

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



May 2, 2018

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

What an Annual Meeting we had! My heart is full of gratitude for all those who made this meeting possible and for all who attended. Here is the link to Katelyn Macrae's slide show highlights:

<https://www.facebook.com/katelyn.macrae/videos/10100432383272338/?fref=mentions>

With thanks for: the members of the **Annual Meeting Planning Committee** under the capable leadership of chair Katelyn Macrae who spent countless hours meeting, working, dreaming and praying to bring this Annual Meeting to birth: **Diane Holme, Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy, Jeffrey Tuper-Giles, Ned Davis, Rev. Shawn Bracebridge, Rev. Mary Kay Schueneman, and Rev. Tracy Weatherhogg**

Susanne Schmidt for inspiring us to tell the stories that shape our lives and our faith

Eric Tuper-Giles for sharing his gifts and ministry of music

Seth Stoddard, tech whiz, for helping us to see, hear, sing, and pray together

Jeffrey Tuper-Giles for collecting, typing and formatting this year's program book

Rev. Katelyn Macrae, Ann Vivian and Jeffrey Tuper-Giles for making our presentations beautiful and alive

Ned Davis for bringing our theme into focus through his gifts of Liturgical Floral Design

Rev. Tracy Weatherhogg, Rev. Mary Kay Schueneman and Jeffrey Tuper-Giles for shaping our worship

Laura Nassau, our treasurer, for going above and beyond to prepare this year's financial documents

Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy for his leadership and guidance as our Moderator and **Rev. Katelyn Macrae** for stepping in as Moderator Pro Tem when needed

Rev. Peter Plagge and Rev. Lise Sparrow for serving as our Scribes

Rev. Debbie Ingram and Rev. Doug Carter for serving as our Parliamentarians

Diane Holme for

organizing this year's workshops and serving as liaison to the Lake Morey Resort

Betty Edson and all the presenters at the Peacemaker's Gathering inspiring us all in our practice of justice and peace

Our workshop leaders for sharing their time and dedication enabling us to learn and grow in new ways

Charri Robinson for her outstanding administrative support and always going the extra mile to make this Annual Meeting happen

Our exhibitors who reminded us of our connections to the Wider Church

Let us now share our stories of hope, redemption, forgiveness, faith, grace with one another and with a world hungry for Good News.

In peace,

Lynn

VT CONFERENCE NEWS

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 2017, 13 churches received grants for their summer lunch programs through the Vermont Conference Department of Mission Summer Lunch Grant Program.

Your questions about existing summer lunch programs can be directed first to Hunger Free Vermont at www.hungerfreevt.org. The staff members there are working with community and/or church members in most towns in Vermont to establish or maintain/augment summer lunch programs. Vermont 211 also has information on most summer lunch programs in the state.

Secondly, contact the Vermont Conference, Department of Mission, Summer Lunch Grant Coordinator Mary Lou DeCosta (colchsummerlunch@aol.com). She will give you advice and recommendations gleaned from 35 Vermont UCC congregations who participate in Summer Lunch Programs. Mary Lou will sing the praises of the Vermont Food Bank which provides food for a fraction of the store cost.

If your congregation feels called to help and would like additional funding, then click here for the "2018 summer lunch grant application form". Forms must be received by May 28th.

Find the Application Form here.....

Just a note from the Conference Office. Any/every check you send from your church to the Conference needs to be accompanied by a Remittance Form. It should clearly state your church name (First Congregational (Town)) and what the funds are to be posted to. Example: If you are paying for three Delegates from your church to Annual Meeting, please state their names. Any description is very helpful.

Thank you!

<http://www.vtcucc.org/mt-content/uploads/2017/12/remittance-form-for-sending-money-to-the-conference.pdf>

UCC NEWS

UCC NEWSFEED

Cleveland congregation offering sanctuary, one of three in NE Ohio keeping families together

A UCC congregation in Cleveland is providing sanctuary to a married father of four from Guatemala who wants to be here in this country as his children grow up. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ is part of a growing movement Northeast Ohio, where three churches are now sheltering immigrants.

