

United Church of Hinesburg  
P.O. Box 39  
Hinesburg, VT 05461

## AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER



TO:

Pastor: Rev. Jared Hamilton  
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Please help keep our records current by contacting the UCH Office with changes to your e-mail or mailing address. Thank you!

### Pastor's Message:

#### On Being "Out of Order"

*This newsletter article is written to inform the congregation of a resolution that took place at the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in late June 2016 related to the issue of sexual orientation and church governance. Churches and church denominations are places of long histories, arcane terms and a lot of jargon. I've attempted to provide the necessary background here to explain the Annual Conference's bold decision. If you have any questions about the resolution, please feel free to contact me.*

As many of you know, the United Church of Hinesburg has historic ties to the American Baptist Church (ABC), United Church of Christ (UCC) and United Methodist Church (UMC) denominations. This union is what makes us a “united” church, a union that began 97 years ago when the local Baptist, Methodist and Congregational (precursor to the UCC) churches merged “in view of the desirability of having one strong Protestant church in Hinesburg.”

Several years ago our church went through the “Open and Affirming” process, a process that speaks to the full inclusion of all people in the worshipping community. Our Bylaws state the following:

*We welcome into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, language, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, economic or marital status and faith background. We affirm and celebrate all loving and committed relationships. We commit ourselves to work diligently to end oppression and discrimination. Following the example of Jesus Christ, we hereby declare ourselves to be an Open, Welcoming, and Affirming Church and a Reconciling Congregation.*

As such, we are designated as an *Open and Affirming* (ONA) congregation in the UCC, a *Welcoming and Affirming* congregation in the ABC (the only ABC affiliated church in Vermont with this designation) and a *Reconciling Congregation* in the UMC denominations. These designations affirm the full inclusion of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender persons and questioning individuals into the church's life and ministry here at the United Church of Hinesburg. Essentially this statement affirms that LGBTQ folks are able to serve in any role of the church including pastor and can receive every service this church offers including the sacraments and wedding ceremonies without discrimination.

Nationally, the UCC and ABC denominations allow for greater involvement or noninvolvement on the issue of sexual orientation and church life. In these denominations, local churches have the authority to make decisions on issues related to membership, ordination and participation.

The UMC has a different church structure and is guided by *The Book of Discipline*, a regularly updated book that constitutes the law and doctrine of the United Methodist Church. The *Book of Discipline* states that "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teachings," prohibits "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" from ordination and bans UMC entities from funding groups that "promote the acceptance of homosexuality."

Recently, the UMC New England Annual Conference adopted a resolution of Non-Conformity – a statement declaring that it intentionally rejects these aspects of the *Book of Discipline*. Here is the press release compiled by Sam Hodges, a United Methodist Service writer:

*The New England Annual Conference said it would not wait any longer for The United Methodist Church to change its position on homosexuality.*

*Members voted 445/179 Friday afternoon to support the resolution 16-220 titled "[Action of Non-Conformity with the General Conference of The United Methodist Church.](#)"*

*It states, in part, "The NEAC will not conform or comply with provisions of the [Book of] Discipline which discriminate against LGBTQIA persons" and "The NEAC and its members will not participate in or conduct judicial procedures related to the Discipline's prohibitions against LGBTQIA persons."<sup>1</sup>*

The New England Conference is one of many annual conferences in the United States that have recently made declarations of non-conformity. In doing so, they have declared themselves "out of order" with the Book of Discipline by declaring that its language discriminates against LGBTQ people. Of particular interest to the New England Conference, the resolution says:

*That the conference will not use reserve funds to pay for judicial procedures related to the Discipline's homosexuality-related prohibitions. Instead the conference will, according to the resolution, fund cultural competency training programs as a means of combating discrimination, including homophobia.<sup>2</sup>*

Personally, I am overjoyed at the statement that the churches in the New England Conference are making by choosing not to conform to a harmful and discriminatory doctrine in the *Book of Disciplines*. I have friends around the country that grew up in the United Methodist Church, are openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and/or transgender, and could not enter into ordained ministry in the UMC because of the language in the *Book of Disciplines*. I have had the chance to

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.neumc.org/newsdetail/conference-adopts-action-of-non-conformity-resolution-5074535> [accessed July 25, 2016].

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/new-england-conference-passes-act-of-non-conformity> [accessed July 25, 2016].

hear their stories of “being out of order” in seminary and at UCC events because many of them became ordained clergy in the UCC.

