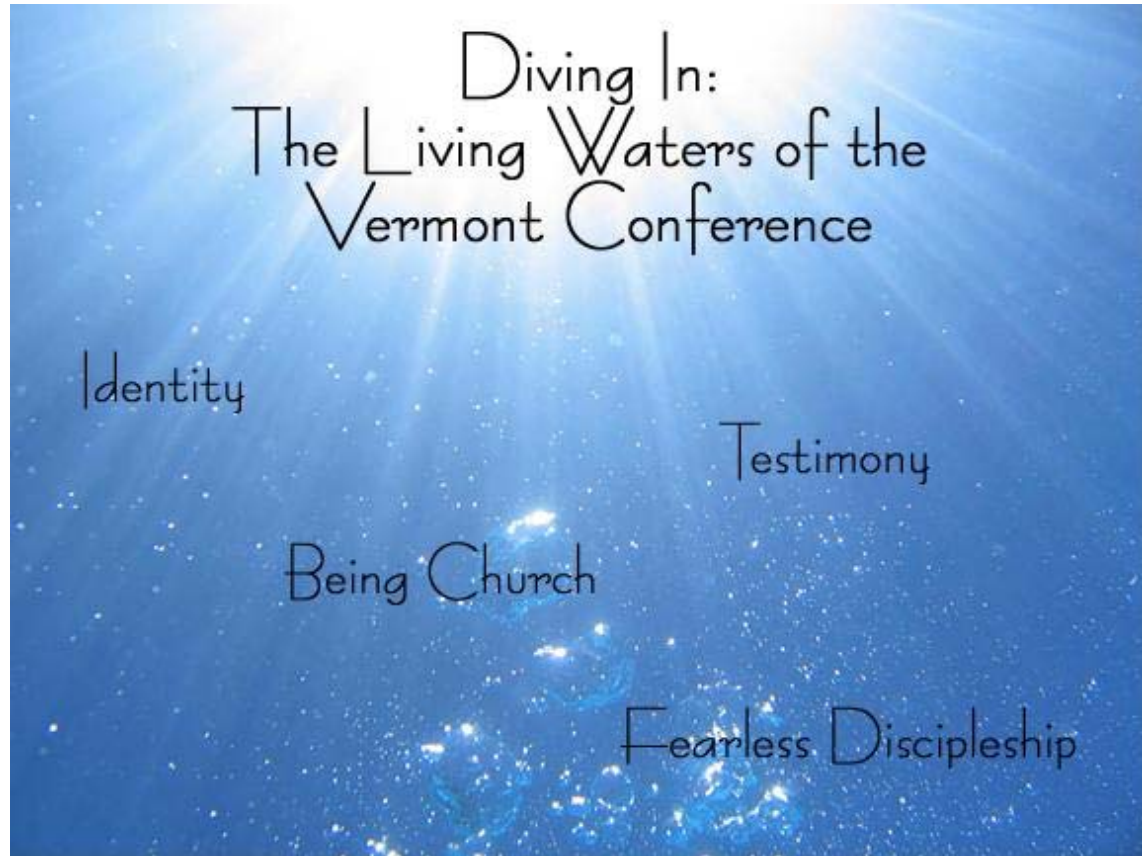


**Vermont Conference
214th Annual Meeting
May 28-30, 2009
Lyndon State College**



Program Book

**Vermont Conference
214th Annual Meeting
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THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009

11:00 - 3:00	Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee	Vail Conference Room
3:00 - 6:00	Registration	Alexander Twilight Theatre Lobby
3:00 - 5:30	Board of Directors Meeting	Vail Conference Room
4:00 - 5:30	Choir Rehearsal	T202
4:00 - 5:30	Displays set up	Gym
6:00 - 7:00	Dinner	Dining Hall
7:15		

**PLENARY I
Twilight Theatre**

WELCOME

Welcome to this year's Vermont Conference Annual Meeting! As you enter the Twilight Theatre you will be treated to images of rivers and streams from through out Vermont taken by the Conference Staff. Enjoy!

