

**Looking Toward
Registration
2011/2012**

Because VAST allows for open enrollment, there will be 2 first year classes and 1 second year class offered beginning September 2011.

In the past there has sometimes been a fourth setting and if there are sufficient students another first year class could also be offered.

As students enroll for 2011/2012, final decisions about sites to host the classes will be based on the geographical distribution of the students.

If your church has at least 10 members interested in the Vermont Academy of Spiritual Training, VAST would be willing to bring the teachers to you. Contact Rev. Pamela Lucas for more information.

Registration

For registration forms, please contact:
Rev. Pamela Y Lucas

36 N Main St
Randolph, VT 05060
802-728-4999

lucasp@vtcucc.org
or visit the website:

<http://www.vtcucc.org/VAST.html>

**Deadline for registration
is July 15th**

It Makes a Difference

For over 25 years VAST graduates have increased their spirituality, broadened their theology, deepened their biblical understandings, enriched the life of their local congregation and have often gone on to become teachers to others.

Listen to what people have to say:

I have learned so much about Christianity, the Bible and religion in general. But even more, I have learned about "me" and the many ways God can use me in God's world.

I have increased my knowledge of scripture and have come to a deeper understanding of God's word – and hopefully have become a more devoted disciple of Jesus Christ.

VAST has been the arena where my prayers have been answered. "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

I have gained a closer connection to God through Jesus Christ - and have learned so much from my classmates about the beliefs and practices of people of faith.

I believe that VAST has brought me to the "next level".

VAST has answered many of my questions – and left me with even more questions!

A friend had completed the VAST training and urged others to give it a try. I am glad I did. It has made all the difference in my spiritual journey.



The Vermont Academy of Spiritual Training 2011/2012

**Vermont Conference
United Church
Of Christ**

VAST is designed for laypersons who wish to develop a greater understanding of the Christian Faith.

VAST is open to all denominations.



VAST presently offers courses in three locations:

Richmond—Richmond
Congregational Church, UCC

Manchester—First
Congregational, UCC

Norwich—Norwich
Congregational Church, UCC

Courses of Study

The Vermont Academy of Spiritual Training has grown out of a need expressed by the laity for an in-depth study of the Bible, basic theological concepts and the nature of one's individual calling and spiritual journey. The courses are not designed to equip a person for ordination but to enrich laity in the struggle with their own spiritual identity and calling to Christian ministry. VAST is also designed to assist those called to Licensed Ministry and as Christian Educators in the UCC.

The program is three years in length. Classes meet from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on a Saturday in each month for the months of September through June. In 2011/2012 classes will be held in:

Richmond - 2nd Sat – 2nd year
Manchester - 2nd Sat – 1st year
Norwich– 3rd Sat – 1st year

VAST allows for open enrollment, i.e. a student may enter at the beginning of years 1, 2 or 3.

Biblical Studies

(First Year) A survey of the Bible from the Pentateuch to the Exile - Patriarchs to Prophets.

(Second Year) A continuation of the survey: Psalms and Proverbs, post exilic writings, apocalyptic literature and the Apocrypha. Introduction to the Four Gospels.

(Third Year) A study of Acts, the letters of Paul and others, and the Revelation of John.

Worship: History and Practice

(First Year) A comprehensive study of the history of worship and liturgy in the Christian Church commencing with the early Church through the Reformation, the reformers and up to the present day. There is also emphasis on music, art, and architecture as part of worship.

Spiritual Formation

(Second Year, Second Half) A course designed to help the individual to gain knowledge of and experience in a variety of spiritual disciplines.

Christian Ethics

(Second Year, First Half) A study of contemporary ethical issues facing today's Christian: introducing techniques in identifying, analyzing, weighing, and responding to ethical challenges.

An Introduction to Theology (Third Year) A course to help the student develop a theological perspective, using varied theological disciplines as bench marks. The purpose is to develop an understanding of the student's own theological ideas that are both dynamic and evolving.



The cost of the program is \$400.00 per year. One half of the tuition (\$200) is due prior to the 1st class of each semester. Checks are payable to the Vermont Conference, UCC, 36 North Main St., Randolph, VT 05060. Additional money will be needed to purchase textbooks. A VAST Scholarship Fund has been established at the VT Conference office. Scholarship help also may be available from your local church and/or association.

An applicant must be prepared to devote the time necessary to do the homework assigned which requires a substantial amount of reading and other assignments. An 80% attendance is required in order to graduate from the program.