



# Vermont Conference, UCC Electronic Keeping in Touch

EQUIPPING CONGREGATIONS FOR CHRIST'S  
MINISTRY AND MISSION TODAY AND TOMORROW

E-Kit

May 3, 2017

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## Vermont Conference News

Lynn Bujnak will be worshipping and attending the Addison Association Listening Session at the Weybridge Congregational Church.

Jim Thomas will be worshipping and will be in conversation with the Bridgewater Congregational Church

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On Sunday, April 23rd, the Rev. Russell Duncan, was installed as Pastor and Teacher of the First Congregational Church, St. Albans, by the Champlain Association of the VT Conference, UCC.

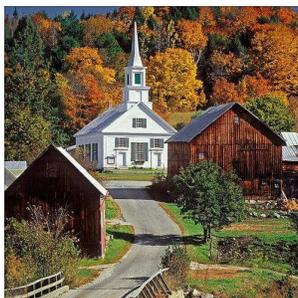
God is still speaking,  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



[UCC News and Updates](#)

## Greetings!

I have been spending a lot of my time recently thinking about our small member churches and those who pastor them. As I noted at our Annual Meeting nearly 75% of our congregations have less than 100 members and of those, two thirds have less than 50 members. While we do have churches with larger membership and full-time pastoral staff and we deeply appreciate those churches and pastors, the ethos of the conference is in many ways shaped by our small churches.



Without Licensed Pastors, our small member churches would struggle (even more than now) to find and retain pastoral leadership. So, I want to lift up the awesome ministry done by our licensed pastors. These pastors love small churches and understand them. They bring along excellent gifts and skills for ministry. Like many of our pastors, they become pastor not only to members of their congregations but to the whole town. Many of our Licensed Pastors work another job in addition to their church positions. Also, the vast majority of our Licensed Pastors understand their ministry as arising out of their primary identity as a disciple of Christ and as a lay leader. This is important to raise up and honor.

By now, you may have heard that there is a proposal from the authors of the new Manual on Ministry to drop the authorized ministry categories of Licensed and Commissioned Ministers. Please know that while the authors of that proposal have done careful study and believe their decision arises from an important theology of ministry, there are also deep questions being asked across the denomination. In conferences where there is an appreciation for and reliance on Licensed Ministers (and Commissioned Ministers), the message is being clearly communicated that to drop these forms of authorized ministry would severely impact the mission and ministry of small member congregations and indeed threatens their very survival. Not all ministers are called and equipped for the much wider call of ordained ministry but feel they have been raised up for a particular ministry in a particular congregation, hence Licensed Ministry.

## BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.  
Forgive often. Reject racism.  
Fight for the powerless.  
Share earthly and spiritual resources.  
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

Click image to read about Be  
The Church

What's next after the People's  
Climate March?

Williams, Lowes tapped as  
moderators of 2019 General  
Synod

Church volunteers show love of  
neighbor with commitment to  
refugee resettlement in  
Maryland

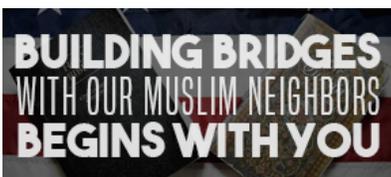
General Synod to once again  
address constitution and bylaw  
changes

General Synod resolution seeks  
end of ill-treatment of  
Palestinian children

Journalist 'Covering the  
Movements that are Changing  
America' speaks at D.C. Church

UCC advocates show love for  
creation at People's Climate  
March in D.C.

[More UCC news](#)



Click image for more information.



### Food for Thought

**Focus Scripture**  
**Acts 2:42-47**  
**Psalms 23**  
**1 Peter 2:19-25**  
**John 10:1-10**

**Pythagoras, 6th century  
B.C.E.**

If you or someone you know are being drawn towards Licensed Ministry, please talk with one of the Conference Ministers. There is education available through the Vermont School of Ministry and we would love to tell you more about that.

Thank you Licensed Pastors! You have our respect, our partnership in the gospel and our heartfelt appreciation. If you are a member of a small church, please know that you are valued and valuable. We celebrate the living out of your mission and ministry. You may be small but your witness can be and is mighty. Licensed Ministry will continue to be a form of authorized ministry in the Vermont Conference and we hope throughout the UCC.

