



Vermont Conference United Church of Christ



March 30, 2016

To: All Voting Members and Visitors to the Annual Meeting
From: The Rev. Lynn Bujnak, Conference Minister and Registrar
RE: **ANNUAL MEETING 2016**

The Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ, will take place on April 29-30 at the Lake Morey Inn in Fairlee, Vermont. This year we will be engaging various ways we can embody and live out **BE THE CHURCH**. By now we hope that your church has chosen to either read one of the recommended books or view the movie that was recommended by the Annual Meeting Planning Committee to begin to think deeply and thoughtfully about what it means in a variety of ways to Be the Church. The Friday workshops will be based on that reading material.

We are excited to welcome the Rev. **Dwayne Royster**, pastor and founder of Living Water United Church of Christ in Philadelphia as our guest speaker and preacher. Bishop Royster will speak on the following themes:

- What are the injustices in the world today?
- What do we do about the injustices?
- If we work together, we can change the world; rejoice!
- Inspiration

Bishop Royster is a powerful speaker with a passion for the Good News as it is lived out in deeds of justice and mercy. Please visit his webpage for more information: <http://www.lwucc.org/about-us/staff-members/bishop-dwayne-d-royster.html>.

In addition we are so pleased and excited to have **Peter and Mary Alice Amidon** as our musicians. Their music has inspired and re-energized many of our Vermont Conference church choirs. Peter and Mary Alice Amidon are versatile and widely respected performing and teaching artists who for the past twenty years have dedicated themselves to traditional song, dance and storytelling. They have a variety of CDs available and have also published books of choir Anthems including *Fifty-five Anthems for the Small Church Choir*.

I look forward to seeing you at Lake Morey!

Please copy the attached materials and put together your own Annual Meeting Registration Packet.

Materials include:

1. Proclamation
2. Annual Meeting Information
3. Biography and picture of keynote speaker
4. Time Schedule (**Document A**)
5. Workshop descriptions
6. Resolution on a Moral Economy
7. Lake Morey Resort Map
8. Exhibitor Request Form

Registration Deadline: Postmarked by

I look forward to seeing you in Randolph!
Rev. Lynn Bujnak

36 N Main Street, Randolph VT 05060
802-728-4999, 802-728-4072 (FAX)

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak, Conference Minister,
Rev. Pamela Y. Lucas, Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call and Small Church Ministry,
Jim Thomas, Associate Conference Minister for Stewardship, Church Vitality and Finance,
Lynn Thomas, Administrative Assistant and Placement Coordinator,
Sybil McShane, Communications and Resource Coordinator



*The 221st Annual Meeting of the
Vermont Conference of the
United Church of Christ*

*April 29 & 30, 2016
Lake Morey Resort
Fairlee, VT*

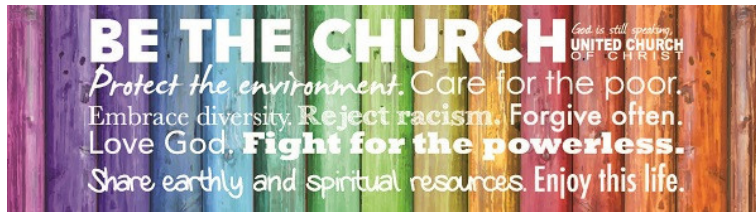
Who: Friends; Visitors; Lay Delegates; Members-In-Discernment; Licensed, Commissioned & Ordained Ministers; Officers, Directors, Department & Committee Members; Association Moderators; Past Conference Presidents and Moderators; and current Delegates to General Synod

Who Else: [Bishop Dwayne D. Royster](#) is the founding Pastor of Living Water United Church of Christ located in the Oxford Circle section of Philadelphia. Bishop Royster has served in Pastoral ministry for the past 19 years in a variety of positions and denominations. He will be providing presentations on five aspects of Be The Church.

The music will be provided by [Peter and Mary Alice Amidon](#) who are familiar faces at the major northeast U.S. music and dance festivals, at teacher conferences, and at summer folk camps of traditional dance and song.

