

# PROGRAM BOOKLET

**risen**



**indeed**

*Logo in memory of Ned Davis, Licensed Minister for Design*

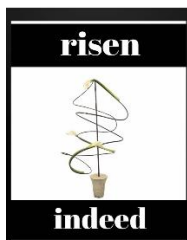
**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
VERMONT CONFERENCE OF THE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MAY 2-3, 2025  
GRACE CHURCH  
RUTLAND, VERMONT**

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*Please review the whole booklet, and only print what you need to keep.*

*Worship materials will be presented on video screens.*



**THURSDAY, MAY 1**

**5:00-6:30 pm (Zoom)** *Religious Trauma and Sexuality* – Lou Thomas Rochford

**7:00-8:30 pm (Zoom)** *7 Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism* – Rev. Dr. Carter Hayward

**FRIDAY, MAY 2**

**3:45 – 4:30 pm** Registration, Music, Snacks and Socializing

**5:00 – 5:45 pm** Dinner

**6:00 -8:15 pm** FIRST PLENARY (available virtually)

Welcome and Introduction of Guests  
Call to Order and Opening Prayer  
Confirm quorum  
Adopt definitions and procedures  
Adopt “Covenant for Dialogue”  
Approve Minutes from VTCUCC Annual Meeting 2024  
Nomination of Parliamentarian  
Nomination of Scribes  
Resolution  
Speak-outs  
Recognition of OCWM, Hope Fund, and 5 for 5 Churches  
Recognition of Members in Memoriam  
Recognition, Transitioning, and Welcome of New Clergy

**6:55 pm** State of the Conference Address (available virtually)

The Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak and Rev. Paul Sangree

**7:35 pm** New ONA churches

**7:45 pm** Evening Prayer and Worship (available virtually)

**8:15 pm** Square dance (at Rutland Free Library)

**Stop By the Information Tables**

Ministry 21

Sunrise School

Friends of the Conference

The Horton Center

Hope Fund

## **SATURDAY, MAY 3**

**8:00 – 9:00 am** 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Betty Edson Peacemakers Breakfast  
hosted by the Rev. Debbie Ingram

**9:00 - 10:20 am** SECOND PLENARY (available virtually)

Morning worship  
Financial Resolutions (Document F)— Discussion & Vote — Rev. Leigh McCaffrey  
Ministry 21 – Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno  
Mission Witness – Mr. Derek Duncan Global Relations Minister (East Asia and The Pacific)

**10:30 am- Keynote address** -- Rev. Dr. Marvin Ellison (available virtually)

**11:45 – 12:45 pm Lunch in the Fellowship Hall**

**1:00 pm – Workshops**

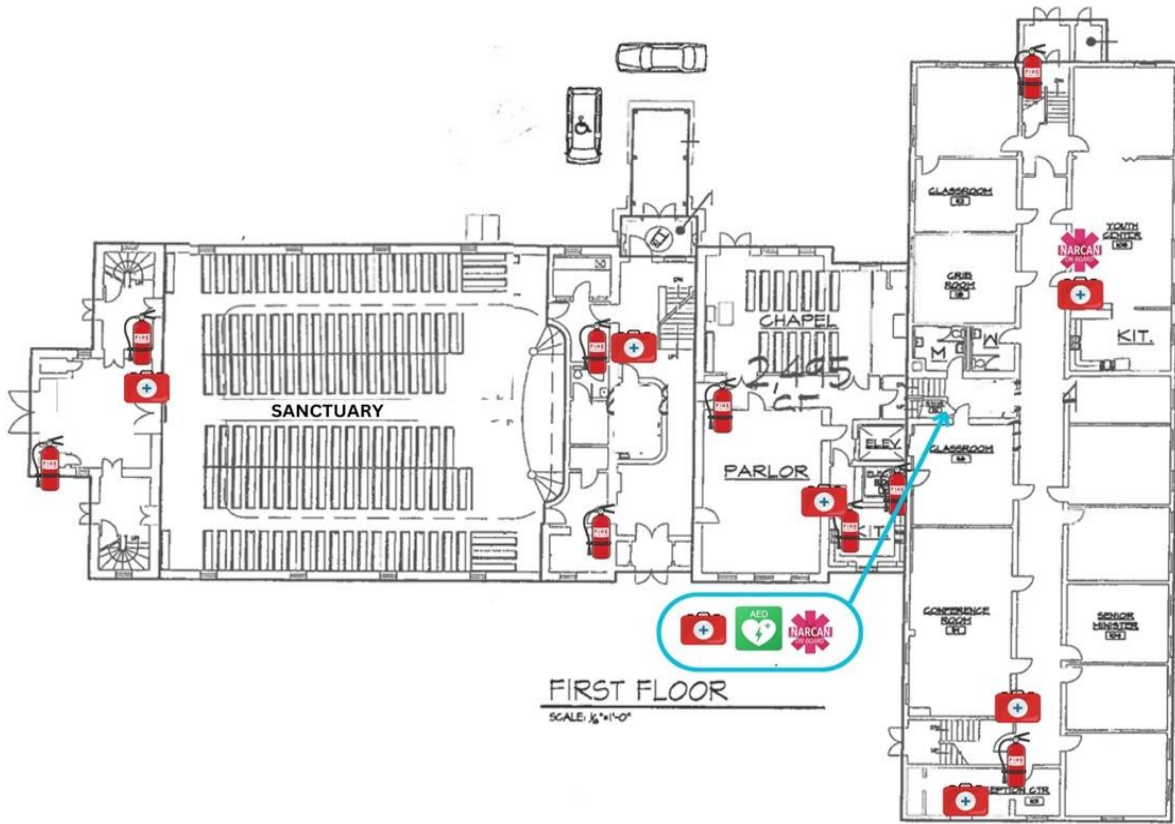
- Class/caste – Rev. Cass Poulos
- Spiritual Tunes – Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak
- Sexy Boundaries – Pastor Karen Braeutigam
- Rocking the Credo -Rev. Dr. Arnold Thomas
- Keynote discussion – Rev. Dr. Marvin Ellison
- Racism in Asia – Mr. Derek Duncan

**2:15 - 2:30 pm** THIRD PLENARY (available virtually)

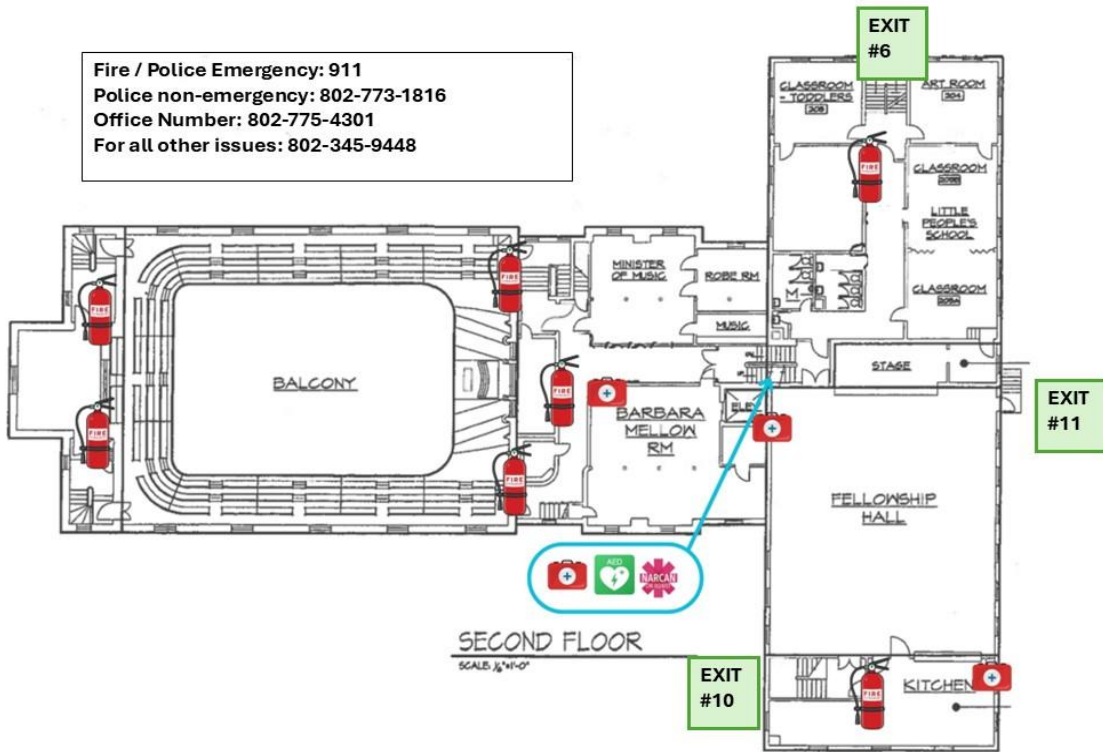
Ordination Anniversaries and Church Celebrations  
Nominating Report  
Elections and Commissioning  
Presentation of Gifts  
Presentation of Gavel to New Moderator

