



Fall Leadership Fest

October 24, 2020

8:45 – 12:00 on ZOOM

Cost: \$25

Descriptions for the course offerings at the inaugural Vermont Conference Fall Leadership Fest are below along with more about our presenters.

We look forward to seeing you on October 24th!

White responsibility in the fight for racial justice – with Bishop James Mills Sr. (9:00 a.m.)

A non-punitive conversation about race and social movement in white spa Christian spaces. How do we talk about race when people of color are absent from the table? What is the responsibility of white Christian in the fight for racial justice?

Bishop (Rev) James L. Mills Sr. is the Senior Pastor at First Congregational Church of Fair Haven, VT, UCC. Bishop Mills has more than 20 years -experience as a minister and administrator. A native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, ministry is in Mills' blood. His grandmother served as a pastor in the African-Methodist Episcopal Church for 20 years. Rev. Mills and his two teenage sons have lived in Vermont since 2008. Prior to accepting the pastorship in Fair Haven, he served as a gap pastor at Christ Community Church, UCC of Chicopee, Massachusetts and administrative bishop at the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, a multi-denominational, multinational, primarily African-American group of Christian leaders and laity who practice a theology of radical inclusivity, which engages and ministers to individuals on the margins of society.

Year-Around Stewardship Amid A Pandemic – with Rev. Andrew Warner (9:00 a.m.)

In this most unusual of years, join this webinar to develop and strengthen plans for promoting stewardship. Designed for pastors and lay leaders, we'll look at practical ideas based on insights from across the non-profit sector to create a plan for your congregation.

Rev. Andrew Warner, our presenter, works as the Generosity Outreach Officer at the national setting of the UCC and Director of Development for the Wisconsin Conference. Prior to this, he served for over twenty years as a local pastor.

Children's and Youth Ministry in the Time of COVID – New Ideas on How to Connect with Kids (10:30 a.m.)

Come hear several Vermont UCC Christian Educators share their wisdom about what has worked and what hasn't. Bring your questions!

Hadley Bunting (moderator) is the Director of Children, Youth and Families at Charlotte Congregational Church.

Laurie Chipman is the Christian Education Director at First Congregational Church of Essex Junction.

Marybeth Partington is the Children and Family Ministry Co-Coordinator at the Congregational Church of Vergennes.

Jennifer Smith is the Director of Children and Youth Ministries at Middlebury UCC.

Jason Vanderlaan is the Youth Ministry Leader at College Street Congregational Church in Burlington.

Pastor Parish Relations Committee – with Rev. Stephen Boyd and Rev. Tara Barber (10:30 a.m.)

This is an essential committee in the life of a congregation. Come to this workshop to explore what the purpose of a PPR Committee is and is not. Stephen and Tara will share best practices from around the church and be prepared to answer your questions.

Stephen Boyd and Tara Barber are both staff members of the Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization ministry team at the National setting of the UCC. Stephen is the Minister for Chaplains and Ministers in Specialized Settings. Tara is Minister for Ministerial Support and Accountability. They both bring substantial experience with PPR Committees and resources for those committees.