In the hope and joy of the Risen Christ,  
Lynn

### Annual Meeting Recap

We had a wonderful time at the 222nd Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, UCC at Lake Morey Resort!

Thank you to everyone who attended and to the staff at Lake Morey Resort for their tremendous hospitality.

We are especially grateful to [Rev. Emily Heath](#), [Paul Vasile](#) and our workshop leaders for their ministries, wisdom and time.

If you attended the Annual Meeting and have not yet filled out your evaluation, [you may do so by clicking this link](#). The evaluation period will close at noon on Thursday, May 4th. Your feedback will help us as we plan next year's Annual Meeting taking place April 20-21, 2018.

It was a joy to have Rev. Emily Heath as our Annual Meeting keynote speaker. They have graciously offered their sermons to share, posted at the link below:

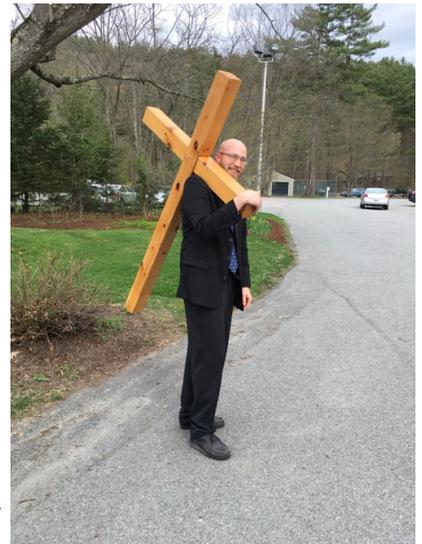
<https://emilycheath.com/2017/05/03/hold-on-and-protect-this-good-thing-sermons-for-the-vermont-conference-of-the-uccs-annual-meeting-2017/>

### Bethany Church to Welcome Global Ministries' Leaders to Speak About Syrian Refugees

Please join us at Bethany Church, United Church of Christ in Randolph on Sunday May 7, 2017 at 10:00 AM when we will welcome two guests who serve with Global Ministries.

Our visitors will be the Rev. Dr. James Moos, Co-Executive of Global Ministries and Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Rev. Jane Sullivan-Davis, Executive for Resource Development for Global Ministries. During worship Jane will offer brief remarks about the work of Global Ministries and Jim will reflect on

his recent visit to the Middle East and Greece, with particular attention to Global Ministries' engagement with refugees from Syria. After worship there will be a luncheon



**"Friends share all things."**

**Jean Vanier, 20th century**  
**"Community is a sign that love is possible in a materialistic world where people so often either ignore or fight each other. It is a sign that we don't need a lot of money to be happy--in fact, the opposite."**

**Tom Stoppard, playwright, 20th century**  
**"To me, the trick in life is to take that sense of generosity between kin, make it apply to the extended family and to your neighbor, your village and beyond."**

**John Philip Newell, 21st century**  
**"[W]e need to find ways of sharing our intimate experiences of the Mystery, for we are one. It is through one another that we will know more of the Life that flows within us all. It is through sharing our fragments of insight that we will come to a fuller picture of the One who is at the heart of each life."**

**Jean Vanier, Community and Growth, 20th century**  
**"A Christian community should do as Jesus did: propose and not impose. Its attraction must lie in the radiance cast by the love of brothers [and sisters]."**

**Wendell Berry, 20th century**  
**"The freedom of affluence opposes and contradicts the freedom of community life."**

**Stanley Hauerwas, 20th century**  
**"Saints cannot exist without a community, as they require, like all of us, nurturance by a people who, while often unfaithful, preserve the habits necessary to learn the story of God."**

**William Shakespeare, 17th century, "King Lear"**  
**"...and we'll live,  
And pray, and sing, and tell old tales, and laugh  
At gilded butterflies,...**

during which Jim will share more about the work of Global Ministries.

The United Church of Christ has been engaged in the global mission of the church in a variety of ways in various places since the early 1800s. In 1996 the UCC joined with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to form Global Ministries, a common witness to engage in God's mission beyond our national boundaries, walking with international partners and working together to discern how best to offer healing and hope and to work together for justice and peace. Global Ministries currently works with more than 270 partners in 70 countries around the world. The plight of Syrian refugees has been a major focus in recent years. We are privileged to receive up-to-date information on that ministry from Jim Moos.