**2:45 – 3:30 pm** Closing worship including communion (available virtually)

Rev. Dr. Marvin Ellison, preacher  
Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak, celebrant  
Rev. Paul Sangree, celebrant



Fire / Police Emergency: 911  
 Police non-emergency: 802-773-1816  
 Office Number: 802-775-4301  
 For all other issues: 802-345-9448



## Covenant for Dialogue

*We covenant with* one another to sustain a congregational culture in which we will communicate with integrity and mutual respect, and in which our creative energy—both individual and collective—will be free to flourish.

*We will repeat* in our own words what the other has said to confirm that we have understood them, and ask them to do the same if we feel we have not been understood.

*We will communicate* directly with each other, using the first person, using “I.”

*We will try* to make our meaning clear and say what we mean and mean what we say.

*We will identify* merit in another person’s idea or suggestion before we identify its deficiencies.

*We will be willing* to inquire into another person’s reasons and reasoning and will welcome inquiry into our own reasons and reasoning.

*We will listen* to understand, but don’t necessarily have to agree.

*We will not say* outside the meeting what we are unwilling to say inside the meeting.

## Definitions and Recommended Procedures for Annual Meeting

1. All motions and amendments from the floor shall be presented to the meeting chair and scribe in writing.
2. When necessary, the meeting Chair may impose the following limits on debating motions and resolutions:
  - . A limit on the total time for discussion of the motion or resolution.
  - . A limit of two minutes for any one speaker. Time to be kept by an appointed timekeeper.
3. Delegates must raise hand in order to address the assembly. Once called upon to speak delegates must state whether they are for or opposed to the amendment or resolution.
4. Delegates will vote by using their voter cards when called upon to do so.
5. Robert's Rules of Order shall be used to guide debate and action. The meeting Chair may seek the advice of the Parliamentarian at any time. A delegate may seek a ruling by the Parliamentarian.
6. As members of a faith community, we should consider the feelings of others on the losing side when deciding whether or not to applaud the result of the vote on a contested issue.
7. Making a motion to get an immediate vote on an issue (“I move the previous question” or “I call the question”) is an important parliamentary tool, but if there are still those wishing to speak, they may feel treated as unimportant. This tool should be used sparingly in a church assembly.
8. There are other more obscure parliamentary maneuvers which can sometimes be used to “win” a point. Those familiar with these should be careful about invoking them since decisions in a faith body should be made on the basis of discernment of the Spirit and rational argument rather than manipulation of the rules.

**MINUTES FROM THE 2024 VERMONT CCONFERENCE UCC**  
**ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON April 19-20, 2024 AT ESSEX JUNCTION**

**FIRST PLENARY: Friday**

**Welcome and starting business**

- Lynn Bujnak welcomed and opened the VTCUCC Annual Meeting
- Carrie Youngblood called the meeting to order
- A quorum was confirmed
- Special guests were recognized by Carrie Youngblood
- Definitions and the procedures were reviewed and adopted
- Minutes from the 2023 VTCUCC Annual Meeting were reviewed. Dick Dale made a motion to approve the minutes. Amy Dale seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
- Dick Dale made a motion to nominate John Hill as Parliamentarian. Motion seconded. Motion passed to approve John Hill as Parliamentarian
- John Hill made a motion to nominate Karen Braeutigam as scribe. Dick Dale seconded. Motion was approved to elect Karen Braeutigam as the conference scribe

**Speak Outs**

- Fiora spoke on behalf of Global Ministries
- Sally spoke as an advocate for the Abenaki people
- Hadley spoke on promoting gun safety and storage
- Adam Smedberg spoke on Church World Services
- Jen Johnson spoke on the Star Gathering, a retreat place

**State of the Conference by Lynn Bujnak and Paul Sangree**

- Lynn spoke of the bigger picture in terms of regions of the whole UCC; the size of memberships of the churches; financial comparisons
- She spoke of some trends in ordained ministry; the different categories of ministry and the new young clergy coming in.
- Paul spoke of the collaboration and the working between the conference and the local churches around the floods
- VT is primarily small churches; Ministry 21 as a way to license new pastors.
- VT has 17 churches that are looking for pastors. 11 do self leadership. We are also in need of pulpit supply.
- He updated us on the Hope Fund's work

**New Clergy were welcomed and recognized.**



## **Members in Memoriam were recognized.**

They are: Rev. James William Leamon; Rev. Ann Melendy Hancock; Rev. John Holt; Rev. Christina Jane Del Piero; Rev. Cornelius “Neil” Carr; Rev. Margaret “Peg” Slater; Rev. Dr. Harry Robert Flad; Rev. William E. Nelson; Rev. Dr. Mary Newgeon; Rev. Richard A. White

## **SECOND PLENARY SATURDAY MORNING**

### **Peacemaker’s Breakfast presented by Justice and Witness Ministries**

- Peace and Stillness in Nature: Rev. Lava Mueller from Love Church in Randolph
- Perseverance: Peter Evans from United Church of Northfield
- UCC Gifts to the Community: Erika Thompson from United Community Church of St. Johnsbury
- Embracing ONA: Jenni Lund and Carolyn Marsh from West Newbury UCC
- VIA Updates; Rev. Bill Neil from first Congregational Church of Burlington
- Good Neighbor Fund: Rev. Peter Plagge of Waterbury Community Church
- Sister Simone: Rev. Kimberly McKerley of Bethany Church of Randolph
- Flooding: Rev. Dr. Becca Girrell of the United Community Church of Morrisville
- Welcome Home Initiative: Rev. Jessica Moore of First Congregational Church of St. Albans

**Motion:** Dick Dale made a motion to suspend the rules so that delegates can propose rules, make amendments and have discussion on it. John Hill seconded the motion. Motion had one no vote. Motion passed.

### **Ministry 21**

Susie Webster-Toleno, Dean of Ministry 21, spoke about the program. She spoke of the influence that her grandfather Rev. Max Harris Webster had on her. She described the program, its potential to help congregations. This first year they have focused on worship, best practices and management. The second year will focus on the marks of Successful Ministry. She asks that we name the gifts in our congregations, and encourage to pursue those gifts with Ministry 21. Donations to help with Scholarships would also be welcomed.

### **Video of Greg Briggs from Disaster Ministries.**

Greg spoke of the floods that Vermont has seen and our response to them. They are continuing to work on developing long term recovery groups to be proactive for the next event that will happen due to climate change. We are now in a mode of expecting more and no longer seeing floods as isolated events in Vermont. Some of the challenges are the lack of housing for displaced people, the lack of contractors and the rural nature of VT. There are spiritual support teams that are available to the flooded communities.

## **Golden Bucket Awards:**

United Church of Bethel; Federated Church of E. Arlington; Guilford Community Church; Second Congregational Church of Hyde Park; Congregational Church of Middlebury; United Church of Milton; Grace Congregational Church of Rutland; Stowe Community Church; First Community Church of Shoreham; Congregational Church of Vergennes; Congregational Church of Weybridge; Williston Federated Church; Old South Church, Windser; Rev. Peter Plagge; Rev. Greg Briggs; Mr. Adam Smedberg; Rev. Jackie Lingelbach; Rev. Becca Girrell; Ms. C. J. King; Rev. Dan Haugh; First Congregation of Essex Junction.

