



Vermont Conference United Church of Christ



October 15, 2011

Dear Friends,

During the recent devastation caused by Tropical Storm Irene, I was powerfully reminded of why I believe in and support the ministry of the Vermont Conference, UCC. Here are some of those reasons:

- **Ability to get resources where they are needed quickly.** Because of our existing structure it was possible to get both financial and material resources to those most effected in a timely manner, assuring that every dollar given would go directly to assisting those in need. The conference was also able to access and deploy the resources of the wider church through Church World Service and emergency grants from One Great Hour of Sharing.
- **Care for the care givers.** Our clergy threw themselves into caring for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of their communities. The conference staff was able to offer support for our "first responders." And the conference will continue to offer training and respite support as our clergy and congregations continue their ministry.
- **Looking to the future.** While many of our congregations responded quickly and generously to assist disaster victims, the Disaster Response Team of the conference was able to begin thinking about the long-term recovery needs in Vermont and what part of those needs might we be able to meet as a conference. National support, as well as support from other conferences and even individual congregations near and far, can be matched with longer term needs.

Why do we need the conference? Or put more bluntly, what has the conference ever done for me/us?

- **The conference** reminds us that the church is bigger than our own experience and the vision of God's kin-dom richer and deeper than anything we can imagine on our own.
- **The conference** connects us to this wider expression of Church in ways that can transform us and our congregations.
- **The conference** "dreams dreams and sees visions" of a future that is rooted in our common tradition but also requires of us new ways of understanding and doing church. Events such as New Keys for Old Doors provide resources and direction in changing times.
- **The conference** not only assists congregations in finding pastors. We are constantly working to adapt the search and call process to the changing needs of our churches and to insure that licensed and ordained clergy are prepared to serve in the unique context of Vermont.

Please join me in becoming a Friend or renewing your commitment to being a Friend of the Vermont Conference. We need each other now more than ever, and God needs the strength of mission and ministry that only comes when we work together as the Body of Christ.

In Peace,

Rev. Lynn Bujnak
Conference Minister

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
Jim Thomas, Business Manager, Lynn Thomas, Administrative Assistant
Sybil McShane, Communications and Resource Coordinator