*Please join us for the rich and fulfilling feast being prepared for us
at this year's Annual Meeting.*





221st Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ

Registration is online only: <http://tinyurl.com/vtcam2016>

Learn more at: http://www.vtcucc.org/annual_meeting.html

Here is information for you to start making your plans for the 2016 Annual Meeting...

Date: April 29-30, 2016 at Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT

Lodging & Meals: The Vermont Conference has secured a group rate (\$94 plus tax) for rooms at Lake Morey Resort. **Please reserve your room directly with Lake Morey Resort by calling 800-423-1211.** Meals are included in Full Registration, Friday Only registration and Saturday Only registration.

Keynote speaker: Bishop Dwayne Royster of Living Water United Church of Christ (<http://www.lwucc.org/about-us/staff-members/bishop-dwayne-d-royster.html>)

Bishop Royster will speak on the following themes:

What are the injustices in the world today?

What do we do about the injustices?

If we work together, we can change the world; rejoice!

Inspiration

Musicians: Peter & Mary Alice Amidon (<http://amidonmusic.com/>)

Registration fees: (Register at <http://tinyurl.com/vtcam2016>)

Complete Registration—includes registration, all meals and snacks for both days: \$185.00

Registration Fee Only: \$65.00

Friday Only—includes registration, lunch, dinner and snack breaks: \$140.00

Saturday Only—includes registration, breakfast, lunch and snack breaks: \$115.00

We have workshops on Friday and Saturday. Please choose one workshop from each day to attend. You will be asked to make your selection when you check-in at the Annual Meeting in April. More information about workshops is contained in this First Posting and on the Vermont Conference Annual Meeting website.

Annual Meeting Schedule: The schedule for Annual Meeting is included in this First Posting and on the Vermont Conference Annual Meeting website.

If you have any questions, please contact Jesse Davis, Conference Ministries Coordinator at davisj@vtcucc.org.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2016 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting!



Bishop Dwayne D. Royster is the founding Pastor of Living Water United Church of Christ located in the Oxford Circle section of Philadelphia.

Bishop Royster has served in Pastoral ministry for the past 19 years in a variety of positions and denominations. He has served in the United Methodist Church, The Mennonite Church and the Baptist Church Traditions. Now along with other faithful Christians, Bishop Royster and family founded Living Water United Church of Christ.

Committed to the four biblical principles of Redemption, Restoration, Renewal and Refreshment...Living Water is not just your average church on the block nor is Bishop Royster your average Pastor. Working diligently to meet people where they are, Bishop Royster instills in the congregation a need to be like Christ. Slow to judge always ready to offer grace and mercy.

Bishop Royster is an advocate for preparing congregations for the ministry of availability. He is fond of saying that, "Ministry should not be limited to Sunday mornings. Sunday is a time of worship. Ministry should be done Monday thru Sunday on the bus stops, at the supermarkets, in workplaces, at soccer games, etc... Wherever people are... so is God and He is able to do miraculous things through His children that are prepared. In this current generation many will never grace the doors of a church...but like Jesus we must take the message to the people and tell them the good news. Like the woman at the well they can be FREE."

Bishop Royster has served as a staff minister, Associate Pastor, Church Planter and Pastor. In addition to his pastoral responsibilities Bishop Royster is the General Secretary of Higher Ground Christian Fellowship International and serves on the College of Bishops.

The Bishop is a graduate of Geneva College's Center for Urban Theological Studies with a BS in Urban Ministry Management. In addition, Bishop Royster has studied at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and is a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary In Philadelphia with a Master of Arts in Religion Degree with a specialization in the African American Church.

Bishop Dwayne D. Royster is married to the lovely Suzette Royster and together they are the parents of two beautiful daughters. The Roysters reside in the Greater Philadelphia Area.