PRELUDE

*O Worship the King
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
How Great Thou Art
Amazing Grace
(My Chains Are Gone) with Conference Choir*

*AWAKENING, Conference Band
Grant/Haydn, Arr. Chris Tomlin
Van Dyke/Beethoven, Arr. Charlie Hall
Stuart Hine
Newton, Arr. Chris Tomlin*

* Please stand if able

INTROIT

Down to the River to Pray

Traditional

*Refrain 1:
As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord, show me the way!*

*O sisters let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down,
O sisters let's go down,
Down in the river to pray.*

*Refrain 2:
As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the robe and
crown?
Good Lord, show me the way!*

*O brothers let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down,
Come on brothers let's go down,
Down in the river to pray. (Refrain 1)*

*O fathers let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down,
O fathers let's go down,
Down in the river to pray. (Refrain 2)*

*O mothers let's go down,
Let's go down, don't you want to go down,
Come on mothers let's go down,
Down in the river to pray. (Refrain 1)*

*O sinners let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down,
O sinners let's go down,
Down in the river to pray. (Refrain 2)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Reverend Mike Ford

Come, all you who are thirsty.

Come to the sources of living water.

Some of us feel flooded.

There is too much to do and we feel in danger of going under.

Come, rest beside the still waters and feel the ease of the cool stream.

Some of us feel empty.

We give and pour ourselves out with no time to tap into the source.

Come, taste the eternal springs of living water.

Drink deep and long.

Some of us feel blocked and stagnant.

Judgment, denial, frustration, and wounds limit the flow of grace.

Come, be plunged deep into the healing waters and fresh rivers of God's love.

We come to touch the living water and remember our baptism.

Let the joyful water flow!

- "Come to the Water" by Larry J. Peacock, from *AliveNow!*, May/June 1994

*Please stand if able

OPENING PRAYER

Reverend Mike Ford

PREPARE

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Stan Amadon, Moderator

WORDS OF WELCOME FOR DIGNITARIES, OFFICERS AND STAFF

*COVENANT FOR DIALOGUE

Leader: "...speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament in which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."
(Ephesians 4:15-16)

Left: We covenant with one another to sustain a congregational culture in which we will communicate with integrity and mutual respect, and in which our creative energy - both individual and collective -will be free to flourish.

Center: We will repeat in our own words what the other has said to confirm that we have understood them, and ask them to do the same if we feel we have not been understood.

Right: We will communicate directly with each other, using the first person, using "I."

Left: We will try to make our meaning clear and *say what we mean* **and mean what we say.**

Center: We will identify merit in another person's idea or suggestion before we identify its deficiencies.

Right: We will be willing to inquire into another person's reasons and reasoning.

Left and Right: We will listen to understand, but we don't necessarily have to agree.

Center: We will not say outside the meeting what we are unwilling to say inside the meeting."

(used by permission; RiverRun Communications.)

* Please stand if able

ROBERTS RULES

ELECTION OF SCRIBES

* HYMN

Blessed Assurance

Fanny Crosby

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of the spirit, washed in His
blood.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)*

*Refrain:
This is my story, this my song
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.
(Refrain)*

LISTEN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Nancy Dyke

SACRED TEXT

Luke 5:1-11

Pastor Nancy Dyke

OPENING MESSAGE

Reverend Felix Carrion

RESPOND

ANTHEM

*Deep Waters
Conference Choir*

Pepper Choplin

*Please stand if able

INVITATION LITANY

Reverend Lynn Bujnak

As we gather together in this place, for this time of meeting and fellowship and worship, Jesus is calling us to the deep waters, inviting us to put out our nets.

Like Peter, we may find ourselves resistant: “But Lord, we have been ministering and serving and preaching and teaching, and our efforts have felt fruitless.”

Like Peter, let us listen to Jesus’ words and accept his invitation and, just one more time, let out our nets.

As we gather in this place, O God, help us to let go of all that we are holding onto and allow your deep waters to fill us to overflowing.

Silent Reflection

As we gather together in this place,

**unclench our hands so that we might let go of those things that are holding us back,
open our hearts and our minds to your Spirit’s leading and guiding,
free us to dive into the deep water,
and fill us with the trust we need to know that you are here.**

May the abundant grace of God fill us and sustain us for our calling and ministry as individuals and congregations and together, as the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Amen!