## **Financial Resolutions with discussion and vote:**

- We have an endowment that has a 19% return.
- The 2025 budget is \$634,648. There is an increase to the basic support. New this year is money to help start up new churches.
- Motion was made by Dick Dale to accept the 8 resolutions proposed on Document F. It was seconded by John Hill.
- Those resolutions are: 1) That the division of Basic Support for Our Church's Wider Mission income for 2025 be 70% of the VT conference and 30% for the UCC beyond VT. 2) That the VT Conference share with the national setting of the UCC 70% of any Basic Support for OCWM budget surplus at the conclusion of the 2025 year. 3) That the Conference continues to encourage each church to increase its Basic Support for OCWM by 1% per year in its operating budget expenses; moving toward a full tithe (10%) and beyond if possible. 4) That in the 2025 Vt. Per Capita be set at \$15.28. (Note: the association portion of Per Capita is in addition to the Conference amount. 5) That the churches be encouraged to pay Basic Support for OCWM and Per Capita quarterly. 6) That the Board of Directors be authorized to take funds from the unrestricted reserves for any emergency deficit in 2025. 7) That the Board of Directors be authorized to adjust the 2025 operating budget as unforeseen circumstances require, within the spending limits established in the budget. 8) That the conference adopt a 2025 Operating Budget of not more than \$634,468 in expense and not less than \$634,468 in income, with the goal of ending 2025 with a balanced budget.

**Discussion:** There was some concern that a staff increase in salary of only 2% wasn't enough. In terms of staff compensation and insurance there is an 8% increase in insurance and expenses are less. There were questions about how outdoor ministries are being supported. The issue of the Covenant Hills Camp was discussed. The Methodists would need to decide to close that camp. We are presently letting our \$25,000 toward that camp just sit there. There was a suggestion that if the camp comes back to us in the future that we give it back to the Abenaki. This is also affected by the dispute between the VT. and the Canadian Abenaki communities. A vote was taken and the budget was passed.

**Recognition of OCWM churches:** Barre Congregational Church; Barton UCC; Bellows Falls United Church; Second Congregational Church of Bennington; Benson UCC; Brandon Congregational Church; Brattleboro Centre Congregational; First Congregational Church of Brattleboro; Bristol Federated Church; Brownington Village; College St. Congregational of Burlington; Burlington First Congregational Church; Castleton Federated Church; Charlotte Congregational Church; Malletts Bay Congregational Church ;First Church of Cornwall; Congregational Church of Danville; United Church of Dorset; E. Arlington Federated Church; Old Meeting House of E. Montpelier; E. Corinth Congregational Church; First Congregational Church of Essex Junction; First Congregational Church of Fair Haven; Greensboro UCC; Guilford Community Church; First Congregational Church of Hartland; United Church of Hinesburg; Second Congregational Church of Hyde Park; Second Congregational Church of Jeffersonville; Second Congregational Church of Londonderry; United Church of Ludlow; First Congregational UCC of Lyndonville; Marlboro Meeting House; The Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC; Bethany Church of Montpelier; First Congregational Church of Morrisville; New Haven, UCC; First Congregational Church of Newfane; United Church of Newport; First Congregational Church of North Hyde Park; North Pomfret Congregational Church; Northfield United Church; Congregational Church of Norwich; Congregational Church of Pittsford; Congregational Church of Post Mills; Bethany of Randolph; Richmond Congregational Church; Rochester Federated Church; Grace Congregational Church of Rutland; First Congregational Church of Sharon; Congregational Church of South Hero; First Congregational Church of Springfield; United Community Church of St. Johnsbury; United Church of Thetford; United Church of Underhill; Vergennes Congregational Church; Waitsfield Congregational Church; Warren UCC; Waterbury Congregational Church; Wells River Congregational Church; West Newbury Congregational Church; West Rutland UCC; Westminster West Congregational Church; Westmore Community Church; Congregational Church of Weybridge; Williston Federated Church.

**Hope Fund:** The following churches gave to the Hope Fund: Federated Church of Castleton; Grace Congregational Church of Rutland; Pittsford Congregational Church; Brandon Congregational Church; United Church of West Rutland; United Church of Dorset and E. Rupert; First Congregational Church of Manchester; Federated Church of E. Arlington; Congregational Church of North Bennington; Pawlet Community Church; Congregational Church of Rupert; First Congregational Church of Wallingford; Shrewsbury Community Church; Barton UCC; First Congregational Church of Burlington; Charlotte Congregational Church; First Congregational Church of Essex Junction; First Congregational Church of Fair Haven; United Church of Newport; First Congregational Church of Springfield; United Church of St. Johnsbury.

**5 for 5 Churches:** First Congregational Church UCC of Brattleboro; United Church of Dorset and E. Rupert; First Congregational Church of Essex Junction; Danville Congregational Church; Guilford Community Church; Greensboro UCC; Second Congregational Church of

Jeffersonville; First Congregational Church of Lyndonville; Morrisville UCC; North Pomfret UCC; United Church of Northville' Richmond Congregational Church; Bethany Church of Bethany; Grace Congregational Church of Rutland; South Hero Congregational Church; Waitsfield UCCV; Wells River Congregational Church; Weybridge Congregational Church.

**Justice and Witness Ministries:** Deb Ingram gave an overview or the work of the Justice and Witness Ministries, and their mission to bring this to the attention of people.

### **THIRD PLENARY**

#### **Ordination Anniversaries and Church Celebrations**

**Global Ministries:** Peop Fiyordi from Global Ministries spoke about her ministry with Global Ministries. This is a joint ministry between the UCC and the Disciples of Christ churches. They are working to have a common language as to what mission is and is not. Mission is not a doing for but a doing with. Komoto also spoke of his role with Global Ministries. They invited anyone that was interested in becoming involved with Global Ministries. to speak to them.

**Keynote Revisited:** A panel discussion with Peter Plagge, Scott Couper and the keynote speaker Rev. Robin Junker-Boyce was held. The question of "What is Human" was discussed. There is the need to look closely at the repercussions of this work on an ethical and spiritual level. There was some discussion of developing a leadership team on this subject.

**Nominating Report:** Dick Dale made a motion to nominate the following slate of officers for the next year. Moderator: Carrie Youngblood; Vice Moderator: John Hill; Treasurer: Ram; and Asst. Treasurer: Laura Nassau. John Hill seconded the motion. Motion passed. There are 2 new members of the Board: Jane LoBrutto and Llsa Sparrow. A thanks was made to those who are leaving the board: Laura Nassau, Peter Plagge and Erik Webster. John Hill presented the gifts to the keynote speaker.

#### **Speak outs:**

- Church World Services by Adam Smedley.
- MSSC: a friendly reminder to complete boundary training on line by Katelyn McRae and Mark Wilson
- Summer Lunch Grants by Grace Cleary
- Clergy Convocation by Caryne Eskridge and Mark Blank
- Discrimination felt by some in this conference by Lou Rochford
- Milford Dignity by Ed Sunday-Winters
- Questions for the Church by Natalie Basil
- First Friday Fellowship by Julie Demaree
- Justice and Witness Ministries by Debbie Ingram

Respectfully submitted, Karen Braeutigam

*To be presented at the First Plenary*

**RESOLUTION ON ACKNOWLEDGING AND COMPENSATING THE BLACK MUSICAL COMMUNITY FOR THE UNDER- AND UNACKNOWLEDGED MUSICAL WORKS OF BLACK PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY "NEGRO SPIRITUALS"**

Submitted by the Justice and Witness Ministries Committee of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ as a Class I – Social Action Resolution. The vote to recommend the resolution to the Conference was completed on 3/17/25 and was unanimous (6-0-0).