**We would love to welcome you on May 7.**  
**To help us plan for lunch, we'd appreciate knowing that you will attend. You may call the church at 728-5849 or send an email to [bethanyucc@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyucc@gmail.com)**

Bethany Church is located at 30 N Main Street in Randolph.

Rev. Kimberly S. McKerley  
Bethany Church, United Church of Christ  
30 N Main Street  
Randolph, VT 05060  
802-728-5849

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**The Department of Mission** thanks all those congregations and individuals who have contributed to the United Church of Christ's Neighbors in Need Programs over the years.

In the past, Neighbors in Need has funded at least two organizations in Vermont, the Dismas House in Burlington and Vermont Low Income Advocacy.

The Department would like to call to your attention changes that are being made in the NIN grant making process. From now on, all grants will be made only to UCC churches or organizations. The maximum grant will increase from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Additionally, NIN will fund five Grass Top Grants up to \$10,000 for innovative ideas to advance justice in our communities.

The Department will like to encourage Vermont Conference churches to apply for grants that will further their justice ministries in their communities. If you have an especially innovative idea that would benefit from a larger grant, please consider applying for a Grass Top Grant. Deadlines will be in the fall. For more information, go to: [http://www.ucc.org/nin\\_grant-application](http://www.ucc.org/nin_grant-application)

Thanks.  
Jeanne Zammataro  
Vice-chair, DOM

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**AWAKE VERMONT**

Greetings Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters  
in Christ,

It is with great excitement and expectation "of what the Lord will do" that I ask you to be a part of AWAKE VERMONT.

**And take upon's the mystery  
of things,  
As if we were God's spies..."**

**Sr Joan Chittister, 21st  
century**

**"In community we work out  
our connectedness to God, to  
one another, and to ourselves.  
It is in community where we  
find out who we really are. It  
is life with another that shows  
my impatience and life with  
another that demonstrates my  
possessiveness and life with  
another that gives notice to  
my nagging devotion to the  
self. Life with someone else, in  
other words, doesn't show me  
nearly as much about his or  
her shortcomings as it does  
about my own. In human  
relationships I learn that  
theory is no substitute for  
love. It is easy to talk about  
the love of God; it is another  
thing to practice it."**

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Rev. Pat Jackman, Pastor of the  
Pittsford Congregational Church  
invites you to a presentation  
of **WILD and Precious**, a one  
man show about life growing up in  
the 60s and 70s as a gay man and  
the struggles given the treatments  
of the times.

Steve Caldwell is the son of a  
Pittsford church member. He has  
taken the show around the country  
and will be filming it here in  
Pittsford the first weekend in May.

It will be performed Monday June 5  
at 7 pm at the Pittsford  
Congregational Church. It is free  
and open to the public..with  
discussion to follow.

The treatments for gay children at  
the time included institutionalizing  
them. He also talks about the AIDS  
epidemic in the 80s and 90s and  
loss of friends and his family  
struggles.

The death of his father and how he  
learned what his father thought  
about him which he was never  
really sure about. Steven is now a

Our goal has been to contact every bible  
believing church in the State of Vermont for  
the purpose of extending an invitation to  
participate in an evening of prayer for revival  
of the body of Christ in our beautiful State of  
Vermont. We are expecting a Great and Mighty  
Awakening for those in unbelief and for Peace  
and Awakening in the State of Israel.

This event will take place on June 3rd which is  
the day before Pentecost. The time planned  
is 7pm - 9pm or however long you wish to  
worship. We pray Holy Spirit will fall on  
Vermont just as He did in the upper room 2000  
years ago.

[Read more here.....](#)

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## **SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM GRANTS**

The Department of Mission is hoping UCC congregations are all currently  
preparing to help feed hungry children this summer by participating in a local  
summer lunch program or continuing or initiating your own. Schools are doing  
their best to help feed children during the school year with not only lunches but  
breakfast, after school snacks and some are even providing an evening meal.

Just imagine the financial impact on a low income family when summer arrives.  
Children will be hungry. In 2010 approximately 28,000 children in Vermont  
received free and reduced price meals at school...only 6000 participated in  
summer lunch programs when school was no longer in session. We don't think  
these numbers have significantly changed. Please make it a goal to find the  
other 22,000 children and feed them.

The Vermont Conference strongly supports our churches' involvement in  
Summer Lunch programs. In 2016, 13 churches received grants for their summer  
lunch programs through the Vermont Conference Department of Mission Summer  
Lunch Grant Program.