* Please stand if able

*HYMN Washed by the Water/How Great Thou Art Bear and Bo Rinehart/Stuart Hine

*Daddy was a Preacher
She was his wife
Just trying to make the world a little better
You know, shine a light*

*People started talking
Just to hear their own voice
Those people try to accuse my father
Saying he'd made the wrong choice*

*Though it might be painful
You know time will always tell
Those people have lost this time
My father never will*

*Refrain:
Even when the rain falls
Even when the flood starts rising
Even when the storm comes
I am washed by the water (2x)*

*Even when the earth crumbles under my feet
Even when the ones I love
turn around and crucify me
I won't ever, ever let you down
Won't go, won't go, won't go
as long as you're around me (2x)*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art! (2x)*

* EVENING BLESSING

Reverend Felix Carrion

* CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION Washed by the Water/How Great Thou Art

*Even when the rain falls
Even when the flood starts rising
Even when the storm comes
I am washed by the water
(repeat chorus as necessary)*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
(repeat chorus as necessary)*

POSTLUDE

9:00 Social Time, Dessert, & Entertainment

Vail Student Center

*Please stand if able

FRIDAY, MAY 29 - Morning

7:00 – 8:30 Peacemakers' Breakfast
7:45 – 8:45 New Delegate Breakfast and Orientation
7:30 – 8:30 Regular Breakfast
8:00 – 9:00 Registration
8:00 – 12:00 My Health IQ – Wellness Exams

Stevens Dining Hall
Alumni Dining Room
Dining Hall
Twilight Theatre Lobby
343

9:00

PLENARY II
Twilight Theater

COME AND PREPARE

Morning Music with AWAKENING

The Wonderful Cross

Watts/Reeves/Walt; arr. Tomlin

*When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride*

*See from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did ever such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Refrain:
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly
live*

*O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace draw near and
bless
Your name.*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all. (Refrain)*

* Please stand if able

Hosanna

Paul Baloche

*Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You;
We turn to You.
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for
You;
We long for You
'Cause when we see you,
we find strength to face the day.
In Your presence,
all our fears are washed away, washed
away.*

*Refrain:
Hosanna, hosanna!
You are the God who saves us,
worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, hosanna!
Come have Your way among us,
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus.*

*Hear the sound of hearts returning to You;
We turn to You.
In Your kingdom, broken lives are made new;
You make us new
'Cause when we see you,
we find strength to face the day.
In Your presence,
all our fears are washed away, washed away.
(refrain)*

*'Cause when we see you,
we find strength to face the day
In Your presence,
all our fears are washed away, washed away.
(2x)*

Refrain (2x)

*** CALL TO WORSHIP - "A Psalm of Living Water"** Reverend Tracy Weatherhogg

You are like a mountain spring, O Fountain of Living Water.

I sip from the deep down freshness of your never-failing love.

You are like a summer rain, O Sudden Benediction,

drench my soul and quench my thirsting spirit with your peace.

You are like a raging sea, O Storm Upon my Ocean,

breaking into bits my fragile bark as I learn to lean on you.

You are like a waterfall, Oasis in my Desert:

source of my heart's survival in the press and stress of life.

You are like a cleansing flood, River of Reconciliation:

washing away the selfish self-serving signs of my sinfulness.

You are like a bottomless well, O Cup of Life-giving Water:

full up to overflowing. Praise be to you, Shaddai.

*Please stand if able

- Miriam Therese Winter

SACRED TEXT

Isaiah 43 Reverend Tracy Weatherhogg

THEME CHORUS

Washed By the Water/How Great Thou Art Bear and Bo Rinehart/Stuart Hine

Even when the rain falls Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
Even when the flood starts rising How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Even when the storm comes Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
I am washed by the water How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
(repeat chorus as necessary) (repeat chorus as necessary)

COVERING PRAYER

Pastor Robin Lunn

*HYMN

Take My Life (And Let It Be) Havergal/Tomlin/Giglio

Take my life and let it be, Here am I, all of me
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my life, it's all for Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my will and make it Thine.
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my hands, and let them move Take my heart it is Thine own,
At the impulse of Thy love. it shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my feet, and let them be,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
Take my love, my Lord I pour
at Your feet its treasure store
Take myself and I will be-ever, only, all for
Thee
Take myself and I will be-ever, only, all for
Thee
Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be,
filled with messages from Thee.
Here am I, all of me.
Take my life, it's all for Thee.
(repeat as necessary)
Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as You choose.

