



**220th Annual Meeting
Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ
April 24-25, 2015
Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT**

SCHEDULE

Friday, April 24, 2015

9:00-10:00am.	Registration and Exhibitor Tables Set-up
9:15-9:45am.	New Delegate Orientation
10:00-12:00pm.	PLENARY I – "Creators of Justice and Joy" Welcome Hymn and Invocation Call to Order Introductions Quorum Adoption of Definitions and Procedures Covenant for Dialogue Election of Scribes Minutes from 2014 Annual Meeting "Creators of Justice and Joy" Communion Worship SERMON: "Leveled By Love" Rev. Matthew Laney, Sr. Pastor, Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, CT and former Associate Minister from First Congregational Church in Manchester.
12:15-1:15pm.	Buffet Lunch

1:30-3:15pm.

PLENARY II – "The Heroin Crisis in Vermont"

Worship

PRESENTATION

Presenters: Rev. Joseph Amico, Designated Term Minister of Tabernacle Congregational Church, Salem MA and former Pastor of First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro. Rev. Amico is a licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor and certified Addictions Specialist. Dana Poverman, Director of Medication Assisted Treatment Program at Howard Center, Chittenden County. She is a licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor and an Alcohol and Drug Counselor.

Speak Outs (Participants can speak for Two Minutes Each)

Vermont Conference Business Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Financial Resolutions

3:30-4:30pm.

WORKSHOPS

"The Hungry Heart"

In this workshop, Dana Poverman, Director of Medication Assisted Treatment Program at Howard Center for Chittenden County will show the above film about the heroin addiction in Vermont. A time for questions will follow. Dana Poverman is a licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor and an Alcohol and Drug Counselor. (Note that this workshop will run until 5:30pm.)

Economic Justice

In this workshop Vermont Interfaith Action Executive Director and UCC Minister Debbie Ingram will talk about Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA) clergy initiative for a "Moral Economy" in our state. The workshop will not only present information but offer concrete ways you and your church can participate.

Palestinian Issues

The Rev. Peter Cook (First Church, Burlington Senior Pastor) will talk about the movement within the UCC to understand and support Palestinians living and working in

the West Bank. This will include information about three resolutions that will be presented at this summer's General Synod seeking a just peace in the Israel – Palestine conflict.

Immigration, Refugees, and Migrant Workers

Rev. Kim Erno, ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and representing Franklin Alliance for Rural Ministries (FARM) and Lucy Samara, staff member at First Church Burlington will present a workshop about the lives and needs of Immigrants, Migrant Workers, Refugees, and New Americans in Vermont and how some of our congregations are involved.

Liturgical Dance - 1

Rev. Judy Waible will teach participants some of the art and ministry of this form of dance. Please note: this is a Two-part workshop and participants will be invited to dance as a group during two of the worship services.

Drumming

Elisa Lucozzi, one of our conference Members in Discernment will lead this hands on demonstration of the spiritual power of this ancient form used in worship in many traditions, including Christianity.

Hiking

Rev. David Vanderlinde Abernathy who hikes as a form of spiritual practice will lead participants on a hike near Lake Morey. Please be sure to wear sturdy shoes and Dress appropriately for the weather.

Racial Justice

UCC Congregations are often proud to set a welcome table for all kinds of diversity but sometimes have no one very different to welcome! In Vermont especially, people of different races, cultures, abilities and sexual orientations may never consider attending church. This workshop will present strategies for welcoming and embracing diversity in congregational life...from getting people in the door to working effectively with differences when they are present in the congregation. Rev. Lise Sparrow will lead the

workshop has a doctorate in language, culture and diversity and has served an increasing diverse congregation outside of Brattleboro for fifteen years.

4:30-5:30pm.

Free Time

5:30-7:00pm.

Buffet Dinner

7:15-9:00pm.