Perhaps the church is at its best when it is “out of order,” rejecting the discrimination and fear so prevalent in society and finding new ways to be faithful to the inclusive message of the gospels. This declaration serves as a reminder that strong and prophetic statements are still coming from all corners of the church and that God is still speaking in profound and inclusive ways.

Blessings,

*Pastor Jared*

\*Copies of the two articles referenced above will be available on the back table in the sanctuary beginning this Sunday.

For the remainder of the summer, we will be continuing our **sermon series** on parishioner requested topics. The schedule is:

July 31st - "How important is the Bible to one's religion?"

August 7th - "What is the value of humor in life and faith?"

August 14th - "What do we do with the Psalms?"

August 21st - "How does our faith and ethic inform our perspective on this year's campaign?"

August 28th - "What about the devil?"

September 4th - "What does the Bible say about worry, the unknown, and the future?"

Thank you to all those that submitted ideas.

### **Spiritual Formation Committee News**

**Spiritual Formation Committee:** Sue Barden, Danielle Pezzimenti, Rev. Wayne Schwab, David Sterrett, Anne Carter Zadig

### **Practicing God Talk** **resumes on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour**

We focus on the Wider World using “Working-Class Blues (and Grays)” by Sherry Lee Likon in *Sojourners* (July 2016). Frustration and resentment can draw working-class people in multiple directions – including activism. Faith-based people can help channel this activism to make various parts of life more just; we need to be part of the answer. A related biblical theme: “But he said to them, you give them something to eat” (Luke 10:13).

Read a summary online at: <http://bit.ly/29SNSwD>. Copies of the full article will be available on the back table in the sanctuary on Sunday, August 21st and Sunday, August 28th. After worship on the 28th, get your snack and come to classroom 1 for 20 minutes or so of discussion.

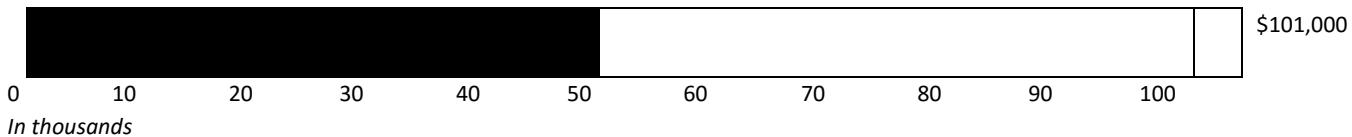
## Finance Committee News

**Finance Committee:** Yvonne Whitaker, Treasurer; Andy Seaton, Financial Secretary; JP Hong, Phil Pouech and Mary Eddy Stewart

### Financial Update

Our 2016 budget includes an offering goal of \$101,000. It is important that we achieve it in order to cover our expenses this year. To date, we're staying on track. The progress bar below will be published monthly to show how we are doing. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Plate offering received as of **June 30, 2016** (\$50,069 50% of offering budget)



Contribution reports for the period 1/1/16-6/30/16 are being mailed with Pastor Jared's mid-year letter. This contribution report includes amounts designated for weekly offering; it does not include special gifts you may have made for projects such as Hearts for Hunger and the New York City youth trip. Your year-end report, which will be provided in January, will include all monetary gifts to the church in 2016.

Yvonne Whitaker, Treasurer

### Planned Giving

If you would like to help to ensure that the United Church of Hinesburg continues to thrive for generations to come, consider making the United Church of Hinesburg a beneficiary in your will or living trust. Another option to consider would be the gift of an appreciated stock instead of cash. This option of donating shares of stock can have tax benefits for you and allow a larger contribution to our church. If you have questions about gifting stock, contact your accountant or contact Damon Kinzie, our Morgan Stanley financial advisor (658-2424). All calls and conversations with Damon will be strictly confidential.

## Christian Education Committee News

**Christian Education Committee:** Eileen Ashe, Chair; Heather Roberts, CE Coordinator; Leah Hamilton, Mary Hong, Theron Main, Renate Parke, Howdy Russell and Sharonlee Trefry

While we are all enjoying our summer vacations, the Christian Education committee has been making plans for our upcoming program year. Homecoming Sunday will be on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> this year. Please join us for a pancake breakfast before church and an opportunity to register your children for our 2016-2017 Sunday School Program.

We will also be holding a curriculum training and Caring Community Policies & Procedures review session for anyone interested in teaching in our Sunday School classrooms this program year. It will likely be offered in the evening sometime during the week of September 5<sup>th</sup>. Details will be forthcoming. Please contact Heather in the church office if you want more information.

