



## E-Kit January 29, 2020

**DONATE**



Every once in awhile, I like to remind the clergy of our Vermont Conference churches how important Clergy Support Groups are for your ministry... I am encouraging you to be part of a clergy group where everyone can be completely honest with one another, and where everything that is said is held in the strictest confidence....

And lay people, I want to encourage you to value this type of group or relationship for your pastor...

[Click here to read the full article](#)



**BOLD VISION.  
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COUNCIL FOR HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICE MINISTRIES

### **A Call to Action on Medicaid**

Please see the Call to Action below. On behalf of our member ministries in the states affected by the MFAR policy change, please take a minute to write a comment to CMS. You do not need to be a provider or in a state impacted to be an advocate for justice on this issue. It's actually a very simple process and you can use part of the text from the comment I just submitted...

[Click here to read the full call to action for Medicaid](#)

[Click here for the proposed Medicaid regulation change](#)

### **Boundary Awareness Training for Retired Clergy registration open**

**Training date: March 4, 2020 (replacing Feb. 21)**

**Time: 10:00 - 2:30**

**Place: United Church of Bethel**

Recognizing and honoring boundaries can present challenges when you have retired from active ministry. How does a retired minister create, and just as importantly maintain, boundaries?

New Hampshire Conference Minister Rev. Gordon Rankin will lead us in this seminar.

Registration fee is \$20.

**Lunch and refreshments are provided**

[Click here to Register!](#)

## Time to get your church records up to date!

*UCC Yearbook reporting opened January 8, 2020, and it is important that your church report current and accurate membership information.*

*The membership number is used to determine the amount of dues that your church gives to your association and the Vermont Conference.*

Your church number includes the Vermont Conference number which is 82. Therefore, your complete church number (including zeroes) is 82xxxx.

[Click here for instructions](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

[Click here to find your church number \(organized by town\)](#)

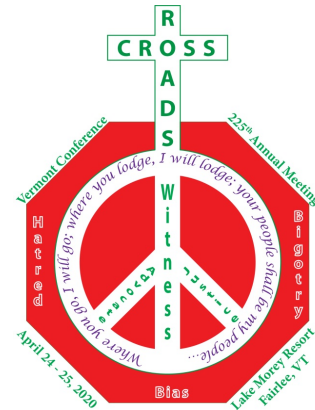
### 225th Annual Meeting updates

***We are excited to announce youth programming at Annual Meeting this year!*** It has been a long time since youth had the opportunity to be involved. Youth at Annual Meeting will be during the Saturday sessions including their own dedicated workshop. Stay tuned for more information...

Registration for Annual Meeting will be coming in February. [Click here to learn more about church delegations and who is eligible to vote \(PDF\).](#)

***Annual Meeting is April 24 & 25, 2020.***

Make sure to reserve your room at Lake Morey Resort early - they go fast! Call to reserve your room at 802-423-1211.



[Click here to learn more about Annual Meeting](#)

[Click here for the latest Racism in America installment](#)

### New Podcast Available

Rev. Josh Simon (First Congregational Church of Essex Junction) and Rev. Sally May (Malletts Bay UCC, Colchester) have released the first of several interviews for Faith in

### Update on Puerto Rico earthquake

Here is a small report received Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, from Lydia Rosaly, our on the ground coordinator, who lives in Ponce, one of the towns hit by the recent earthquakes:

### Gun Violence Task Force

In 2020 there is a push in the Vermont Legislature to pass bills aimed at reducing Vermont's suicide rates. More than 100 people in Vermont take

Vermont: Conversations with LGBTQ Religious and Spiritual Leaders.

[Click here for the podcast](#)

"The aftershocks are continuing - around 3 or 4 a day registering 4.0. There are still thousands of people sleeping outside their houses and thousands of refugees in camps...

[Click here for more info](#)

their own lives in most years. A person's decision to take their own life is a terribly tragic permanent solution to what may be a temporary problem or a solvable situation. It devastates families and communities; we can reduce these unnecessary deaths.

[Gun Violence Task Force statement for Vermont legislation](#)

## Pastoral Transitions

- Rev. Peter Heinrichs has been called as Interim Pastor at Norwich Congregational Church.
- Rev. Ezra Chapola has been called as Pastor and Teacher at Old South Church in Windsor. Ezra began his ministry on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Rev. James Mills has been called as Pastor and Teacher at 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church of Fair Haven. James began his ministry on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Rev. Cass Poulos has been called as Pastor of the Post Mills Congregational Church.

[Click here for full list of transitions](#)

## Prayers and Thanksgivings

Rev. Marisa Laviola gives thanks for the prayers and support she has received as her spouse Carol has recovered from an accident.

Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno gives thanks for the support and prayers she and her husband Tristan have received as Tristan has recovered from a heart attack.

## Useful Links

- [UCC Newsfeeds](#)
- [UCC Weekly Seeds](#)
- [2020 Tax preparation resources](#)
- [Pension Boards rate calculator](#)
- [UCC Yearbook](#)
- [Stewardship blog](#)
- [Prevent frozen pipes](#)

## Who should I contact for...?

- Conference Minister: Rev. Lynn Bujnak
  - [bujnak@vtcucc.org](mailto:bujnak@vtcucc.org)
- Assoc. Conference Minister: Rev. Paul Sangree
  - [sangreep@vtcucc.org](mailto:sangreep@vtcucc.org)
- Search & Call, operations, events: Jesse Davis
  - [vtcoordinator2018@gmail.com](mailto:vtcoordinator2018@gmail.com)
- Finance: Tanya Frazier
  - [vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com](mailto:vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com)
- E-Kit postings
  - [vermontconference@gmail.com](mailto:vermontconference@gmail.com)

**Outdoor Ministries news**

@ the Lake Camp week at Rock Point  
July 26 - July 31

Recruiting for 2 Deans, 4 Counselors,





Nurse, 2 Lifeguards & Daytime  
Volunteers  
Looking for our lead team of Deans &  
Counselors!

[More Outdoor Ministries news](#)

## Justice & Witness Ministries news

The VT Conference Department of Justice and Witness Ministries is contacting all the local churches in the Conference to gather information and offer support and information. We do not have e-mail contact info for each church, but we would like to hear from everyone. A letter with a link to a brief survey is available. Please identify your church when answering the first question of the survey. Please contact Mary Brownlow if you would like to receive the letter or pass it along to a committee in your church.

[Contact Mary Brownlow](#)

## Public Safety Security Grants

The Vermont Department of Public Safety, Homeland Security Unit is pleased to announce the application period for grant funding is now open for the following grant programs:

- FY2020 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP),
- FY2020 Operation Stonegarden Grant Program (OPSG),
- FY2020 Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP),
- Reallocation of 2017 SHSP Grant Funds: Special Operations RFP (limited funding available, due February 4, 2020)

[Public Safety Grant information](#)

## Resources from the Vermont Conference website (click the buttons below)

**Click  
here  
for  
local  
church  
events**

**Annual UCC Church Yearbook upload period continues through February 2020.**

Community Supper - January 30 at United Church of Dorset & East Rupert [Click here for more information](#)

**Church Vitality with Paul Nickerson - February 1, 10:00 - 3:00 at First Congregational Church of Springfield**

Boundary Training for Retired Clergy - March 4, 10:00 - 2:30 at United Church of Bethel [Register here](#)

**Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Association spring meeting - March 8, 2:00 at Bradford Congregational Church**

Vermont Conference Annual Meeting - April 24 & 25 at Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT - Registration upcoming

**Search & Call  
Resources**

**Lay Ministry  
Openings**

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## Connect with us