UCC advocates in Flint protest water distribution center shutdown
UCC church members in Flint, Michigan continued the call for safe drinking water for all of people in their community this week, condemning state leaders for shutting down local drinking water distribution centers.

UCC Board begins Dorhauer renomination process
The United Church of Christ Board of Directors is beginning the renomination process for Rev. John Dorhauer as UCC General Minister and President, and is inviting members of the wider church to offer comments on his leadership.

UCC leaders influenced by James Hal Cone mourn founder of Black Liberation Theology
Leaders of the United Church of Christ are mourning the passing of a spiritual giant with the death of the Rev. Dr. James Hal Cone, the founder of Black Liberation Theology.

UCC Pastor: We need to be present to effect change
You can only imagine my surprise at receiving an invitation to be present at a table of high-level business executives talking about how to interest a large corporation in locating in Dallas, Texas.

Southwest Conference churches feed children, welcome families, support educators during walkout

Love of children and love of neighbor are both evident across the Southwest Conference United Church of Christ (SWC) this week, with people stepping up to feed children and assist families impacted by the statewide Arizona teachers walkout.

Two Cleveland congregations partner in 'Sacred Conversations to End Racism' pilot project

Two United Church of Christ congregations in Greater Cleveland, partners in a pilot program using the denomination's latest race relations resource, are providing valuable feedback as they work together through the Sacred Conversations to End Racism (SC2ER) curriculum.

Commentary: Graceful Engagement

I'm sometimes asked why there are 1,500 Open and Affirming (ONA) congregations in the United Church of Christ.

Weekly Seeds

Focus Reading: John 15:9-17

Fred Rogers, 20th century

"When I say it's you I like, I'm talking about that part of you that knows that life is far more than anything you can ever see or hear or touch. That deep part of you that allows you to stand for those things without which humankind cannot survive. Love that conquers hate, peace that rises triumphant over war, and justice that proves more powerful than greed."

Henri-Frédéric Amiel, Amiel's Journal, 19th century

"Life is short and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling the dark journey with us. Oh, be swift to love, make haste to be kind."

Madeleine L'Engle, 20th century

"We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it."

Meister Eckhart, 14th century

"In this life we are to become heaven so that God might find a home here."

Jean Baptiste Lacordaire, 19th century

"We are leaves of one branch, the drops of one sea, the flowers of one garden."

Lao Tzu, 6th century B.C.E.

"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."

Abraham Kuyper, 20th century
"He is your friend who pushes you nearer to God."

Charles Cousar, 21st century
"What makes people friends of Jesus is their being captured by the story, following the sometimes comforting, sometimes disturbing plot that leads to the cross and the empty tomb, and finding in it the light to guide their way in the world."

The Dalai Lama, 21st century
"Because we all share this planet earth, we have to learn to live in harmony and peace with each other and with nature. That is not just a dream, but a necessity. We are dependent on each other in so many ways that we can no longer live in isolated communities and ignore what is happening outside those communities."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 20th century
"Keep feeling the need for being first. But I want you to be the first in love. I want you to be the first in moral excellence. I want you to be the first in generosity."

Dr. James Forbes, *Whose Gospel?*, 21st century
"The progressive spirituality I believe in is deeply rooted in the conviction of Dr. King that God's dream of the Beloved Community sets the agenda for the church."

Jane Austen, 19th century, *Northanger Abbey*
"There is nothing I would not do for those who are really my friends. I have no notion of loving people by halves, it is not my nature."



BE THE CHURCH



**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT
CONFERENCE**

[Here...](#)



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## HAPPENINGS

### SAVE THE DATE:

**On May 20th, a Spring Gathering with Maren Tirabassi at 4 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Springfield.**

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The Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH)

is pleased to announce a new opportunity for congregational churches in the New England area. We have been awarded a \$1.5 million five-year grant from the Lilly Endowment to create an innovation hub to foster creative vocational reflection in congregations today. This hub will focus on the important BUSTH constituency of mainline New England Protestant congregations. BUSTH officials intend to share resulting research with others across the United States. The project is called "Creative Callings", and we would like to invite parish churches to apply, as the deadline to apply is July 15. Please see the full invitation letter attached, and information about the grant can also be found in the [press release](#) posted on our website.