## August 2016 Happenings at UCH

{All meetings/events are held in Osborne Parish House unless otherwise noted.}

2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	8:00am-3:00pm	WIC
Monday nights	5:00pm-9:30pm	Parish House reserved by private group
Most Wednesday nights	6:30pm-9:00pm	Boy Scouts
Sunday, August 7 <sup>th</sup>	11:30am	Nominating Committee meeting
Tuesday, August 9 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Membership Care Committee meeting
Sunday, August 21 <sup>st</sup>	8:30am	Spiritual Formation Committee meeting
Sunday, August 21 <sup>st</sup>	11:30am	Church Council meeting
Week of August 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Church office closed
Friday, August 26 <sup>th</sup>		September newsletter deadline
Friday, August 26 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-7:00pm	Open Table Diner community meal (hosted by Williston USDA)



We are looking for help in the **church nursery**. Taylor Danforth will be our paid nursery provider until the fall of this year. We are looking for an adult assistant to help her each week. Sign up at:

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-nursery](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-nursery)

During the summer each coffee hour committee serves one Sunday. The August schedule is:



Aug. 7--September Committee  
Aug. 14--May Committee  
Aug. 21--April Committee  
Aug. 28--February Committee

\*\* The June Committee can be called to help if needed.

In August, the chairpersons will be contacting their committee members to confirm they are willing to continue on the same committee for next year. IF you are not on a committee and would like to join one--consider yourself asked! Please let Sandy White know at [sbwhite@gmavt.net](mailto:sbwhite@gmavt.net). Thanks!



**Compost:** The church is looking for people to take food scraps from the kitchen to compost at their homes or at a local transfer station. If you are able and willing to take home food scraps in biodegradable bags one week per month, please contact the church office.

## *August Birthdays & Anniversaries*

03 Dawn Francis  
03 *Andrew & Susan Lepple*  
03 *Paul & Lisa Zengilowski*  
05 *Rodney & Madine Churchill*  
05 Chris McCuin  
05 Patty Titus  
06 Andy Seaton  
07 *Leonard & Valerie Ducharme*  
08 Thomas Lian  
10 Rosie Brien  
10 Sophie Brien  
12 Faibe Achinda  
12 Kristy McLeod Bohlen  
12 Debbie Seaton  
12 Heidi Simkins  
12 *Sara & Arthur Thompson*  
13 Meg Roberts  
15 *Keith & Heather Roberts*  
16 Julia Blanck  
16 Tim Riggs  
16 *Edward & Beth Sengle*  
17 Zachary Foutz  
17 Brendan Hay  
17 *Jean & Roderick Isham*  
18 Renate Parke  
19 Gene Hall  
19 *Robert & Jennifer Lian*  
19 Daniel Spadaccini  
22 Shane Hanlon  
22 Susan Lepple  
22 Sharlene Palmer  
22 *Stephen & Norma Sprague*  
27 Gerald Ouimet  
28 *Chris & Jennifer McCuin*  
28 Brynn Seaton  
30 Jennifer McCuin  
30 Rufus Patrick  
31 *Charles & Marilyn Utter*

*If you don't see your birthday or anniversary listed,  
please call the Church Office so we may include you!*

## **August 2016**

### **August 7th**

*Greeter: Anne Castle  
Ushers: Kate Schubart & Sandy Milbank  
Reader: Sharonlee Trefry  
Coffee Hour: September committee*

### **August 14th**

*Greeter: Grace Farley  
Ushers: Phil Pouech & Lia Cravedi  
Reader: Judy Parker  
Coffee Hour: May committee*

### **August 21st**

*Greeters: Reggie & Sandy Robinson  
Ushers: Marie & David Eddy  
Reader: Renate Parke  
Coffee Hour: April committee*

### **August 28th**

*Greeter: Sheri Hanlon  
Ushers: Barbara & Bob Forauer  
Reader: Yvonne Whitaker  
Coffee Hour: February committee*

***Thank you for your service!***



**Looking for news regarding specific denominations?**

Check these websites...

[www.neumc.org](http://www.neumc.org) | [www.vtcucc.org](http://www.vtcucc.org) | [www.abcvnh.org](http://www.abcvnh.org)

**Distributing the monthly newsletter by email saves the church a considerable amount of money in postage expenses. If you currently receive a mailed hard copy of the church newsletter, please consider contacting the church office with an updated email address to which future issues can be sent. Thank you!**