

Vermont Conference, UCC Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

August 16, 2017

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**Vermont
Conference News**
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### Greetings!

Dear Beloved Community of the Vermont Conference,



It is hard to see and hear the vitriol of white supremacy that is unfolding across our nation. This is not a time for the Church to be silent. We must speak up and speak out against such evil and I believe we must do so from a commitment to the principles of non-violence, of following Jesus.

In the polarized environment in which we find ourselves, pastors and congregations have sought to reach out and minister to all regardless of ideology. It is important that we recognize each other as belonging together in Christ and as part of the same human family. It is important that we treat each other with respect, listen carefully and seek understanding even when we disagree.

However, white supremacy in all its forms must be clearly and vigorously challenged. The notions of white supremacy are not simply one ideology of many, no better or no worse. Rather, these principles are dangerous and deadly just as they have been in our earlier history.

Here is a portion of the statement from our UCC General Minister and President along with the Council of Conference Ministers:

We confess that the events of Charlottesville  
are systemic and communal  
expressions of white privilege and racism  
that continues to pervade our  
nation's spiritual ethos. And if we only  
condemn the acts of August 12,

A Farewell Gathering for Jim Thomas



On Saturday, September 23, 2017, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, we will be gathering at the Randolph Bethany Church for a farewell gathering for Jim and Lynn Thomas. This is an "open house" style gathering. Come when you can!

At 4:00PM we will share in the Liturgy of Farewell as we send Jim and Lynn Thomas on their way with our gratitude and

good wishes for Jim's new ministry as Pastor of the Atkinson Church, UCC in New Hampshire.

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**VERMONT SCHOOL OF
MINISTRY**

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
FOR FALL 2017 COURSES**

The Vermont School of Ministry partners with the New York School of Ministry to provide educational offerings for lay enrichment and continuing education opportunities. It also provides the core foundational education for the preparation of supply preachers and authorization for Licensed Ministry.

**SUPPLY PREACHER
CERTIFICATE PROGRAM - Sept.
2017 - June 2018**

The need for supply preachers has become a pressing concern in a number of Associations. This program, which runs every other week from September to June, is entirely web conferenced. It is designed for lay people who want to learn how to preach and lead worship well, so that they can act as supply preachers (able to fill in when authorized ministers are ill or away) in their congregations or in their Associations. This program does not prepare persons for any form of authorized ministry.

The program consists of sixteen 1½ hour webinars and two 3 ½ hour practicum sessions. There are reading/writing components for each session. Participants will work with and receive feedback from a variety of instructors: Rev. Quinn Caldwell, Rev. Jennifer Hamlin-Navias, Rev. Steve Johnson, Rev. David Kaden, Rev. Jonathan Lawrence, and Rev. Marjorie Purnine. A

2017, without condemning the roots of racism, which perpetuate discrimination in our American schools, justice system, business, and healthcare systems, then we have sinned as well. We must work toward the Kin-dom of Heaven here on earth now for the sake of a just world for all.

May God be with those who are targets of racism and may we find the courage to be allies to our sisters and brothers of color and to all who are targeted by hatred.

Lynn
Lynn Bujnak
Conference Minister

**A Synod reflection from Micah Heaney, member of
the First Congregational Church of Hartland, UCC**

This year's UCC theme is "Make Glad!", which comes from Psalm 42: "There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God." At General Synod 2017, which I was honored to be a delegate, that is exactly what we did. Highlights included exploring the first virtual reality church, picking up freebies from the Exhibit Hall, a speech from the president of the Sierra Club, watching an Orioles game from the hotel terrace, wandering the Inner Harbor, delicious Chesapeake Bay seafood, and the Youth Water Protectors of Standing Rock receiving our first Movement Makers Award.

At plenaries, I was witness to the incredible breadth of issues tackled by our church. Delegates spoke with passion and expertise from a range of backgrounds. Many resolutions continued the work our church started in previous years. Some of the more controversial examples were rights of adult adoptees and medical aid in dying, neither of which passed the plenary stage. Resolutions on minimum wage, cultural diversity training, and patterns of giving in the UCC also garnered a great deal of debate.

As interesting as plenaries were, I was grateful for two things that livened up the proceedings: worship services and Cabot cheese. Cabot sent down boxes of cheddar samples to the Vermont delegation, which made us happy and made us friends from other delegations who were sitting nearby.

Worship services, starting with the music, were impressive. A hall of thousands singing, laughing, and clapping is the perfect way to Make Glad! Sermons were similarly inspiring. Pastors reminded us we can - and are obliged to - make an enormous impact. The Reverend Traci Blackmon challenged us not to make space for people, but to actually create room. After contributing to Synod, befriending members of the Vermont delegation, and speaking on the

recommendation from one's home church is required to enroll.