PLENARY III – "Economic Justice in Vermont"

Worship

Presenter: Rev. Debbie Ingram, Vermont Interfaith Action Executive Director and UCC Minister

Speak Outs (Participants can speak for Two Minutes Each)

UCC Church Recognitions: OCWM and 5 for 5

Ministerial Compensation Report: Rev. Jim Thomas

Installation of Those Serving the Vermont Conference, UCC

Nominating Committee Report

State of the Conference: Rev. Lynn Bujnak

In Memoriam Ceremony

9:15-10:30pm.

Informal Social Time

Saturday, April 25, 2015

TBD. Sunrise Hike with Rev. David Vanderlinde Abernathy

7:00-8:30am. Peacemakers' Breakfast

7:30-8:30am. Buffet Breakfast

8:45-9:45am. **Workshops (see workshop descriptions above)**

Liturgical Dance 2 – Rev. Judy Waible – Presenter

Economic Justice – Rev. Debbie Ingram – Presenter

Are We Serious about Environmental Justice? New UCC Environmental Initiative Proposed –

Fred Taylor, Rev. Susanna Griefen, & Judi Joy – Presenters from the Conference
Environmental sub-committee of the Dept. of Missions.

A resolution will come before General Synod this year proposing further serious, focused, far-reaching study and action in response to climate change and Gospel imperatives to love our neighbor. This is one more step in leadership for climate justice by the UCC. It's our leading edge, our response to the call to find our voice as a faith community within the larger Earth community. Come learn what our delegates will vote one, and discuss how we might respond as a conference, congregations and individuals.

Resources for study and worship will be provided.

Racial Justice – Rev. Lise Sparrow – Presenter

Immigration, Refugees, and Migrant Workers – Rev. Kim Erno and Lucy Samara – Presenters

Drumming 2 – Elisa Lucozzi – Presenter

Stewardship and Investments: What are you doing with all that money?

Endowments can be both a blessing and a burden for a church. Make your church's endowment a blessing!

Does your church have an endowment? investments? Learn how to talk about money and how to use endowments for ministry (which is different than a rainy day fund). If interested you can bring your own church financial statement- who handles the investments? Is money from the endowment used each year and how? Who decides?

Rev. Kathy Clark has been serving as the pastor of the Federated Church of East Arlington since 2007. Prior to attending seminary at Andover Newton, she spent a decade working in higher education and then another decade as the executive director of three different non-profit agencies in Bennington County. Kathy Clark has learned that talking about stewardship and investments can be exciting and hopes to share in passing on some of the thrills at this session.

Rev. Lucia Jackson is pastor of the First Congregational Church in Hartland where she has served for close to 8 years. Before moving to Vermont, Lucia served churches in CT and NJ. She is currently co-chair of the Department of Stewardship and in that capacity has facilitated several stewardship presentations for churches in the VT Conference. Lucia Jackson dislikes long meetings, so the workshop will be time efficient, to the point, and invite interaction and conversation.

10:00-11:45am.

PLENARY IV – "The Children of Abraham"

Worship

PRESENTATION by the Chaplains of Middlebury College

Presenters: Ira Schiffer, Associate Chaplain/Rabbi at Middlebury College and Director of Education for Havurah: The Addison County Jewish Congregation.

Beau Scurich, Muslim Chaplaincy Fellow and Spiritual Advisor at Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life at Middlebury College

Naila Baloch, Muslim Chaplaincy Fellow and Spiritual Advisor at Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life at Middlebury College

Laurie Macaulay Jordan, Chaplain of the College at Middlebury

Speak Outs (Participants can speak for Two Minutes Each)

Financial Resolutions

12:00-1:00pm.

Buffet Lunch and Hotel Room Check-out

1:15-3:00pm.

PLENARY V – "Immigration, Refugees, and Migrant Workers"

Gathering Music

Speak Outs (Participants can speak for Two Minutes Each)

PRESENTATION

Presenters: Rev. Kim Erno, ministers to migrant workers in Franklin County and Lucy Samara, staff member at First Church Burlington working with new immigrants and refugees in the Burlington area.

Thank you Acknowledgements, Passing the Gavel, and Adjournment

Closing Worship

Preacher: Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge, Associate Pastor, Charlotte Congregational Church, formerly Senior Pastor, The Old Meeting House, East Montpelier.

4-16-15