

UCC VT Conference Message. June 19, 2025

Message from the Conference

Dear Friends,

It was quite a day of protest last Saturday in Vermont! “No Kings” rallies were held in communities throughout the state, from large to small. Vermont pastors on our Conference clergy call this week shared that 300 people gathered at a joint rally of Fairlee VT and Orford NH, 3000 people gathered in Brattleboro, and 16000 people gathered in Burlington! I know that many of you reading this Ekit, whether lay people or clergy in the Vermont Conference, were at one of the rallies. For many of us, the abuses of the Trump administration run so counter to everything that we believe as Christians that we feel compelled to speak up. Thursday is also another day of great meaning for our country and the UCC. It is the 160 th anniversary of Juneteenth! This day was first recognized as a state holiday in Vermont in 2008, and then as a federal holiday in 2021. This year, all of Vermont is honoring this day with schools and libraries and businesses being closed throughout the state. Many commentators are calling Juneteenth the second American independence day, as it celebrates the end of legalized slavery in our country. Despite the efforts of the Trump administration to ban Diversity, Equity and Inclusion gatherings, this day is all about celebrating the diversity of all Americans.

One of our lectionary passages for this Sunday, Galatians 3:23-29, says “It is through faith that all of you are God’s children in union with Christ Jesus. You were baptized into union with Christ, and now you are clothed, so to speak, with the life of Christ himself. So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free people, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:26-28)

May it be so,
Faithfully yours,
Paul