Monday evenings - 7:00-8:30 pm
Click [here](#) for a pdf with the full schedule, the books, and the program fees.
[Click here to register](#)

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Those considering Licensed Ministry should be in conversation with their pastors and their Association Committee on Ministry or Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee. Applications for that purpose may be found [here](#). Full information about this program can be found [here](#). The registration system for the New York School of Ministry has been overhauled this summer. Click [here](#) to see our fall Events. Choose the course you want to explore on the left side (not the blue buttons on the right), and you'll see the full course information, with the registration box at the bottom of the page.

The Adese Fellowship

The Adese Fellowship: A catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all. The United Church of Christ is excited to announce the Adese Fellowship! This groundbreaking, ecumenical program will engage participants in theological reflection and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

The all-expenses-paid, 12-month program will maximize the capacity of fellows to build

experience at Vermont churches, it's clear to me our organization is engaged in critical issues of justice, ethics, and love. We belong to a powerful network of churches with a remarkable diversity of humans. As President and General Minister John Dorhauer stated, "we must no longer be the best-kept secret."

*****Registration Is Now Open*****

Fall Vitality Event 2017

Presented by:
Vermont Conference, UCC &
Partners for Sacred Places

Join us on October 14, 2017 for a special Vitality event at which we will explore: Growing a congregation's membership, ministry, financial stewardship, leadership and vision through community engagement and outreach!

Take this opportunity to learn from other congregations about their innovative outreach and community partnerships, large and small including:

- Creating new ministries
- Leading conversations on major local issues;
- Launching a major "community-wide" capital campaign;
- Or just asking your neighbors how you might work together.

Keynote speaker [Tuomi Forrest](#) is the Executive Vice President of [Partners for Sacred Spaces](#). He has offered technical advice and consultation to thousands of congregations of all faiths on the care and active community use of their historic religious buildings since joining Partners in 1997.

These topics and more will be shared and discussed in this interactive day-long educational program. Registration is \$25 per person (which includes lunch!) and you can sign up by clicking the Registration button below.

We look forward to seeing you on October 14th in Montpelier!

[Register here...](#)

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**2017 Convocation Registration has opened!!**

sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty. While Adese is an initiative of the UCC, the program welcomes applications from any faith-driven entrepreneur who is committed to a just world for all.

[Read more here...](#)

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Rev. Pam Lucas will be at The Old South Church in Windsor for Mandy Lape-Freeburg's Farewell service.

Rev. Lynn Bujnak will be at the United Church of Underhill for Kevin Goldenbogen's Farewell service.



[UCC News and Updates](#)

**2017 Digital Stewardship Materials...
[read more here!](#)**

[UCC immigration activists take fight for immigrant youth to White House](#)

[At solidarity vigils for Charlottesville, UCC clergy lead the way](#)

[Sharing love of neighbor in Charlottesville](#)

[UCC Pastoral Letter condemns racist violence in Charlottesville, demands equality for all](#)

[UCC shows up in Charlottesville](#)

(There was an error on the form initially posted, which says cost \$15.00, this has been changed and now shows the correct cost of \$50.00, sorry for any inconvenience).

[Click here for Registration form and Information](#)

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## **UCC History, Polity and Theology Class Offered Fall, 2017 for Privilege of Call, Ordination, Commissioning, and Licensing**

The Center for Progressive Renewal is offering a fall semester online UCC History, Polity and Theology class beginning on September 6th and ending December 6th. The class has met the polity requirements of most Committees on Ministry in the UCC. It can be taken either for academic credit or simply to fulfill the polity requirement of Committees on Ministry. It has been accepted for credit in eight seminaries, including Union (NYC), Vanderbilt, Candler, Columbia, Eden, and Lancaster. It is included in the catalogs of both Union Theological Seminary and Lancaster Theological Seminary.

It is a rigorous, engaging class that is offered asynchronously so it is convenient for those who are bi-vocational, have full schedules, or odd sleep habits! It is designed to meet the needs of students with different learning styles and varying levels of formal education.

The facilitators for the class are fully engaged and available throughout the class to the students. Tim Downs and his team have been teaching this course for online for the last six years, and it has evolved and adapted to the changes in the UCC and the changing needs of those seeking authorization for ministry.

Certificates of Completion are issued for all students who successfully complete the requirements for the class. Letters with a grade and summary assessment of the student's performance in the class for Committees on Ministry are available upon request. However, students taking the class for credit need to make special arrangements with Tim and their seminaries. Any questions about can be directed to Tim Downs, the lead facilitator, at [timothy.c.downs@gmail.com](mailto:timothy.c.downs@gmail.com). The cost of the class is \$629 and the deadline for registration is August 30th. Register at <https://qd994.infusionsoft.com/app/manageCart/showManageOrder>

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Dear Partners in Ministry,

Public art project 'Love is the key' shares UCC values across Ohio community

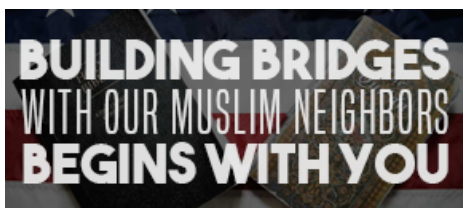
Charlottesville state of emergency ends 'Unite the Right' rally

Prayer service gathers clergy, community activists to stand against white supremacy in Virginia

Commentary: A Radical Engagement with Racism in Contested Spaces

Just Peace advocates issue interfaith call to de-escalate threats between U.S. and N. Korea

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Click image for more information.