[Read More Here...](#)

The beautiful steeple on the landmark Williston Federated Church must be replaced after 100 years overlooking our community. We are asking the community to help. All are invited to a concert Saturday, May 5 at 7:30pm at the Williston Federated Church, 44 N. Williston Rd. to benefit the steeple replacement. The concert will feature a wide range of sacred and secular music by the Williston Federated Church Choir, The Social Band - classical and folk traditions and special guest Williston native Helen Lyons performing opera and Broadway songs. A goodwill offering will be collected. Contributions may also be made at: www.steeple.org

**The 26th Annual New England Summer Institute, 2018
United Church of Christ History, Theology, and Polity
Camp Calumet, Freedom, NH**

Sponsored by the six New England Conferences

of the United Church of Christ
Week 1: May 29-June 1, 9:00-3:00
Week 2: June 4-8, 9:00-3:00

There is NO SUBSTITUTE for learning about the UCC in direct, face-to-face conversation with others-and in beautiful, spirit-filled surroundings!

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

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ONLINE  
UCC History, Theology and Polity Course  
June/July 2018

A UCC History, Theology and Polity Course that meets the requirements as set forth by the UCC Polity Teacher's Network will be offered online in June/July 2018. The instructor will be Rev. David Gaewski, Conference Minister of the New York Conference, UCC. Classes will begin at 9:30am and end at 3:30pm on the following dates: June 16, 23, 30 and July 7. The platform utilized will be Zoom Video Conferencing (zoom.us) The tuition will be \$475. For more information contact course administrator, Ms. Diana Pelletier, at [dkluscombe@msn.com](mailto:dkluscombe@msn.com).

This polity course is sponsored by the Oneida Association of the New York Conference. Payments should be sent no later than May 23rd to: Diana Pelletier, 114 Munro Dr., Camillus, NY 13031. Make checks payable to Oneida Association UCC.

A syllabus is available upon request. Laity, Members in Discernment and Privilege of Call candidates are all invited! Class size is limited to the first fifteen to register. The course will be cancelled if we do not obtain seven registered students. A student is considered registered when full payment has been received. Students who cancel enrollment will receive reimbursements up until June 13th. Please note the last three online classes reached maximum capacity.

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



Original worship resources for local churches...because Sunday's coming.

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VERMONT OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

[SEE THE LATEST CAMP NEWSLETTER HERE.....](#)

WHAT CAN CHURCHES DO TO PROMOTE CAMP?

- Promote camp in your bulletins and newsletters
- Hand out the brochures
- Have campers that have been to camp share stories in worship.
- Have a camp Sunday- Children's time, Smores for coffee hour, or camp songs in worship.
- Someone from Outdoor Ministries can come to your church to talk about camp with the children or share a sermon about Outdoor Ministries
- Let campers know there is scholarship money available
- Support the scholarship fund with a special gift of offering to Outdoor Ministries
- Check out the website at www.hortoncenter.org

For questions or to apply: Laurie Chipman lchipman@fccej.org
or Nancy Folwer fowler@gmail.com

[Preview 2018 Camp Brochure here!](#)

[Read more here...](#)

**If you would like to volunteer, please contact Nancy Fowler at fowler5vt@gmail.com
Nancy Fowler or Laurie Chipman
lchipman@fccej.org**



Rev. John Dorhauer was at the Outdoor Ministry Association Consult Gathering at Silver Lake, CT in November and listened to some of our camping stories. We applied and were awarded a \$1000 Deering Grant to help with the cost of paddle boarding at Rock Point next summer.

