



Vermont Conference, UCC Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

August 9, 2017

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Vermont Conference News

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### Is God calling to you to service in the Conference and wider church?

The Nominating Committee for VT Conference elections at Annual Meeting 2018 begins its work in earnest in September. There are many positions we will be prayerfully considering.

We are seeking a dedicated laywoman as incoming V. Moderator.

Each Association will need to suggest names for the Mission Department Council, and a representative to the Disaster Response Ministry Team. Disaster Response Ministry needs a Chair right now-what if disaster hits and we are not prepared? It happened once, it could again.

Suggestions for General Synod Delegates for 2019-2021 will be needed from the Northeast, Windham Union and Grafton-Orange Associations. Because of current delegates who will continue and our covenantal obligation to have our delegation reflect the blessed diversity in the UCC, all of these 3 delegates will need to be women, one must be under 30 years old and one must be a person of color. Please be praying about this. Might it be you or someone you know? It should be someone deeply committed to the UCC, active in their local church, and inspired to serve in this way. If you know someone, please let your Association Moderator know, or contact your pastor or the conference office and they will help you connect.

To find out more about General Synod go to [synod.uccpages.org](http://synod.uccpages.org) .

### Greetings!

#### JOYS OF SYNOD

I still remember this past June as I prepared for my second Synod attendance as a delegate from the Vermont Conference. I was excited. I thoroughly enjoyed Synod two years ago and genuinely looked forward to spending worship, fellowship, and even voting time with so many UCC folk!

I also felt a bit of concern, as I have experienced our beloved national office of the UCC bending toward a corporate model of power at the top. I have understood the financial reasons for trimming the national leadership in these lean times of dwindling churches and offerings to OCWM that fund the national office. However, with a corporate model, as in most corporate models, there seems to be a bit more secrecy and "leaning up" that, in my opinion, may begin to fracture our beloved polity structure.

At the Synod in 2015 we voted to table the vote on changing the Constitution and Bylaws for the leaner structure so that more study could take place. I'm trusting that the study did take place, although I did not hear about it. And I felt that this vote was rushed through in what felt to me like a "done deal in need of a rubber stamp."

Thankfully, the question from the Habakkuk group around eliminating licensed and commissioned ministry was tabled for further discussion until 2019, I suppose for a vote. They continue to take input from conference ministers and committees on ministry. I just saw that there is another regional meeting in Massachusetts around the topic this September 8 and 9. There is much opposition all around the UCC to eliminating these valuable and valued ministries of blessing. I pray our voices will be heard and counted at Synod 2019.

I was heartened that votes around certain resolutions were carefully presented and discussed. I was proud of our democratic method of voting that can be messy, but so satisfying in its complete welcome of opinion and of deliberation.

Worship and fellowship were the highlights of Synod for me! Nearly eight hundred (800) delegates and 2,000 or so visitors gave an invigorating shot in the

As the weeks go by, we will let you know more about our work and the people we are seeking. Please pray for us. Our work together is so important.

To find out more about our shared ministries as a conference, go to [http://vtcucc.org/docs/VTConfConstitution\\_Bylaws0603](http://vtcucc.org/docs/VTConfConstitution_Bylaws0603).

Unless you let us know, the Nominating Committee may not know the ministry to which God is calling you. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or suggestions.

Thank you, Susanna Griefen, Chair, [susanna@griefen.com](mailto:susanna@griefen.com), 802-778-9608.

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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.

[Information and registration Here...](#)

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**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 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 worshipping in Newbury and meeting with the Congregation

arm to this weary minister who needed to spend time with my wider church. Worship was thoughtfully and beautifully crafted to feed the spirit and the heart. Youth were integrated fully into the worship as well as integrated into the deliberations of resolutions. I believe such integration is new for Synod and I trust it will continue!