**Whereas**, Proverbs 3:27 reminds us, "Don't withhold good from someone entitled to it when you have in hand the power to do it;"

**Whereas**, James 5:4 declares, "The pay you did not give the workers who mowed your fields cries out against you, and the cries of the workers have been heard by the Lord All-Powerful;"

**Whereas**, a growing movement within the Church in America seeks to address the historical injustice of unpaid royalties for the use of "Negro Spirituals" in worship;

**Whereas**, the term "Negro Spirituals," while potentially sensitive, is the classification most widely used by Black American scholars;

**Whereas**, "Negro Spirituals" encapsulate the breadth of the Black experience, from the profound pain of enslavement to the fervent hope of liberation found in God's promise;

**Whereas**, incorporating "Negro Spirituals" and contemporary Black music into worship enriches the Church's liturgical and musical life;

**Whereas**, the composers and lyricists of "Negro Spirituals" were historically denied credit and recognition for their enduring works of faith;

**Whereas**, the original creators of "Negro Spirituals" were never compensated for the use of their songs, which continue to inspire and resonate with congregations today;

**Whereas**, the Church acknowledges a moral and spiritual debt owed to the Black musical community;

**Therefore, be it resolved,** that the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ encourages all congregations to initiate a process of reparations by providing fair compensation for the use of "Negro Spirituals" and contemporary Black music during worship and other church or conference events;

**Therefore, be it further resolved,** that each church within the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ be encouraged to donate \$10 per "Negro Spiritual" performed, or to allocate special offering collections as determined by the local church body or conference leadership;

**Therefore, be it further resolved,** that all funds collected for the use of "Negro Spirituals" be designated to support living Black composers, lyricists, and musicians, or to benefit institutions and organizations within the State of Vermont that champion the experiences of Black artists, such as the Clemmons Family Farm;

**Finally, and therefore, be it resolved,** that the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ encourages all its churches to embrace the "Negro Spirituals" and contemporary Black music with gratitude, joy, and a commitment to just and fair compensation, honoring both the ancestors in faith and the contemporary Black artistic community.

The Justice and Witness Ministries Committee of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ will be responsible for seeing that the resolution is implemented, with assistance from the Administrator of the Conference office.

The financial implications of the resolution to the Conference are negligible, as they will be carried out by unpaid volunteers with assistance from paid staff as a part of their regular course of duties.

Presentation of the resolution for approval at Annual Meeting will be conducted by a designee of the Justice and Witness Ministries Committee of the Conference.

## About our Keynote Speaker

Rev. Marvin Ellison, Ph.D. (he/him) is a person of faith and a gay man whose career has unfolded at the intersection of these core identities. Marvin has a B.A. in religion from Davidson College, a M.A. in religion and society from University of Chicago Divinity School and a Ph.D. in Christian social ethics from Union Theological Seminary in New York. As a Professor of Christian Ethics at Bangor Theological Seminary, he taught generations of clergy and chaplains and lectured widely on ethical issues related



to human sexuality, health care, and economic justice. He has published numerous essays on same-sex marriage, gender justice in Protestant Christianity, and changing patterns of family life. In addition he is the author of multiple books: *Erotic Justice: A Liberating Ethic of Sexuality*; *Body and Soul: Rethinking Sexuality as Justice-Love*; *Same-Sex Marriage? A Christian Ethical Analysis*; *Heterosexism in Contemporary World Religion: Problem and Prospect*; *Sexuality and the Sacred: Sources for Theological Reflection*; and *Making Love Just: Sexual Ethics for Perplexing Times*. In 1994 Marvin founded the Religious Coalition Against Discrimination in Maine to support civil rights protections for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, including the right to marry. In 1997 he founded the Maine Interfaith Council for Reproductive Choices. He has served on the “Out In Scripture” Advisory Board of the Human Rights Campaign’s Religion and Faith Project and the Advisory Board of the Religious Institute for Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing. After serving on the board of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. He founded a volunteer chaplaincy program at the health clinic in Portland.

## --Musical Reflection after the Keynote--

We who believe in freedom cannot rest

(We who believe in freedom cannot rest)

We who believe in freedom cannot rest... until it comes!

(We who believe in freedom cannot rest)

We who believe in justice cannot rest

We who believe in Jesus cannot rest

We who believe in freedom will not rest

We recognize with gratitude the churches who have given to support the ministry of the Wider Church!

**62 CHURCHES  
GAVE TO OCWM  
BASIC SUPPORT**

The Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC  
Charlotte Congregational Church UCC  
College Street Congregational UCC of Burlington  
Waterbury Congregational Church UCC  
Bethany UCC, Randolph  
First Congregational UCC of Essex Junction  
Norwich Congregational Church UCC  
Second Congregational UCC of Bennington  
First Congregational UCC of Burlington  
Congregational Church of South Hero, UCC  
Grace Congregational UCC, Rutland  
United Church of Dorset & East Rupert  
Centre Congregational UCC of Brattleboro  
United Church of Underhill  
Federated Church of Rochester UCC  
Williston Federated Church  
First Congregational UCC of Springfield  
Danville Congregational Church UCC  
Weybridge Congregational UCC  
Guilford Community Church UCC

Greensboro United Church of Christ  
Warren United Church, UCC  
Vergennes Congregational Church of UCC  
Second Congregational Church UCC of Londonderry  
United Church of Newport  
East Burke Congregational Church UCC  
The Old Meeting House United Church UCC of Hinesburg  
Bethany Church UCC, Montpelier  
Richmond Congregational UCC  
United Church of Craftsbury  
Westfield First Congregational Church  
Waitsfield United Church of Christ  
Federated Church of Bristol Congregational Church of Westminster West UCC  
United Church of Bellow Falls, Inc. UCC  
First Congregational Church in Thetford, Vermont, United Church of Christ  
Brownington Village Congregational, UCC  
Pittsford Congregational Church UCC  
United Church of Northfield UCC  
United Community Church of Morrisville  
First Congregational UCC of Lyndonville  
Brandon Congregational Church  
First Congregational Church of Hartland

West Newbury Congregation Church UCC  
East Corinth Congregational Church  
First Congregational UCC of Sharon  
United Church of Cabot UCC  
First Congregational Church of Fair Haven UCC  
United Church of Ludlow  
Second Congregational UCC, Hyde Park  
First Congregational Church of Cornwall  
Barton United Church of Christ (Lakes Region Parish)  
New Haven Congregational Church  
First Congregational UCC of Brattleboro  
Westmore Community Church UCC  
Williamstown United Federated Church  
Marlboro Meeting House  
Wells River Congregational Church UCC  
Second Congregational UCC of Jeffersonville  
United Community Church, UCC of St. Johnsbury  
United Church of West Rutland

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**43 CHURCHES  
GAVE TO One  
Great Hour of  
Sharing**



The Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC  
 Congregational Church of South Hero, UCC  
 Guilford Community Church UCC  
 Waterbury Congregational Church UCC  
 College Street Congregational UCC of Burlington  
 Grace Congregational UCC, Rutland  
 Greensboro United Church of Christ  
 Charlotte Congregational Church UCC  
 Second Congregational UCC of Bennington  
 First Congregational Church of Newfane UCC  
 Weybridge Congregational UCC  
 Warren United Church, UCC  
 The Old Meeting House  
 First Congregational UCC of Burlington  
 Bethany UCC, Randolph  
 Williston Federated Church  
 United Church of Dorset & East Rupert  
 United Church of Ludlow  
 Post Mills Congregational Church  
 Richmond Congregational UCC  
 Danville Congregational Church UCC  
 Waitsfield United Church of Christ  
 United Community Church, UCC of St. Johnsbury  
 Old South Congregational Church  
 Shoreham Congregational Church  
 Centre Congregational UCC of Brattleboro