(This biography courtesy of Living Water United Church of Christ. All rights reserved. <http://www.lwucc.org/about-us/staff-members/bishop-dwayne-d-royster.html>)

Vermont Conference Annual Meeting
Outline of 2016
Sixth Draft, March 25, 2016

NB: Required business is in bold and italics

Exercise as people are arriving; 9:00 am

Different topics on butcher paper or whiteboards; people write “graffiti” on issues that interest them

8:00 – 9:45 am Continental Breakfast (105 min)

Plenary 1, Friday morning; 10:00 to 12:00 (120 min)

30 minutes: Welcome

Hymn of Invocation, led by Peter Amidon

***Plenary Business –
Call to order
Introduction of guests
Confirm quorum,
Adopt definitions and procedures
Adopt “Covenant for Dialogue”
Elect Scribes***

10 minutes Global Ministries

10 minutes Outdoor Ministry

10 minutes Musical interlude (to allow for arranging for the communion service)

1 hour **Theme of Worship: Explain, with Hope for Rejoicing**

Communion Service, including:

**Offertory and Sermon (Dwayne Royster #1) = what are the injustices in our world today?
Environmental, racial, poverty, spiritual—how are they interrelated?**

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Lunch (60 minutes)

Plenary 2, Friday Afternoon; 1:15 pm to 3:00 pm (105 min)

10 minutes Devotions with singing by Peter Amidon

10 minutes ***Speakouts – Debbie Ingram***

25 minutes ***Treasurer’s Report – Hal Drury***
Financial Resolutions report - Jim Thomas

30 minutes ***Resolutions – present and discuss***

30 min **Theme of Plenary: Proclaim**

Presentation by Dwayne Royster #2 = what do we do about the injustices?

Workshops, 3:15 to 4:30 pm (75 min)

Be the Church: Real Good Church

Protect the Environment: Laudato Si

Care for the Poor/Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources: The Greatest Prayer

Forgive often: The Book of Forgiving

Reject Racism: Fruitvale Station (film)

Fight for the Powerless: Chasing the Scream

Embrace diversity: The Faith Club

Love God: Chasing Francis

Enjoy this life: Sabbath as Resistance

4:30 to 5:30 Free Time (60 min)5:30 to 6:45 Dinner (75 min)

Conversation Tables on workshop topics will be arranged; participation is optional

Plenary 3, Friday Evening; 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm (105 min)

15 minutes Devotions and singing led by Peter Amidon

10 minutes ***Speakouts – Debbie Ingram***

25 minutes ***Recognition of OCWM and 5 for 5 Churches – Jim Thomas***
Ministerial Compensation Report
Nominating Report (NB this year we hope to do these two reports by reference only)
Recognition of pastors' different lengths of service and new pastors
In Memoriam

35 minutes ***State of the Conference – Lynn Bujnak***

20 min ***Q&A; discussion***

7:00 – 8:30 am Breakfast available (90 min)

7:30 – 8:30 am Peacemakers Breakfast (60 min)

Plenary 4, 8:45 to 10:15 am (90 min)

10 min Devotions and singing led by Peter Amidon

10 minutes ***Speakouts – Debbie Ingram***

20 minutes ***Financial Resolutions vote – Jim Thomas***

20 minutes ***Resolutions vote***

30 minutes **Theme of Plenary: Rejoice**

Presentation by Dwayne Royster #3 = if we work together, we can change the world; rejoice!

Workshops, Saturday morning; 10:30 to 11:45 am (75 min)

Meditative walk

Choir

Cornerstone Fund

Global Ministries

Mission-oriented youth group

Worship Well

Refugee crisis

Moral Economy

Faith Formation

Lunch and Check-out; 11:45 am to 1:00 pm (75 min)

Plenary 5, Saturday afternoon; 1:15-3:15 (120 min)

10 minutes ***Speakouts – Debbie Ingram***

40 minutes ***Elections and Commissioning
Presentation of Gifts
Presentation of Gavel to New Moderator
Thank-yous***

10 min Break

1 hour ***Closing Worship Service, singing with Peter Amidon, and Message by Dwayne Royster
#4 to inspire us as we leave***



Friday Workshop Offerings for the 221st Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, UCC

***Real Good Church* by Rev. Molly Phinney Basketts (moderators Rev. Daniel Cooperrider and Rev. Katelyn MacRae)**

Rev. Basketts shares "how her church came back from the dead, and yours can too!"

***Laudato Si* by Pope Francis (moderators Rev. Nancy Wright (ELCA) and Fred Taylor)**

Discussion of Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment.