* Please stand if able

*PRAYER OF SENDING INTO THE DAY

Pastor Robin Lunn

VIDEO POSTLUDE

DIVE - Stephen Curtis Chapman

LISTEN

9:30 WORK OF THE PEOPLE - Twilight Theatre Mr. Stan Amadon, Moderator
Announcements
Speak Outs
State of the Conference
Treasurer's Report
2009 Budget Amendment Presentation and Vote

10:45 - 12:15 Forum I & Workshops Check lobby for schedule and assignments

12:15 - 1:30 Lunch Dining Hall

1:45 - 3:15 Forum II & Workshops Check lobby for schedule and assignments

3:30

PLENARY III
Twilight Theater

3:30 WORK OF THE PEOPLE Mr. Stan Amadon, Moderator
Speak Outs
2010 Budget and Financial Resolutions Motion
Mission Department Presentation; URTF with Dr. Dan Balon
Proposed Resolutions and Vote
Nominating Committee Report
Ministerial Compensation Report and Vote

5:15 - 6:30 Dinner Dining Hall

*Please stand if able

6:45

PLENARY IV
Twilight Theater

6:45 WORK OF THE PEOPLE Reverend Pam Lucas and Pastor Jim Thomas
Conference Family Celebration
OCWM & 5 for 5 Recognition
Recognition of VAST

BREAK

7:45

COMMUNION WORSHIP CELEBRATION
WITH
INSTALLATION OF REV. DR. LYNN BUJNAK

Participants: Dick Sparrow preacher; Oikos Jazz Band, Kathy Eddy and Kekapa Lee
A separate order of worship will be supplied for this service.

9:15 - 10:15 Reception for Installed Conference Minister Gymnasium
10:30 -11:30 Late Night Zoon (Emergent Worship) Twilight Theatre

SATURDAY, MAY 30

7:00 - 8:30 Peacemakers Breakfast Stevens Dining Hall
7:30 - 8:45 Pastor's Conversations with Rev. Felix Carrion Alumni Dining Room
7:30 - 8:30 *Regular Breakfast* Dining Hall
8:00 - 9:00 Check-Out Twilight Theatre Lobby
Move out of Room, Browse Bookstore & Displays

* Please stand if able

9:00

PLENARY V
Twilight Theater

COME AND PREPARE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Reverend Kevin Goldenbogen

*"Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water."*

We are people of the water!

We worship a God whose love flows through water.

Love, like a rain shower, awakens the sleeping seed within the soul and lures it to blossom.

We worship a God whose love flows through water.

Love, like a wading pool, inspires delight of children - jumping, splashing, spraying each other, shivering with wet joy.

We worship a God whose love flows through water.

Love, like a hot shower after a long day's work, cleanses us, reawakens us.

We worship a God whose love flows through water.

Love, like little drops, drips from fingertips to forehead.

Through baptism, the family of faith makes room for one more.

(prayer by John W. Howell - from *Touch Holiness*, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabiassi.)

*"Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water."*

OPENING PRAYER

Reverend Kevin Goldenbogen

9:05 Work of the People

Mr. Stan Amadon, Moderator

Speak Outs

Voting on 2010 Budget and Financial Resolutions

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws

Election of Officers, Board and Committee Members

*Please stand if able

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE ELECTED LEADERS

Leader: There are those who have said "YES" to serve on the Vermont Conference Board of Directors, Departments and Committees – both newly elected and those continuing in service. As their names are read, I invite each one to rise in place.

God has called you by name. We have called you by name.

People: Dive deep, cast out your nets, let God's living water fill you.

Leader: You have been called to participate in one of the covenantal responsibilities required to be the church – the living body of Jesus Christ on earth.

People: Dive deep, cast out your nets, let God's living water fill you.