Food for Thought  
Focus Reading:  
Genesis 45:1-15

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 20th century

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

Mary E. Hanks, Winter's Past, 21st century

I am one of 4 mother's who have been devastated by the opioid epidemic and we are putting our pain into passion and action and we are organizing a rally in Manchester Vermont on Thursday August 31, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Factory Point Green. This Rally is Called Fed Up Manchester and in is in partnership with the rally and march in our nation's capital on the same day. There will be many rallies across our nation on the same day and we are coming together to stop the silence, ask for federal assistance and stop this epidemic in it's tracks! Our neighbors, congregations, towns and communities are being crushed by this madness and we are FED UP! I beg you to talk about this issue from the pulpit, talk to your families, neighbors, Dr's, public servants, dentists, etc. This disease is an equal opportunity destroyer and we will all be effected in one way or another.

I have attached our [flyer](#). Please pass this information on to anyone you can think of. I just read yesterday, this is no longer a Rally, it is a MOVEMENT! I know that we can stop this epidemic in its tracks, but we need to tackle it from every angle and leave no stone un turned.

As Pastors, it would be wonderful if you can join us at the Rally and be there to comfort those who are devastated! People are in pain and need to know that we care!

Please like us on face book, Fed Up Manchester Vt and also like the national rally page, [www.facebook.com/feduprally](http://www.facebook.com/feduprally)

Thank you so much for your support, interest, encouragement and partnership with this horrible epidemic! A few days ago I received this below [article that was put out by the New York Times](#), which really helps to explain why this disease is so complex. I thought you might be interested.

If you or you know anyone who would be willing to make a donation to help offset the expenses of our Rally in town, we could really use the help. Checks can be made payable to Fed Up Manchester Vermont and be sent to our treasurer, Geri Gilmore, see below.

FedUp Manchester Vermont  
797 East Arlington Road  
Arlington, Vt 05250  
*dba a non profit, social advocacy non profit*

Thanks again!

In Partnership,  
Gretchen Lima  
Member of the Dorset Church

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Employment Opportunities All these are all still open!

(If you have a job listed, please try to remember to let me ([Charri](#)) know if it has been filled!)

"My gut feeling says he needs a second chance. Like we all do."

Krista Tippet, Speaking of Faith

"Truth can be told in an instant, forgiveness can be offered spontaneously, but reconciliation is the work of lifetimes and generations."

This is posted as a request from Rev. Charles M. Purinton, Jr. Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ

Community Clergy Training to Support Rural Veterans Recognizing the Challenges of Reintegration and Building a Pathway to Care and Resources

September 26, 27, & 28, 2017

[read more here...](#)

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### Resources from WorshipWell

Be sure to check out the worship resources available at:



[worshipwell.church](http://worshipwell.church)

Tyson Congregational church - located on the Ludlow/Plymouth border. Part-time organist needed to job-share with our current organist for some Sunday Morning Worship services. Please contact Ann Rose at [gms@tds.net](mailto:gms@tds.net) if interested. Thanks, Margo Marrone

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Position: **Community Ministries Coordinator** (anticipated opening Fall 2017)

Hours: Full-time salaried (commensurate with experience) with benefits.

Location: First Congregational Church of Burlington, Vermont - United Church of Christ

38 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401

<http://firstchurchburlington.org/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burlington,\\_Vermont](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burlington,_Vermont)

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

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Music Director

Second Congregational Church, Hyde Park, VT

We are an active and friendly congregation of people who love our church and our music. We are looking for an individual with a love of music, and a musical background, to lead our music program. We are blessed with a beautiful pipe organ, baby grand piano and vibrant choir. Our ideal Music Director would be proficient with, and enjoy playing the organ and piano, be able to sight read music and direct and grow our Choir and music program. Part time, paid position.

If this sounds interesting, we would love to talk with you about our program and what we can create together. Please email: Second Congregational Church [2congo@myfairpoint.net](mailto:2congo@myfairpoint.net)

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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.

First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

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

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Music Director Needed!

Job Description/Offer: Charlotte Congregational Church, U.C.C.  
seeks PT Music Director.

Church is GLBTQ friendly. Job includes: Accompanying congregational singing, leading Thursday night rehearsals, conducting the adult choir for Sunday morning worship services at 10am and for other occasional services. Regular planning meetings with the senior and associate pastors are part of the position. Email: [scookekitt@mac.com](mailto:scookekitt@mac.com)  
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An Open and Affirming Conference
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