Congregational Church of Westminster West UCC  
 First Congregational Church of Berlin UCC  
 Second Congregational UCC of Jeffersonville  
 Second Congregational UCC, Hyde Park  
 Vergennes Congregational Church of UCC  
 United Church of Craftsbury  
 United Church of Northfield UCC  
 United Church of Bellow Falls, Inc. UCC  
 First Congregational UCC of Springfield  
 New Haven Congregational Church  
 United Community Church of Morrisville  
 First Congregational Church of Cornwall  
 First Congregational UCC of Lyndonville  
 First Congregational UCC of Brattleboro  
 North Pomfret United Church of Christ  
 First Congregational UCC of Essex Junction  
 Wells River Congregational Church UCC

First Congregational UCC of Burlington  
 Williston Federated Church  
 Weybridge Congregational UCC  
 Greensboro United Church of Christ  
 First Congregational UCC of Essex Junction  
 United Church of Dorset & East Rupert  
 Warren United Church, UCC  
 Danville Congregational Church UCC  
 Richmond Congregational UCC  
 United Community Church, UCC of St. Johnsbury  
 Bethany UCC, Randolph  
 Centre Congregational UCC of Brattleboro  
 College Street Congregational UCC of Burlington  
 Grace Congregational UCC, Rutland  
 First Congregational Church of Berlin UCC  
 United Church of Bellow Falls, Inc. UCC  
 Second Congregational UCC, Hyde Park  
 New Haven Congregational Church  
 First Congregational UCC of Springfield  
 Shoreham Congregational Church  
 Second Congregational UCC of Jeffersonville  
 United Church of Northfield UCC  
 Waitsfield United Church of Christ  
 First Congregational UCC of Lyndonville  
 United Community Church of Morrisville

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**36 CHURCHES**

**GAVE TO**

**Neighbors in Need**

The Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC  
 United Church of Craftsbury  
 Charlotte Congregational Church UCC  
 Congregational Church of South Hero, UCC  
 United Church of Ludlow

Guilford Community Church  
UCC  
East Burke Congregational  
Church UCC  
First Congregational UCC of  
Brattleboro  
Second Congregational UCC of  
Bennington  
North Pomfret United Church  
of Christ  
Wells River Congregational  
Church UCC

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**29 CHURCHES  
GAVE TO  
Strengthen the  
Church**

Grace Congregational UCC,  
Rutland  
Congregational Church of South  
Hero, UCC  
Warren United Church, UCC  
Greensboro United Church of  
Christ  
Charlotte Congregational  
Church UCC  
First Congregational UCC of  
Essex Junction  
Weybridge Congregational  
UCC  
College Street Congregational  
UCC of Burlington  
Waitsfield United Church of  
Christ  
United Church of Ludlow  
Bethany UCC, Randolph  
United Community Church,  
UCC of St. Johnsbury  
Second Congregational UCC of  
Bennington

Old South Congregational  
Church  
Centre Congregational UCC of  
Brattleboro  
United Church of Dorset & East  
Rupert  
Danville Congregational Church  
UCC  
Second Congregational UCC of  
Jeffersonville  
First Congregational UCC of  
Springfield  
United Community Church of  
Morrisville  
United Church of Northfield  
UCC  
Guilford Community Church  
UCC  
East Burke Congregational  
Church UCC  
First Congregational UCC of  
Brattleboro  
North Pomfret United Church  
of Christ  
Brownington Village  
Congregational, UCC  
New Haven Congregational  
Church  
Wells River Congregational  
Church UCC  
First Congregational Church of  
Cornwall  
Congregational Church of South  
Hero, UCC  
Grace Congregational UCC,  
Rutland  
Weybridge Congregational  
UCC  
College Street Congregational  
UCC of Burlington  
Charlotte Congregational  
Church UCC  
United Church of Ludlow

United Community Church,  
UCC of St. Johnsbury  
Greensboro United Church of  
Christ  
First Congregational UCC of  
Essex Junction  
New Haven Congregational  
Church  
United Church of Dorset & East  
Rupert  
Danville Congregational Church  
UCC  
Waitsfield United Church of  
Christ  
Second Congregational UCC,  
Hyde Park  
Wells River Congregational  
Church UCC  
First Congregational UCC of  
Springfield  
Second Congregational UCC of  
Bennington  
Richmond Congregational  
UCC  
Second Congregational UCC of  
Jeffersonville  
First Congregational UCC of  
Lyndonville  
United Church of Bellow Falls,  
Inc. UCC  
United Church of Northfield  
UCC  
United Church of Bakersfield &  
Fairfield  
United Community Church of  
Morrisville  
Bethany UCC, Randolph  
Guilford Community Church  
UCC  
East Burke Congregational  
Church UCC  
North Pomfret United Church  
of Christ  
United Church of West  
Rutland

**22 CHURCHES were 5 FOR 5!**

Second Congregational UCC of Bennington  
College Street Congregational UCC of Burlington  
Charlotte Congregational Church UCC  
Danville Congregational Church UCC  
United Church of Dorset & East Rupert  
First Congregational UCC of Essex Junction  
Greensboro United Church of Christ  
Guilford Community Church UCC  
Second Congregational UCC of Jeffersonville  
United Church of Ludlow  
United Community Church of Morrisville  
New Haven Congregational Church  
United Church of Northfield UCC  
Bethany UCC, Randolph  
Grace Congregational UCC, Rutland  
Congregational Church of South Hero, UCC  
First Congregational UCC of Springfield  
United Community Church, UCC of St. Johnsbury  
Waitsfield United Church of Christ  
Wells River Congregational Church UCC  
Weybridge Congregational UCC

**We celebrate the anniversary of the founding of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Weathersfield, organized in 1775 –  
Happy 250th!**

# Friday Evening Worship

## Call to Worship

written by Reverend D. Mark Blank

One: We should understand well that all things are the work of Wanka Tanka (the Great Spirit.) We should know the Great Spirit is within all things: the trees, the grasses, the rivers, the mountains, and the four-legged and winged peoples; and even more important, we should understand that the Great Spirit is also above all these things and peoples. When we do understand all this deeply in our hearts, then we will fear, and love, and know the Great Spirit, and then we will be and act and live as the Spirit intends. – *Black Elk, of the Oglala Lakota people.*

**Many: Then God said, “Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth.”**

**God created humanity in God’s own image,  
in the divine image God created them,  
male and female God created them. (Gen 1:26-27 CEB)**

One: “Race is a system, an intuition, a systemic reflex that seeks to decipher who can use who. It is an imaginative frame that justifies the death of the Native and the violence of the colonist, the deportation of the Mexican worker and the citizenship of the Irish refugee. Race is a way of resisting difference by violently determining which differences matter. Race is about power, sovereignty, and how words can become enfolded, part of our daily, bodily lives, shaping who we are.” – Brian Bantum, *The Death of Race*

**Many: Look! These will come from far away.**

**Look! These from the north and west,  
and these from the southland.**

**Sing, heavens! Rejoice, earth!**

**Break out, mountains, with a song.**

**God has comforted God’s people,  
and taken pity on those who suffer. (Isa 49:12-13 CEB)**

One: There is almost no teaching about race, as currently understood, in the great religious literatures of the world or in the writings of classical and medieval philosophers. For example, the Bible knows the term “race” only as a contest of speed or endurance. It has scores of references to “blood,” and holds it in awe, but as the seat of the soul, the principle of life, rather than a physiological difference among men. The crowning affirmation about blood, in any event, is that “now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ” (Eph 2:13) – Liston Pope, *The Kingdom Beyond Caste*

**Many: People will come from east and west, north and south, and sit down to eat in God's kingdom. Look! Those who are last will be first and those who are first will be last. (Luke 13:28-29)**

One: "The prevalence of white male images of God easily lead us to conclude that God is definitively and exclusively white and male. And like many culture-shaping ideas, we don't even question the idea or how it shapes our thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. For most of us, regardless of what we might want to believe or claim to believe, the image that immediately comes to mind when we imagine God is that of a powerful white man who is for and with powerful white men. It's a deceptive idea that flies under the radar, powerfully shaping us without our consent." – Christena Cleveland, [God Is a Black Woman](#)

**Many: I will bring them to my holy mountain,  
and bring them joy in my house of prayer.  
I will accept their entirely burned offerings and sacrifices on my  
altar. My house will be known as a house of prayer for all peoples.**