Elected Ones: We will respond to God's call and God's activity in the world through this service to the Vermont Conference.

People: Trust in God, in God's abundant grace and mercy, and your efforts will not return to you empty.

Elected Ones: We will participate in our responsibilities knowing that together we are working toward a world where love, justice, and mercy will one day abound – a world where all will have enough – and none will have too much.

People: Trust in God, in God's abundant grace and mercy, and your efforts will not return to you empty.

Elected Ones: We are committed to nurturing a new quality of relationship among and between our churches, our Associations, the Vermont Conference and the United Church of Christ.

People: Trust in God, for the way God works surpasses the way we work. The way God thinks is beyond the way we think.

THE COMMISSIONING OF ALL

Leader: You have been called to participate in one of the covenantal responsibilities required to be the church – the living body of Jesus Christ on earth.

People: We will respond to God's activity in the world by sharing our time, talent, energy and faithfulness in the places where we live and work and worship. We will covenant to pray and to discern the dreams and visions God has for the Vermont Conference. We are committed to the common life of our churches – that individually and gathered together our life will be enriched and enlivened by the love of God and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Leader: God invites each one of us to venture out into deep waters, to dive deeply, to let God's living water fill us, to let down our nets, and trust God to fill them and us.

Everyone: God's Word does not return empty and neither do nets of trusting disciples, and so we go now out into the waters to be followers of God in the way of Jesus.

*HYMN

New Doxology

Geneven Psalter/Ken and Miller

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Let earth and heavenly saints proclaim;
The power and might of God's great Name;
Let us exalt on bended knee;
Praise God, the Holy Trinity

Praise God, praise God, praise God,
Who saved my soul
Praise God, praise God, praise God from
Whom all blessings flow

Praise to the King, His throne transcends
His crown and Kingdom never end
Now and throughout eternity

I'll praise the One Who died for me

Praise God, praise God, praise God,
Who saved my soul
Praise God, praise God, praise God from
Whom all blessings flow

Praise God, praise God, praise God,
Who saved my soul
Praise God, praise God, praise God from
Whom all blessings flow

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

***RESOLUTION OF THANKS**

Reverend Susie Webster-Toleno

GOING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Reverend Susie Webster-Toleno

CLOSING CHORUS - *Washed By the Water/How Great Thou Art

Bear and Bo Rinehart/Stuart Hine

*Even when the rain falls
Even when the flood starts rising
Even when the storm comes
I am washed by the water
(repeat chorus as necessary)*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
(repeat chorus as necessary)*

VIDEO POSTLUDE

DIVE - Stephen Curtis Chapman

12:00 - 1:45 Lunch

12:00 Board of Directors Meeting (Alumni Dining Room)

Abundant thanks to:

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee: Rev. Michael Ford, Chair; Mr. Stan Amadon, Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, Rev. John Weatherhogg, Mr. Ned Davis, Rev. Debbie Ingram, Rev. Kathy Clark, Ms. Robin Lunn, Rev. Mary Nelson Abbott, Rev. Dereen Vanderlinde-Abernathy (registrar), Ms. Lynn Thomas (staff representative), Rev. Lynn Bujnak (Conference Minister)
... for their many long hours spent in preparing for this year's gathering.

For the UCC National Staff: Rev. Felix Carrion, Rev. Dick Sparrow
... for sharing this year's celebration with us!

The Worship Planning team: Robin Lunn, Chair; Ned Davis, stage settings; Adam Jared Tavolaro, music and video; Tracy Weatherhogg, prayers and rituals,
... for the creation of this year's worship celebrations that frame our time together.

AWAKENING, our Worship Band: Adam Tavolaro, Kathleen Meredith, Bob Manger, Shayna Appel, Ben Green
... for their ministry of music!

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Photographs of Vermont used during our meeting were taken by our Conference Staff and used by permission.

The lobby display has been crafted and donated by Ned Davis, our Commissioned Minister of Liturgical Floral Design.

2009 VT Conference Youth Delegates: Emma Lee, Becca Golding, Kerissa Moore, Ben Green, Hannah Schultz, Amanda Hill, Zebulon McCoy