[Read more here....](#)

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## ***Clergy and retired clergy personal retreat & respite in the southern Green Mountains!***

**As part of a memorial to Rev. Paul & Dorothy Alberti (retired ELCA minister  
and wife and much beloved Associate members of Second Congregational  
Church in Londonderry) The Blue Gentian Lodge in Londonderry, VT, owned  
by Paul and Dorthy's son and daughter-in-law, are offering lodging at the  
Blue Gentian Lodge for \$25 per night (single or double occupancy) to clergy  
and retired clergy as a personal retreat & respite from April 17-May 25th.**

**For more information or questions please contact:**

**Blue Gentian Lodge  
Lisa Sicotte & Ken Alberti  
289 Magic Mountain Access  
Londonderry, VT 05148  
[www.bluegentian.com](http://www.bluegentian.com)  
[BlueGentian@comcast.net](mailto:BlueGentian@comcast.net)**

counselor living in Boston, married to his life mate and they have raised a child together."

[For More Information...](#)

802-824-5908



## JUSTICE FOR GOD'S PLANET AND GOD'S PEOPLE

### A Great Opportunity

**Our conference is in need of a Disaster Response Coordinator. There is training and support available for the position. If you wish to learn more, please contact me.**

Lynn [bujnaki@vtcucc.org](mailto:bujnaki@vtcucc.org),  
802-728-4999.

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### Organist/Choir Director Needed!

Application

Email: [welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)

Job Description/Offer: First Church of Essex Junction, U.C.C. seeks PT Organist/Choir Director. Church is GLBTQ friendly. Job includes coord. music program, directing adult choirs, and playing organ & piano @ 2 services [beautifully refurbished 1928 Estey organ / Young Chang baby grand].

Email cover letter and resume to [FCCEJmusicsearch@gmail.com](mailto:FCCEJmusicsearch@gmail.com) or mail to FCCEJ Music Search, 1 Church Street, Essex Junction VT 05452.

Church office 802-878-5745.

Website: [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)

Company Name: First  
Congregational Church of Essex  
Junction

Company Website: [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)

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### First Congregational Church UCC Burlington needs a receptionist!

Greets, handles office phone & mail, manages church and rental calendar, secretarial tasks. Tues.- Fri. 10-3. To apply, please send cover letter, resume and references

Each year, Creation Justice Ministries offers a resource to help Christian communities pray, learn, and act on a certain issue. This year's theme is "Environmental Justice with Indigenous Peoples."

The resource includes information about the unique role Christians can play in healing our country's broken relationships with Indigenous Peoples and God's creation. It explores the impact the Doctrine of Discovery has had on U.S. history and theology, as well as our relationships with God's creation and one another. It also includes information about tribal sovereignty, sacred places, and consumer choices. Find sermon preparation resources, hymn suggestions, Christian education ideas, action opportunities, and more.

Download it today at [www.creationjustice.org/indigenous](http://www.creationjustice.org/indigenous) , and remember you can find a host of other Christian education resources at [www.creationjustice.org/educational-resources](http://www.creationjustice.org/educational-resources).

New Resource: Environmental Justice with Indigenous Peoples  
Get a Christian community toolkit to pray, learn, and act for environmental justice: [Download it!](#)

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### Alzheimers and Dementia

The AD church: The Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, at 1721 Maple St. (Route 14) in Hartford Village, hosts an interdenominational worship service, created for those living with Alzheimers or dementia and their caregivers/families.

It is held the first Sunday of every month, beginning at 1:30. It features a short message, traditional hymns, the Lord's Prayer, and Communion. The service is followed by refreshments and social time. All are welcome. 802-295-9635.

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to  
[cbail@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:cbail@firstchurchburlington.org)

**FREE ORGAN!**

The Second Congregational Church is Londonderry has a Rodgers 'windless' (electric) organ that needs a home. All you have to do is come and pick it up! Also included are the two organ speakers. This is a double console organ that has served us well, standard peddles, etc. Questions and or interest can be directed to [Rev. Laurie Krooss](#), or 802-824-6453.

**Resources from  
WorshipWell**

Be sure to check out the worship resources available at:  
[worshipwell.church](http://worshipwell.church)



**Thank You for Reading**  
**An Open and Affirming Conference**  
[For the E-Kit Archive](#)