***The Greatest Prayer* by John Dominic Crossan (moderated by Jeanne Zammataro)**

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

***The Book of Forgiving* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Rev. Mpho Tutu (moderated by Rev. Marissa Laviola)**

Archbishop Tutu and his daughter the Rev. Mpho Tutu offer a compelling manual on the art of forgiveness.

***Movie: Fruitvale Station* (moderated by Rev. Debbie Ingram)**

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.

***Chasing the Scream* by Johann Hari (moderated by Rev. Susie Webster Toleno)**

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

***The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew—Three Women Search for Understanding* (by Ranya Idlibi, Suzanne Oliver & Priscilla Warner (moderated by James Levinson, Craig Hammond & Mehlaqa Sandani of the Brattleboro Interfaith Council))**

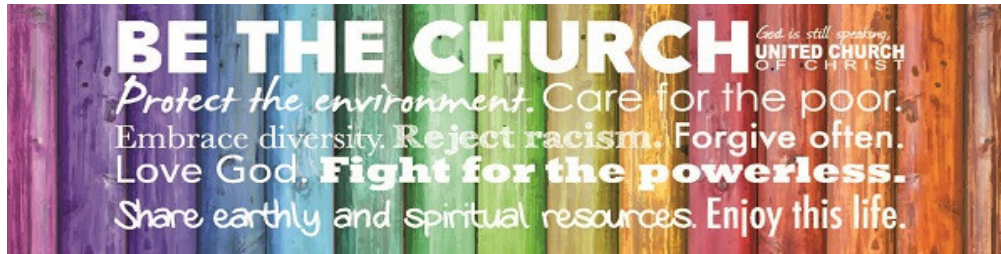
In the aftermath of 9/11, women from the three Abrahamic traditions seek understanding of each other, their faiths and connection across these lines in the new age of terrorism.

***Chasing Francis* by Ian Morgan Cron (moderated by Chris Heintz and Rev. Tracy Weatherhogg)**

A pastor attempts to resolve his faith crisis by retracing Francis of Assisi's path in Ian Morgan Cron's novel.

***Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now* by Walter Brueggemann (moderated by Rev. Mary Kay Schueneman)**

Walter Brueggemann asserts that keeping Sabbath offers a transformative vision of what God intends for all of us.



Saturday Workshop Offerings for the 221st Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, UCC

Fighting for the Powerless: Supporting Refugee Resettlement in Vermont with Amila Merzdanovic and Rev. Lise Sparrow

Amongst all of the tempest tossed humanity, refugees are perhaps the most without power, having been stripped of roots and livelihood but, most importantly, of choice.

Churches are uniquely positioned to support refugees and their families by providing both personal connections and basic needs. Emina Merzdanovic, herself a Bosnian refugee from the wars in the former Yugoslavia, will offer her own story of resettling in Vermont and her experience helping to settle refugees from 28 different cultures here in Vermont as the current director of the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program. Rev. Lise Sparrow will facilitate the discussion to follow Ms. Merzdanovic's presentation. With the anticipated arrival of Syrian refugees in Vermont in the next few years, this is an opportunity to learn how churches can be a part of the support network welcoming them to Vermont.

Worship Choir Rehearsal with Peter & Mary Alice Amidon

Peter & Mary Alice will teach two or three anthems to participants who wish to offer their choral gifts in the final worship of the 2016 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting.

Building Vermont's Moral Economy with Rev. Debbie Ingram

Even in progressive Vermont, our economic indicators are all heading in the wrong direction: real wages are down, the number of Vermonters on food stamps and the number of homeless are up, and the percentage of single mothers with children under the age of 5 is close to 50%. If we think these trends are morally unacceptable, what can we do to reverse them? This workshop will offer some concrete ideas and join participants together with other people of faith.

Youth Group Mission Trips—a week of sweat, laughter and faith with Rev. Lucia Jackson

Do you want a youth group activity beyond bowling and sardines? Do you want youth to experience faith in a dynamic, exciting way? Do you want to engage the youth of your church and your town? Then plan a youth mission trip! How? Who? Where? What? Why? Come to this workshop to learn about youth mission trips! You can do it!