*(Isa 56:7)*

One: It is my belief that in the Presence of God, there is neither male nor female, white or black, Gentile or Jew, Protestant nor Catholic, Hindu, Buddhist, nor Muslim but a human spirit stripped to the literal substance of itself before God..." – Howard Thurman, *The Creative Encounter*

**Many: There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Gal 3:28 CEB)**

One: Why is it taking the North American church so long to change itself and to change the world around it? Is the work of baptism not an instant reminder that we are children of God? The Christian scriptures offer a new narrative, a new kind of human being and belonging in the world. It is equally critical and essential that Jesus' followers embody his teaching and ministry, which began in the water of baptism. This new community is formed after drowning out [in the waters of baptism] the power-grabbing ideologies of capitalism, identity politics, militarism, neocolonialism, patriarchy, and race." – Starlette Thomas, *Take Me to the Water*

**Many: After this I looked, and there was a great crowd that no one could number. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They cried out with a loud voice: "Victory belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (Rev 7:9-10 CEB)**

One: “The miracle of Pentecost is that, somehow, people heard the stories of the good news of God’s power on the earth in ways they could understand. Those Aramaic-speaking disciples preached the good news through their personalities to the personalities of those who were gathered. The reason the gospel caught fire is because the souls were eager for a story that fit, told in a way they could understand it. It was a story that made sense, one that gave their lives meaning and purpose. The gospel landed on them, meeting them where they were and then lit them on fire with a vision of God’s dream. The church was born in a cacophony of racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Our churches simply have to be this way, too, in order to thrive in a rapidly changing world. The Spirit is at work to call us to these communities of faith where the diversity of Pentecost is again a reality.” – Jacqueline J. Lewis and John Janka, *Ten Essential Strategies for Becoming a Multiracial Congregation*

**Many: Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak. (Acts 2:2-3 CEB)**

One: During this annual meeting, remember your baptismal identity and commit to desegregating and decolonizing sacred spaces, starting with your heart. You are invited to dip your fingers in the baptismal font and touch the water to your forehead whenever you are moved by the Spirit. As you do, remember that you are a beloved child of God and renew your baptismal promise to follow in the way of Jesus, resisting oppression and evil, and showing love and justice.  
The kin-dom of God is within you! Hallelujah!

**Many: Hallelujah! Let us worship God together!!!**

**Hymn  
Prayer**

*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry NCH #351*

O Christ, beloved of our hearts and spirits,  
you entice us into tombs and embrace us into drowning,  
you lead us through the sacred stream and soak us in the cleansing bath.  
We follow.  
Even in these moments, we follow you into the rising;  
lifting our chin into your resurrection,  
spilling into our new life together with you and your whole people.  
Awaken us to this new and abundant Way,  
but may we never quite dry off,  
may the water of your washing remind us of the parted seas that in your terrible love have  
not blocked liberation;  
may we drip continually of the Stream that makes glad the City.

We commit all to you, trusting You to Head your Church and churches upward out of turbulent waters and forward into Beloved Community.

In the grace and charge of the One Who Made Us, Loves Us, and Holds Us,  
we live soaked  
and we pray.

**Amen.**

## Community Folk Dance

With musicians John Kirk and Trish Miller



Friday, May 2, at 8:15 p.m.  
Fox Room at the Rutland Free Library

Co-sponsored by  
The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ  
And the Rutland Free Library



Free Admission  
All Welcome!



### Music

*Down to the River to Pray* -  
Traditional Spiritual

John Kirk, fiddle/voice

### Benediction

*Sonia's Baptism* --from Tirabassi,  
Maren C. and Kathy Wonson Eddy, *Gifts of Many  
Cultures: Worship Resources for the Global  
Community*; United Church Press, Cleveland,  
1995, pgs. 110-111

# Saturday Morning Worship

## Responsive Gathering

We gather today, continuing to learn what it is to be a pilgrim community.

**We gather, bringing our hopes and our fears, our memories and our visions.**

We gather, longing for the guidance of God's Spirit to give us renewal and courage for the days ahead.

**Come, Christ Jesus, be in our midst. Bless us as we remember those who have shown us your way forward. Help us to find a clear vision for the future, as we learn to be your disciples day by day.**

(Adapted: Scottish Students, World Student Christian Federation in Tirabassi, Maren C., and Kathy Wonson Eddy. *Gifts of Many Cultures: Worship Resources for the Global Community*, United Church Press, 1995)

## Gathering Song

*Praise to the Living God* NCH # 8

## Unison Prayer (John 18:36, Acts 28:31, Matthew 6:33, Romans 14:17, Matthew 6:10)

(Leader:) The “God” of Christian nationalism is a false god, an idol, because that god contradicts the truth of God’s character as revealed in scripture and the person of Jesus Christ.

**Holy God, You are the One whose kingdom is not of this world, but we are constantly tempted to confuse it with the kingdoms that we know. Teach us to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God in its glorious distinction from every other kingdom and in its openness to people of every race, background, culture, and country. By the power of your Spirit, transform us into a people who seek your kingdom first and live as a kingdom people who know “righteousness and peace and joy”. In the name of God Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”, Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon (From The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa)

Christ is our peace; those who are divided he has made one.

**He has broken down the barriers of separation by his death and he has built us up into one body with God.**

To whomsoever repents and believes he has promised reconciliation.

**So, let us live as people reconciled. Amen.**

--Beth Felker Jones, 2023

## Music

### Scripture Expression

Matthew 5:1-10 CEB

Reading from page 159 of Carter Heyward's book, *The 7 Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism: A Call to Action*



## Silence

## Hymn of Peace

*This Is My Song*

NCH # 591

## Prayer of Benediction

(Isaiah 42:6, Acts 14:27, Malachi 1:11, Psalm 86:9, Revelation 7:9, Galatians 3:28)

Dear God, You are light to the nations, a

**“door of faith to the Gentiles”,**

the one who calls for offerings of incense

**“in every place”,**

the maker of all the nations which will

**“come and worship before you”.**

Make us into your people

**“from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,**

**standing before the throne and before the Lamb”.**

Lead us into the miraculous hospitality and unity, the diversity and the equality of those who are

**“all one in Christ Jesus”. Amen.**

--Beth Felker Jones, 2023

## About Our Global Ministries Staff Guest

Derek Duncan, our Executive for East Asia and Pacific partnerships, is a steward of the historic relationships the United Church of Christ has forged during the last 100 years with partner churches and organizations in Eastern Asia. He began his ministry in July of 2017, and has served in various roles since 2000.



“This region and the communities our partners serve are significant to the life of our churches. Many of our members, conferences, and regions have developed deep friendships with global partners, or have family and community connections in the region,” he added. “I look forward to continue working with our friends in East Asia and the Pacific and our congregations here to strengthen those connections and to build active and fruitful partnerships.”

Global Ministries has partners and projects in Mongolia, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Micronesia, Fiji and the Marshall Islands — which includes 16 mission co-workers in seven of those countries. Some of the alliances — such as the relationship with Doshisha University in Japan — are more than a century old.

“I am deeply committed to the relationships that the UCC and Disciples have nurtured in the region, and to the values of mutual trust and support that Global Ministries affirms which sustain those relationships,” said Duncan, who studied religion, politics and Christian-Muslim relations at Harvard Divinity School, and American religious history at Vanderbilt University.

He will be leading a workshop on Racism in Asia and preaching at Sunday worship at Grace Congregational.