Fellowship was rich at the macro level in the meeting hall as well as in the exhibit hall where merchants and representatives from seminaries, local ministries, wider ministries, etc. convened. Fellowship with our Vermont delegation was so very special as we discussed freely our joys and concerns for our denomination. I got to know better some wonderful ministers of our Conference: lay and clergy. We ate together, laughed together, and shared freely about our ministries at home and the greater ministry of the UCC.

My only regret is that I will not be returning as a voting delegate in 2019. Twice is the max anyone can attend so that many have the opportunity to attend. I could consider attending as a visitor, and if money allows, I might just do that!!

For anyone who has not attended Synod, I highly recommend attending through your association as a voting delegate, or as a visitor. It's an experience that cannot fully be appreciated through words on a page.

I leave you with a sigh of good memory and a deep prayer for the future of our denomination. We are truly a United Church of Christ where all are welcome, no matter who we are. We truly are a United Church of Christ where all are given voice and are included in God's wide arms of peace and justice, no matter where we are on life's journey.

The Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola
First Congregational Church, UCC
Morrisville, VT

******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!

Rev. Lynn Bujnak will be worshipping at the Barre Congregational Church

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.



UCC News and Updates

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

Director of UCC's analytics and data team appointed co-chair to interfaith research group

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!

Virginia church shows love of children by stitching together small quilts

[Register here...](#)

UCC clergy answering the call to oppose Alt-Right rally in Virginia

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## **2017 Convocation Registration has opened!!**

Ohio church holds Safety Town for refugee children

Commentary: Running with Perseverance

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

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Employment Opportunities

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



Click image for more information.

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 if interested. Thanks, Margo Marrone



Food for Thought

Focus Reading:

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

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Position: Community Ministries Coordinator  
(anticipated opening Fall 2017)

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

**Jane Austen, 19th century**

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

"What strange creatures brothers are!"

**Orson Scott Card, Ender's Shadow, 20th century**

"...the thing with brothers is, you're supposed to take turns being the keeper. Sometimes you get to sit down and be the brother who is kept."

**Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid's Tale, 20th century**

"You can only be jealous of someone who has something you think you ought to have yourself."

**Friedl and the Children of Terezin, 20th century**

"If in barbed wire things can bloom, why couldn't I? I will not die, I will not die."

**Graham Greene, 20th century**

"Despair is the price one pays for setting oneself an impossible aim."

**Oscar Wilde, 19th century**

"Why was I born with such contemporaries?"

François de La Rochefoucauld, 17th century

"Our envy always lasts longer than the happiness of those we envy."

**Anne Lamott, Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith, 21st century**

"Jealousy has always been my cross, the weakness and woundedness in me that has most often caused me to feel ugly and unlovable, like the Bad Seed."

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**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:

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

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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

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SEEKING DIRECTOR(S) OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
- The United Church of Underhill (a vital, diverse, and growing congregation in covenant and connection with the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church) is seeking a part-time Director of Christian Education. She/he will be responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a comprehensive education plan, in conjunction with our Ministry in Christian Education and our pastor, for children, and youth. Our Sunday School enrollment is approximately 30 students. Candidates should be energetic, possess strong interpersonal, collaborative and communication skills, and have a deep Christian faith. We are also open to the possibility of two people sharing this 8 hour/week position. If interested, please email Janet Grant at: [grantfernald@comcast.net](mailto:grantfernald@comcast.net). The United Church of Underhill is located at 9 Park Street in Underhill, VT (approximately 15 miles east of Burlington along Rt. 15). You can also find more information about us at

[unitedchurchofunderhill.com](http://unitedchurchofunderhill.com)

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CHURCH MUSICIAN Job Opening, Thetford Hill, VT
First Congregational Church of Thetford

Progressive, Open and Affirming UCC congregation seeks Choir Director/Accompanist to provide keyboard music (piano and/or Rieger organ) and direct our choir for Sunday services.

Come join with our community and create music in our beautiful, acoustically wonderful sanctuary.

Begin September 2017 More details at our website thetfordhillchurch.org .
office@thetfordhillchurch.org
or call 802-785-2915



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