[See Camp Job Opportunities here.....](#)

Job Replies to:
[Laurie Chipman Ichipman@fccej.org](mailto:Laurie.Chipman.Ichipman@fccej.org)
or
[Nancy Fowler fowler5vt@myfairpoint.net](mailto:Nancy.Fowler.fowler5vt@myfairpoint.net)



DINNERS AND SOCIAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Community Supper
Every Friday, 6 pm at the United Church of South Royalton



Bradford Congregational Church
The Community Suppers are the
4th THURSDAY of each month

Pot Luck and Hymn Sing - third Tuesday of every month, 6:pm, at the Roxbury Union Congregational Church.

Essex Eats Out Community Dinners Continue... 1st Friday of Every Month

www.essexeatsoout.org

Bradford Congregational Church
The Community Suppers are the
4th THURSDAY of each month

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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The Congregational Church of South Hero, VT, UCC is looking for a part-time (or full time) organist. This person would be responsible for playing for Sunday services at least every other week (sharing with another organist), as well as additional services such as Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday , etc. The organist would also accompany the choir at rehearsals. The sanctuary contains an Allen Protegé L321i/e organ with 3 manuals, 38 stops, and 266 voices and a piano.

This position is available after June 1, 2018.

If interested please contact the church office at 802-372-4962 or [ccshvt@gmail.com](mailto:ccshvt@gmail.com) for a full job description.

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MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST Active community church of 400+ members seeks a vibrant music director/organist. Responsible for adult choir, youth choir, and all liturgical services. Time commitment averages 20 hours per week. Range of compensation \$30,000 - \$35,000 dependent on experience. Submit cover letter, resume with 3 references, and any other material you feel would support your candidacy to: Music Director Search Committee, United Church of Dorset and East Rupert, P.O. Box 263, Dorset, VT 05251 dorsetchurch@gmail.com

BOOKKEEPER AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT The Dorset Church is currently seeking a Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant skilled in digital and internet communications for a 3 days a week part time job. The applicant should be a friendly team worker and good multi-task worker ready to fulfill the mission of a vibrant growing church. To apply, please submit by email a cover letter and resume stating your qualifications and your interest in the position to dorsetchurch@gmail.com

Jane A. LoBrutto, Licensed Minister - Administrator
United Church of Dorset and East Rupert
PO Box 263
Dorset, VT 05251
802-867-2260
Jane@dorsetchurch.org

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**The First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington,  
Vermont**

## **Invites candidates for two part-time positions:**

**Children's & Family Ministries Coordinator:** Dynamic innovator needed to grow programming for children (pre-K to gr.5) and families at Open & Affirming, mission-centric church. Be passionate about leading children into faithful, loving and hopeful lives. Start at 15hr/wk, \$20/hr. Work closely with staff and volunteers.

To apply, send resume and cover letter to: [info@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:info@firstchurchburlington.org)  
Details: <http://firstchurchburlington.org/?s=hiring>

**Youth and Young Adult Ministries Coordinator:** Thoughtful relationship builder needed to grow youth ministry for, with and by youth. Be proactive guiding middle and high school students to develop identity and apply their passion for social justice in the world. Start at 15hr/wk, \$20/hr. Work closely with staff and volunteers.

To apply, send resume and cover letter to: [info@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:info@firstchurchburlington.org)  
Details: <http://firstchurchburlington.org/?s=hiring>

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Youth Ministry Leader wanted

College Street Congregational Church in Burlington is seeking a leader for our Christ-centered peer group of 6-12 graders who can guide youth in Christian discipleship through theology, service, fellowship, and fun. Our church is growing - especially our youth program - and we seek someone who can continue to support our youth as we grow. This is a part-time (20 hour) position.

For more details, go
to

<http://www.collegestreetchurch.org/youthministryleader/>

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We hope you like our ever changing look as we try to make each E-Kit fun to explore!  
We welcome submissions for the weekly E-Kit. Please submit your submission by Tuesday of each week! We will be running all events and news in this weekly E-Kit.  
Have you seen our new website? If you have anything you would like to see published on the website, please let me know!

[robinsonc@vtcucc.org](mailto:robinsonc@vtcucc.org)



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Vermont Conference, UCC | 802-728-4999 [VTCconference@vtcucc.org](mailto:VTCconference@vtcucc.org) | <http://www.vtcucc.org>



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