

2016 Annual Meeting Book & Film Groups

What? The theme of this year's Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ's Annual Meeting is taken from a new United Church of Christ banner, which reads: "BE THE CHURCH." The other side of this bookmark lists eight books and one movie that will be discussed during the Annual Meeting Friday Workshop session. Each book or movie addressed one of the various faithful activities listed on the banner. Please choose to read or watch one and come to Annual Meeting ready to join others in a guided discussion of what you have read or watched.

Why? The United Church of Christ's newest banner, "BE THE CHURCH" enumerates nine ways to enact our love of God. By delving into one of these topics in preparation for Annual Meeting, either through a book or a movie, you will become immersed in one of our focus topics. There's a wide-range of subjects to choose from, we hope that you'll find something that feeds your mind, fills your heart, and challenges your spirit.

When? Annual Meeting will take place on Friday, April 29th and Saturday, April 30th. Discussions will occur during the Friday Workshop session.

Where? Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, Vermont.

Book & Film Suggestions

Real Good Church: The Reverend Molly Phinney Basketts shares, "how her church came back from the dead, and yours can, too!"
(BE THE CHURCH)

Laudato Si: Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment.

(Protect the Environment)

The Greatest Prayer: John Dominic Crossan examines Jesus' prayer as a call for distributive justice that all might have a fair share of God's world.

(Care for the Poor, Share earthly and spiritual resources)

The Book of Forgiving: Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter, the Rev. Mpho Tutu, offer a compelling manual on the art of forgiveness.

(Forgive often)

Movie: Fruitvale Station: This dramatic film follows 22-year-old Oscar Grant, on the last day of his life, before he was fatally shot by subway police in Oakland, California.

(Reject Racism)

Chasing the Scream: Johann Hari examines the flawed beginnings of the War on Drugs and proposes possibilities for a saner approach to addiction.

(Fight for the powerless)

The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew - Search for Understanding. Following 9-11, three women seek connection.

(Embrace diversity)

Chasing Francis: In this novel by Ian Morgan Cron, a pastor attempts to resolve his faith crisis by retracing Francis of Assisi's path.

(Love God)

Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now. Walter Brueggemann asserts that keeping Sabbath offers a trans-formative vision of what God intends for all of us.

(Enjoy this life)