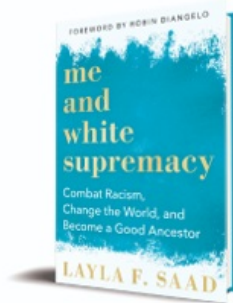




## E-Kit February 5, 2020

**DONATE**



Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

The closer we get towards Annual Meeting the more I excited I am getting. The Planning Committee has worked diligently creating what I believe will be fantastic experience for those attending. Jesse now has more information on the [Annual Meeting page](#) and I encourage you to visit and register **early**, especially for accommodations (reserve directly with Lake Morey 800-423-1211), as I believe we will max out rooms at Lake Morey.

To help us explore the theme: **Crossroads: Intersections of Privilege and Justice** we have several speakers and resources. First, we will be graced with the presence and words of the **Rev. Traci Blackmon**, the Executive for Justice and Local Ministries for the UCC. Traci will be offering a keynote address, leading a time for questions and answers and preaching at our main worship service with communion. We will also have a panel of People of Color who live and work in Vermont to talk about their experiences of racism. Throughout the meeting we will share in powerful worship and be wrapped in innovative music with **Dr. Chris Backriges and friends**. Chris is an ethnomusicologist and the music director for the West Dover Congregational Church, UCC.

Finally, we need to get ready to have the conversation about white privilege and the justice God desires. This is not easy work and I know I stumble all the time and have to start again.

For Lent this year, I am committed to completing a 28 day reflection and journaling exercise using the resources: *Me and White Supremacy: Combat racism, Change the World and Become a Good Ancestor* by Layla Saad. The workbook is available for free download through Kindle books or the book will become available in a few days for purchase. I AM HOPING MANY OF US WILL COMMIT TO THIS SELF-REFLECTIVE STUDY DURING LENT in preparation for Annual Meeting. There is also a guide available for those who would like to use the resource as a group study. Several members of the Conference Board of Directors have already made this commitment, and some are planning to use this book for a Lenten study at their churches.

Blessings!  
Lynn



February 5, 2020

To: All Voting Members and Visitors to the Annual Meeting

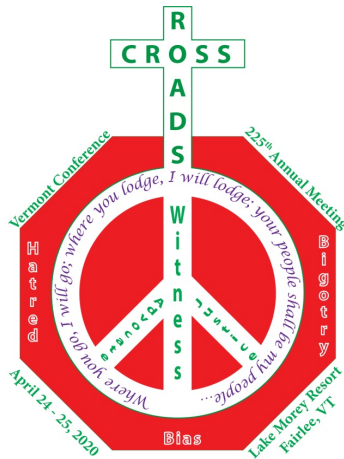
From: The Rev. Lynn Bujnak, Conference Minister and Registrar

RE: ANNUAL MEETING 2020

[See Rev. Traci](#)

**Blackmon preach at  
Riverside Church**

**Read the full  
Invitation to Annual  
Meeting**



The Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ, will take place on April 24-25 at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, Vermont. This year's theme is *Crossroads: Intersections of Privilege and Justice*.

We are excited to welcome the Rev. Traci Blackmon the Associate General Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries for The United Church of Christ and Senior Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ in Florissant, MO. A featured voice with many regional, national, and international media outlets and a frequent contributor to print publications, Rev. Blackmon's communal leadership and work in the aftermath of the killing of Michael Brown, Jr in Ferguson, MO has gained her both national and international recognition and audiences from the White House to the Carter Center to the Vatican. You can read more about Traci here: <https://www.ucc.org/about-us/meet-our-officers>

**Register for Annual Meeting**

## Installation of Elissa Johnk

At the request of the First Congregational Church of Burlington, the Champlain Association of the Vermont Conference of United Church of Christ will gather for the

### Service of Installation of Rev. Elissa Johnk

as the Pastor of  
First Congregational Church, Burlington  
**Saturday, February 8, 2020**  
**1:30 PM Ecclesiastical Council**  
**2:00 PM Service of Installation**

The First Congregational Church  
of Burlington, UCC  
joyfully invites you to the

Installation  
of  
the Rev. Elissa Johnk  
on Saturday  
February 8, 2020  
2 p.m.



Festive reception to follow,  
childcare provided.  
[www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org)



**Click here for more information**

## 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.

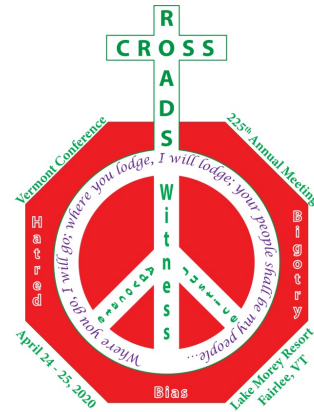
**Lunch and refreshments are provided**

## 225th Annual Meeting updates

### Registration is now open!

*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.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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

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

## 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 \(organized by town\)](#)



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 Vermont: Conversations with LGBTQ Religious and Spiritual Leaders*.

*On this week's episode of Faith in Vermont: Conversations with LGBTQ Religious and Spiritual Leaders, we have Rev. Sarah Flynn. She is formally retired; however, she is an active community member.*

[Click here for the podcast](#)

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:

"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](#)

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 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](#)

---

## Back Bay Mission seeks new Executive Director

Back Bay Mission has a simple mission: to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives.

We **strengthen neighborhoods** through ministries like our education and empowerment programs and our housing rehabilitation program...

We **seek justice** by helping the people we serve become more involved in their communities, educating people about the realities of poverty, and advocating on behalf of marginalized people in our community.

All of our programs **transform lives**.

The Executive Director is the key management leader of Back Bay Mission. The Executive Director is responsible for overseeing the administration, programs and strategic plan of the organization. Other key duties include fundraising, marketing, and community outreach. The position reports directly to the Board of Directors.

[Job description and how to apply](#)

---

### 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

### 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.

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](#)

### Useful Links

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

### 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



[More 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!

### 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](#)

# website (click the buttons below)

**Click  
here  
for  
local  
church  
events**

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

Valentines Day breakfast - February 15, 8:30 - 10:00 at Shoreham Congregational Church [More information here](#)

**The Magic of Hogwarts - February 28 & 29 at Bethany UCC in Montpelier** [Click here for more](#)

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 - [Click here to register](#)

**Search & Call  
Resources**

**Lay Ministry  
Openings**

## Visit our partners



**Worship  
Well**

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

[Website](#)



**Church World Service**

[Adam Smedberg](#)

Community &  
Congregational  
Engagement Specialist

[Email Adam](#)

PO Box 749  
West Springfield, MA 01090  
Phone: 413-279-4039  
Skype: asmedbergcws  
[Website](#)



**INSURANCE BOARD**  
Partners in Protection

Local Agent  
James Stewart  
[Email James](#)

P.O. Box 9031  
Springfield, MA 01102-9031  
413-788-4531  
[Website](#)

## Connect with us