# Saturday Afternoon Worship

**Prelude**                      *This Is Our Maker's World/He's Got the Whole World*  
Traditional Spiritual arranged by Brant Adams  
*Fred Lemmons, clarinet, Alastair Stout, piano*

## Call to Worship

There are many places you could be this day, but you have chosen to be here:

**Where we learn how to live in God's Commonwealth.**

Welcome to this place – full of music, of words, of prayer – yet also filled with danger;

**Where we encounter a Wisdom we cannot always understand.**

Welcome to God's House, the most dangerous place in town:

**Where we talk about and with God, and are reduced to silence so that we may hear the call to discipleship.**

(adapted from: Thom Shuman, posted on Lectionary Liturgies.  
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>)

**Prayer**                      New Zealand Rendition of the Lord's Prayer

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope  
and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.**  
--from the Anglican Church of New Zealand Prayerbook

**Hymn**                      *We Shall Overcome*                      NCH #497

**Scripture**                      Mark 1:14-20

**Sermon**                      "Drilling Holes for Freedom"                      Dr. Ellison

## Special Music

*Walk Together Children* Traditional Spiritual arranged by Moses Hogan  
Alexis Scangas, mezzo-soprano, Fred Lemmons, clarinet, Alastair Stout, piano,

### Litany of God's Justice and Peace

We are called to proclaim the truth. Let us together proclaim peace with justice, and let us believe: It is not true that this world and its people are doomed to die and be lost—

**This is true: There is a future for the children of peace.**

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

**This is true: God will wipe away the tears from all faces and will remove disgrace from those downcast and victimized over all the earth.**

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction have come to stay forever—

**This is true: God foils the plans of the nations and thwarts the purposes of the mighty. But the plans of God stand forever, the purposes of the Compassionate One through all generations.**

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—

**This is true: God gives strength to the people who hunger and thirst for righteousness sake; God blesses us with peace to resist evil.**

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are especially gifted, wise, or strong before we can do anything—

**This is true: This is what God has promised: I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old will dream dreams, and your young will see visions. Even on those considered “nobodies,” both women and men, I will pour out my Spirit.**

It is not true that our dreams of the liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity, of peace, and of the earth's integrity are not meant for this world and for this history of ours—

**This is true: The hour comes, and now is, that the true worshippers shall worship God in spirit and in truth. They are the kinds of worshippers God seeks.**

**So let us dream, let us prophesy, let us see visions of love. And let us seek peace and justice with humility, with joy and faith, and with courage. We are not alone.**

--adapted from Allan Boesak, South African liberation theologian

## Communion Hymn

*We Come to This Table*

KREMSER 12.11.12.12 ("We Gather Together")

We come to this table, O God, with thanksgiving.  
We lift up our hearts, we remember, we pray.  
We hear Jesus' welcome — inviting, forgiving;  
We know your Spirit's peace as we feast here today.

We dine at your table as sisters and brothers,  
Diverse in our cultures, yet nourished as one.  
The bread and the cup that we share here with others  
Are gifts uniting all who are claimed by your Son.

We grieve for your world here; we cry, "How much longer?"  
We pray for the cycles of violence to cease.  
Yet here, in Christ broken, we're fed and made stronger  
To labor in his name for a world filled with peace.

We rise from this table with new dedication  
To feed the world's children, to free the oppressed,  
To clear out the minefields, to care for creation;  
We pray, O God of peace, that our work will be blest.

Tune: *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626 Text: Copyright © 2002 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.  
Included in ***Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor*** (Upper Room Books, 2009).

## Communion

*Holy Holy Holy*

-from Worship and Rejoice #738

## Music

*Steal Away*

Traditional Spiritual arranged by Alastair Stout

*Alexis Scangas, mezzo soprano, Fred Lemmons, clarinet*

*Break Thou the Bread of Life* Traditional Spiritual arranged by Moses Hogan

*Alastair Stout, piano*

## Benediction

“Jesus said, ‘You ought always to pray and not to faint.’

**Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger disciples.**

Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, but for power equal to your tasks.

**Then, the doing of your work will be no miracle – you will be the miracle.**

Every day you will wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.” Let the people say,

**Amen!**

--From The New Century Hymnal

## Closing Hymn

*At the Font We Start Our Journey* NCH #308

## Open and Affirming Congregations in the Vermont Conference

Second Congregational UCC	Bennington	1992-02-07
First Congregational UCC of West Brattleboro	Brattleboro	1994-02-10
College Street Congregational UCC	Burlington	1994-02-10
The Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC	Middlebury	1994-06-28
First Congregational Church in Thetford, UCC	Thetford	1998-07-13
Congregational Church of Westminster West UCC	Westminster West	2000-08-29
Greater Hartford UCC	Hartford	2002-01-24
Danville Congregational Church UCC	Danville	2002-02-07
The Old Meeting House	East Montpelier	2003-01-24
First Congregational UCC	Springfield	2003-04-28
Congregational Church UCC	Norwich	2005-05-10
First Congregational UCC	Cornwall	2005-07-01
Richmond Congregational UCC	Richmond	2005-07-11
Bethany Church UCC	Montpelier	2005-07-13
Guilford Community Church UCC	Guilford	2005-08-31
Charlotte Congregational Church UCC	Charlotte	2005-11-09
Bethany UCC	Randolph	2006-01-30
Williston Federated Church	Williston	2006-02-17
Grace Congregational UCC	Rutland	2007-06-20
Warren United Church, UCC	Warren	2008-01-03
United Church UCC	Hinesburg	2009-10-18
Malletts Bay Congregational UCC	Colchester	2010-07-09
First Congregational Church	Hartland	2010-10-05
Old South Congregational Church	Windsor	2012-03-25
First Congregational UCC	Essex Junction	2012-04-29
First Congregational UCC	Burlington	2012-07-10
United Church of Craftsbury	Craftsbury Common	2012-07-10
Barre Congregational Church, UCC	Barre	2012-10-23
First Congregational UCC	Sharon	2013-04-03
Centre Congregational UCC	Brattleboro	2013-09-15
United Church of Hardwick Inc.	Hardwick	2013-09-22
Congregational Church of Vergennes UCC	Vergennes	2013-09-22
West Dover Congregational Church Inc UCC	West Dover	2013-11-10
Brandon Congregational Church	Brandon	2013-12-20
Waitsfield United Church of Christ	Waitsfield	2014-07-27
Dummerston Congregational Church, UCC	East Dummerston	2014-09-10

New Haven Congregational Church	New Haven	2014-09-28
Greensboro United Church of Christ	Greensboro	2015-08-16
United Church of Thetford	North Thetford	2016-01-24
United Community Church, UCC	St. Johnsbury	2016-02-28
Federated Church of East Arlington	Arlington	2016-04-12
Second Congregational UCC	Jeffersonville	2016-06-26
Barton United Church	Barton	2017-01-29
Bradford Congregational UCC	Bradford	2017-03-26
Shrewsbury Community Church UCC	Shrewsbury	2017-05-14
United Church of Bakersfield & Fairfield	Bakersfield	2017-06-04
First Congregational Church of Newfane UCC	Newfane	2018-06-20
United Church of Underhill	Underhill	2019-01-27
United Church of Northfield UCC	Northfield	2019-02-10
United Church of Dorset & East Rupert	Dorset	2019-04-02
Love Church	Randolph Center	2021-01-01
First Congregational Church of Berlin UCC	Berlin	2021-04-18
First Congregational UCC	Saint Albans	2021-05-16
The Grafton Church Inc UCC	Grafton	2022-01-16
First Congregational Church of Fair Haven UCC	Fair Haven	2023-05-21
The United Church of Strafford	Strafford	2023-05-21
Federated Church of Bristol	Bristol	2023-11-12
<b>East Corinth Congregational Church</b>	<b>East Corinth</b>	<b>2024-02-11</b>
<b>West Newbury Congregational Church UCC</b>	<b>West Newbury</b>	<b>2024-03-24</b>
<b>Post Mills Congregational Church</b>	<b>Post Mills</b>	<b>2024-04-28</b>
<b>United Church of Ludlow</b>	<b>Ludlow</b>	<b>2025</b>
Congregational Church of Rupert	Rupert	2013

**DONATE TO FRIENDS OF THE VERMONT CONFERENCE  
THIS WEEKEND!**

## Workshops

How do differences in class and caste affect our church life?

– Rev. Cass Poulos in the library

Our spirituality is affected by our personality. How can we live out our faith in accordance with our spiritual type?

– Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak in the Conference Room

An Ethical Reflection on Sexy Boundaries

– Pastor Karen Braeutigam in the Elevator Room

Rocking the Credo: How can creeds and statements of faith be useful in the modern world?

–Rev. Dr. Arnold Thomas in Chapel

Keynote followup discussion

– Rev. Dr. Marvin Ellison in the front of the Sanctuary

Racism in Asia – Mr. Derek Duncan in the Youth Center

## Ordination Anniversaries

Rev. Jordan Dickenson	65 years
Rev. Paul Willard	50 years
Rev. John Bixby	55 years
Rev. Robert Hundley	55 years
Rev. James Macintyre III	55 years
Rev. Marshall Hudson-Knapp	50 years
Rev. Jay D. Sprout	50 years
Rev. Marcia A. Dorey	45 years
Rev. Karen S. Lipinczyk	45 years
Rev. Richard E. Ringenwald, Sr.	45 years
Rev. Dr. Arnold Isidore Thomas	45 years
Rev. Janet Langdon	40 years
Rev. Joan N. O’Gorman	40 years
Rev. Joan W. Vincent	40 years
Rev. Evelyn Lavelli	35 years
Rev. Mark Mendes	35 years
Rev. Harold E. Masback III	30 years
Rev. Peter O. Plagge	25 years
Rev. Shawn E. Bracebridge	25 years
Rev. Mary Thompson	25 years
Rev. Margaret Wickham Tooker	25 years
Rev. Dr. Nancy Wood	25 years
Rev. Cordelia Burpee	15 years
Rev. Ken White	15 years
Rev. Elliott Munn	10 years
Rev. Matthew A. von Behrens	10 years

## Pastoral Transitions

Rev. Evelyn Coupe retired from Lakes Region Parish in Barton  
Rev. Tom Kinder retired from United Church of Strafford  
Rev. Jim Gray retired from United Church of Dorset and East Rupert  
Rev. David Pruitt retired from West Newbury Congregational Church UCC  
Rev. Rameen Zahed concluded his ministry at the Old Meeting House, East Montpelier  
Rev. John Weatherhogg concluded his ministry at the North Bennington Church  
Rev. Ken White concluded his ministry at College Street Congregational Church, Burlington  
Laurie Chipman, Christian Educator, retired from the First Congregational Church Essex Junction United Church of Christ  
Rev. Kim McKerly is retiring from the Bethnay Congregational Church, Randolph  
Rev. Cordelia Burpee is retiring from the Congregational Church of South Hero  
Pastor Melissa O'Brien is concluding her ministry at The Peru Church  
Rev. Allyson Platt was called as Interim Pastor of the Guilford Community Church, UCC  
Rev. Dr. Jin Han was called as Interim Pastor of the West Dover Congregational Church  
Pastor Jennifer Lund was called as Interim Pastor of the West Newbury Congregational Church  
Rev. Mark McDonough was called as Interim Pastor of the United Church of Dorset and East Rupert  
Rev. Jessica Derise was called as Interim Pastor of the College Street Congregational Church, Burlington  
Pastor Rachel Guaraldi was called as Acting Pastor of the United Church of Strafford  
Rev. Avril Cochran was called to the United Church of Hardwick  
Rev. Sonia Dunbar was called to Second Congregational Church of Hyde Park  
Pastor Norma Stridsberg was called to Williamstown United  
Rev. Jenei Rossigg was called to First Congregational Church of Cornwall  
Rev. Chelsea Page was called to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Rev. Steve Longley has been called as the pastor of The Peru Church  
Rev. Sally May was installed at Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville  
Rev. Laura Engelken was installed at the Malletts Bay Congregational Church in Colchester  
Rev. Thew Deen was ordained on May 26, 2024 at Newfane Congregational Church  
Rev. Lahoma Howard was ordained and installed on December 7, 2024 at the United Community Church of St. Johnsbury  
Julie Demaree is being ordained on June 8, 2025 at Pittsford Congregational Church.  
Josh Sharp, from First Congregational Church Essex Junction United Church of Christ was approved for ordination pending call.  
Jack Lynch is a Member in Discernment from First Congregational Church, Burlington  
Pastor Ava Bilton has been recommended for an ecclesiastical council  
Eliana Cañas is a Member in Discernment from the Middlebury Congregational Church  
Lynn Pilcher is a Member in Discernment from the Grace Congregational Church, Rutland  
Pastor Dave Schilling is a Member in Discernment, serving The Old Meeting House as a licensed minister  
Hannah Connor is a Member in Discernment, from The Old Meeting House  
Lisa Bessette is a Member in Discernment from the Vergennes Congregational Church



## Nominating Report

### Board of Directors

Moderator	John Hill
Vice Moderator	Rev. Caryne Eskridge
Treasurer	Rev. Leigh McCaffrey
Assistant Treasurer	Laura Nassau
Chair	Rev. Erin Reardon
	Rev. Jessica Moore
	Curtiss Reed, Jr.
	Rev. Dr. Scott Couper
	Rev. James Merriam
	Pastor Jane LoBrutto

### Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee

Co-Chairs	Rev. Katelyn McRae and Rev. Paul Eyer
Scribe	Rev. Jonathan Hauze
Licensure	Pastor Michael Mario, Rev. Rhonda Myers
Transfers	Deb Farnham
Members in Discernment	Rev. Jeremy Kirk, Rev. Alyssa May, Rev. Cass Poulos, Jennifer Cummings

### Nominating Committee

Rev. Rhonda Myers, Rev. Robert Hamm, Rev. Peter Plagge, Richard Dale, Rev. Amy Davin,  
Rev. D. Mark Blank

### Investment Committee

Chair	John Myhre
	Rev. Elliott Munn
	Cyndie Holden
	Richard Dale

### Finance Committee

Rev. Shawn Bracebridge
Rev. Paul Eyre
Rev. Thew Deen

### General Synod Delegates

Addison	Rev. Caryne Eskridge
Champlain	Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen
Southwest	Pastor Jane LoBrutto
Windham Union	Rev. Ezra Chapola
Windsor-Orange	Rev. Kim McKerley
Southwest	Rev. Rhonda Myer
Washington	Pastor Dave Shilling
Youth Delegate	Simon Goldenbogen
	Rev. Laura Engelken

### Justice and Witness Ministries

Chair	Rev. Debbie Ingram
Racial Justice	Rev. Sally May
Environmental Justice	Fred Taylor
Refugees	Krista Reincke
Mental Health	Pastor Theresa Lever
VLIA Rep.	Esther Farnsworth
Global Ministries	Rev. Kim McKerley
Disaster/Summer Lunch	Grace Cleary
Members at Large	Sally Kershner, Pastor Michelle Fountain

Respectfully submitted, Amy Mellencamp, Richard Dale, Rev. Elliott Munn, Rev. Ed Sunday-Winters, Rev. Cordelia Burpee, Alice Kitchell

## **Don't Miss The Display of Sacred Ally Quilts in the Narthex (crafted as a response to the killing of George Floyd)**

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### **Many thanks to:**

The volunteers from Grace Congregational Church, Krista Johnson and Alastair Stout, and Rev. Terry Handley for being our hosts.

Rev. Kurt Shaffert for design consultation: fonts used in this publication include **BLACK LIVES MATTER**

Rev. Jonathan Hauze for managing the virtual access technology

Pastor Jane LoBrutto for the marvelous food!

All who sang, spoke, wrote and celebrated our worship.

Laura Nassau for the production of the Financial Documents book and all the spreadsheets behind it.

Those who have served as officers and committee members and those newly elected.

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee: Peter Plagge, Karen Braeutigam, Jane LoBrutto, Carrie Youngblood and Leigh McCaffrey

Rev. Mark Koyama of Sacred Ally Quilts

Tivvi Pare of the Horton Center

Rev. Dr. Gordon Rankin for pitching in!

Our keynote speaker: Rev. Dr. Marvin Ellison

Our tireless Ministries Coordinator, Rev. Jackie Lingelbach

Our Conference Ministers; Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak and Rev. Paul Sangree