God's Good Work in Guatemala and Around the World with Gloria Vicente and Rev. Kim McKerley

Gloria Vicente, a young UCC missionary of Mayan descent, will share about her seven years of work in Guatemala with women, organizations for communication among groups in conflict, the Healthy Stove Project and more. Rev. Kim McKerley, Pastor of Bethany UCC in Randolph and a long-time member of the national Common Global Ministries Board (UCC and Disciples) will share about the global context of Gloria's work.

Worshipping Well: A *WorshipWell* Beta Test with Rev. Jared Hamilton

Crafting worship that matters in our local settings can be challenging. This workshop aims to share stories of worship triumphs and worship flops, identify best practices and introduce a resource put together by local UCC pastors and lay people called *WorshipWell*. We hope this time will be of special interest for clergy and those that serve on local church worship teams.

Meditative Walk around Lake Morey with Nancy McHugh

Take time to immerse yourself in the beauty of Lake Morey while contemplating the gifts of the Great Creation we are called to be a part of as faithful stewards.

Faith Formation—description coming soon!

1 Resolution on a Moral Economy

2 Submitted by College Street Congregational Church

3 **WHEREAS**, all the major indicators of poverty in Vermont are trending in the wrong direction;
4 that is, the number of Vermonters on food stamps is going up, the rate of homeless Vermonters
5 is increasing, the percentage of families, especially single mothers with young children, who live
6 below the federal poverty line is increasing;

7 **WHEREAS**, the Vermont economy overall is actually growing, yet real wages are down and real
8 median household income is declining;

9 **WHEREAS**, our Scriptural prophetic tradition decries community choices that result in economic
10 impoverishment in times of increasing abundance;

11 **WHEREAS**, the Scriptures and teachings of all major faith traditions speak on behalf of those
12 suffering from economic injustice, in which some have more than they need and others do not
13 have enough to live on;

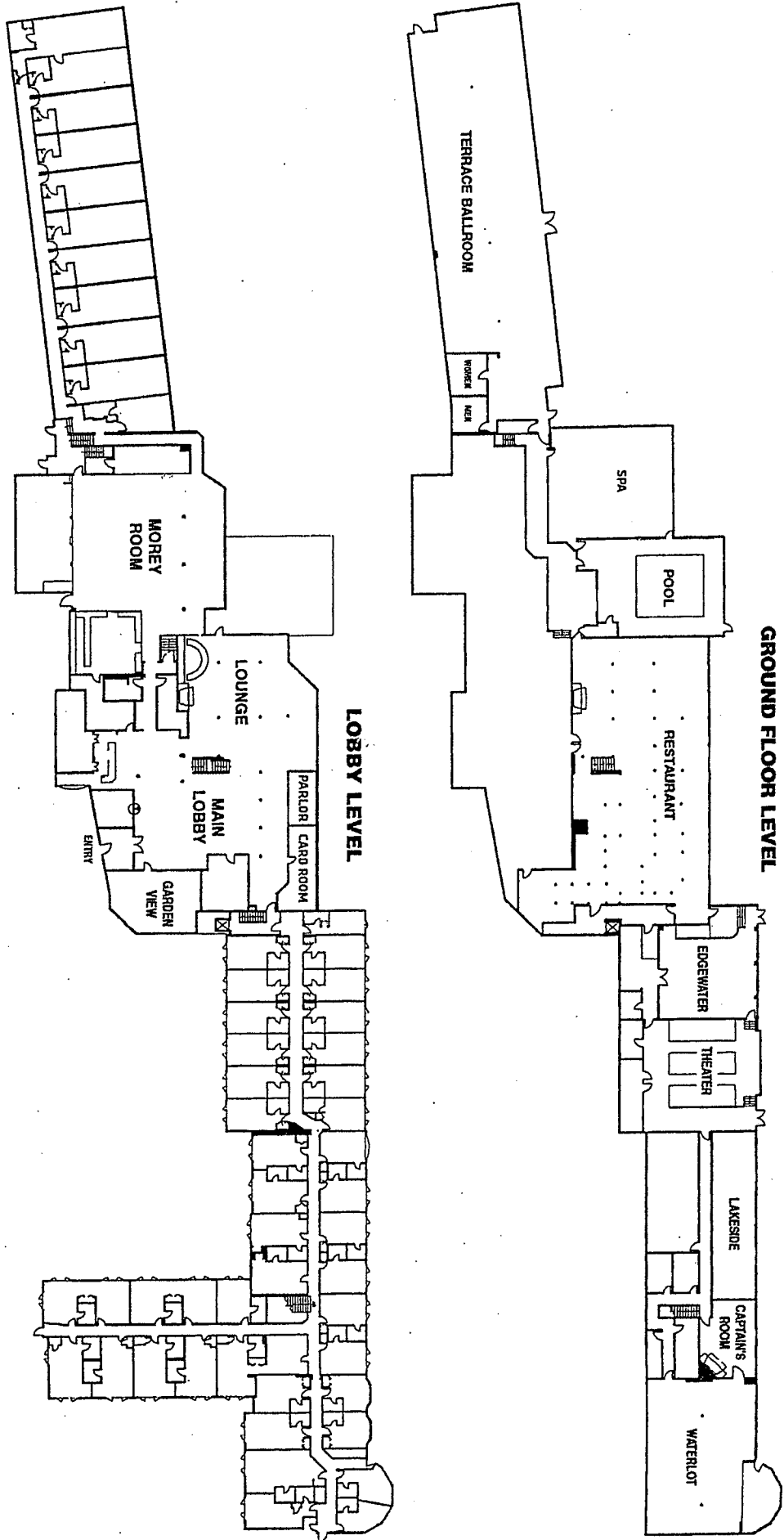
14 **WHEREAS**, people of faith from many traditions can agree that we are called to bring about a
15 moral economy, which can be defined as one that honors the dignity of all people in these ways:

- 16 • By providing full opportunity for all to express their gifts and abilities through work and
17 play.
- 18 • By ensuring that all work is justly valued.
- 19 • By ensuring that all who are unable to work because of societal or personal limitations
20 are respected.
- 21 • By ensuring that the most vulnerable among us are respected.

- 22 • By acting as good stewards of the earth and its resources, and preserving life for
23 future generations.

24 **THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the Vermont Conference of the United Church of
25 Christ

- 26 1. Call on each of the local churches to educate ourselves about issues that affect our
27 development of a moral economy
- 28 2. Engage in the issues to which we are called by listening to congregation members,
29 individuals who utilize our congregations' charitable services, and members of the
30 community to understand ways in which the current economy excludes them
- 31 3. Work both within our churches and with other communities of faith to explore and act on
32 ways of honoring the economic dignity of those in our local community
- 33 4. Effect change on issues state-wide by supporting the community organizing efforts of
34 Vermont Interfaith Action and other organizations working toward economic justice
35 around specific legislation and budget priorities that will lead to a moral economy





"Be The Church"

Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ
2016 Annual Meeting April 29–30, 2016
Exhibitor Form

Name _____
Address _____ _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Organization _____

A limited amount of display space is available for this year's meeting. Tables are 8' and may be reserved on a first come, first served basis. Displays may be set up Friday morning between 8-10am. **A \$20 fee is being charged per table.** All organizations, committees, departments, and vendors must pay the fee. Table cloths and extension cords will be provided. Requests must be received by **April 15, 2016**. You will be notified if we cannot accommodate your request.

Number of tables requested _____ x \$20 = _____
Electricity requested – Yes _____ No _____
Special needs _____

Hotel Room reservations may be made by calling Lake Morey Resort directly at #800-423-1211. Mention "Vermont Conference, UCC" for a room rate of \$94 plus tax.

Daily rates for meals

Friday - \$75 _____ (includes lunch, snacks, dinner)

Saturday - \$50 _____ (includes breakfast, snacks, lunch)

Please list any special dietary or accessibility needs: _____

Total amount remitted (table fee, meals): \$ _____

Return form & payment to:

Vermont Conference, UCC
Annual Meeting
36 N Main Street
Randolph, VT 05060

For questions please contact:

Jesse Davis
802-728-4999
davisj@vtucc.org