



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

Town Manager's Office
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St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
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Town Clerk 802-748-4331
Dispatch 802-748-2314
Police 802-748-2314
Fire 802-748-8925
Public Works 802-748-4408
Assessor Office 802-748-4272

December 3, 2019

United Community Church, United Church of Christ
c/o Rev. Elisa Lucozzi
1325 Main Street
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Re: NOTICE OF NOLLE PROSEQUI
"Coffee and Community Warming Center"

Dear Rev. Lucozzi:

After consultation with Acting Town Attorney¹ Ed Adrian I offer the following:

Please consider this correspondence a notice of nolle prosequi ("nol-pros" or "non-prosecution") in respect to the "Coffee and Community Warming Center" described by you in a document entitled "Information for Zoning Administrator regarding the Coffee and Community Warming Center at the United Community Church." Exhibit 1. After reviewing the Town's Zoning Regulations we have determined that the "Coffee and Community Warming Center" does not require a zoning permit, and the Town will not be issuing a Notice of Alleged Violation regarding the UCC "Coffee and Community Warming Center."

Please note that this nol-pros decision is not one that the Town has taken lightly given the fact that five separate complaints were filed in respect to the "Coffee and Community Warming Center."

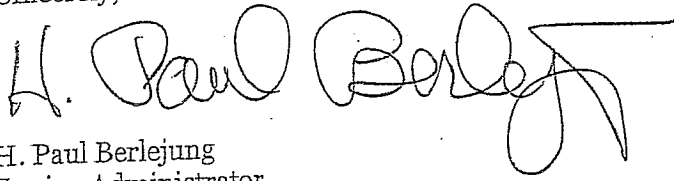
Please note that if the "Coffee and Community Warming Center" is expanded or altered in the future, beyond what you described in Exhibit 1, the Town reserves the right to take an enforcement action based on the facts and circumstances that exist at that time.

This nol-pros decision may be appealed by any interested person within fifteen (15) days of the date set forth above to the St. Johnsbury Development Review Board pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4465(a) by filing a notice of appeal in writing with the St. Johnsbury Development Review Board, Pomerleau Building, 51 Depot Square, Suite 3, St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819. A copy of the notice of appeal should also be delivered to me and to the Town Clerk, Stacy Jewell at the same address.

All complaining parties are copied below. Failure to appeal this decision may foreclose all possibilities of contestation.

¹ Town Attorney Ed Zuccaro has a conflict of interest in respect to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Paul Berlejung". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

H. Paul Berlejung
Zoning Administrator

Cc: Town Manager, Chad Whitehead (Via electronic mail)
Susan M. Aiken, Complainant
Raymond Cummings, Complainant
Dan Hughes, Complainant
Louis Lacroix, Complainant
Bruce Quatrini, Complainant

**VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL, POSTING IN THREE PUBLIC PLACES AND POSTED TO
THE TOWN WEBSITE**

Information for the Zoning Administrator regarding
the Coffee and Community Warming Center at United Community Church

Location and Contact information:

United Community Church, United Church of Christ
1325 Main Street
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
802-748-2603
Contact: Rev. Elisa Lucozzi
Email: pastoruccstj@gmail.com

A) *A copy of the church's mission statement*

From United Community Church's Bylaws adopted February 28, 2016

Article II. MISSION STATEMENT

As one body in communion with God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, we, the members of United Community Church covenant with one another to care for and love each other as Jesus Christ loves us, and to maintain, support, and foster a compassionate ministry in our community and throughout all God's creation.

Article III. OUR COMMITMENT

We will let love be genuine; resist what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love and care for one another with mutual affection. We will not lag in zeal but will be ardent in spirit and serve the Lord. We will rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer. We will strive to meet the needs of the community and extend hospitality to strangers.

We will pray for those who persecute, rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. We will live in harmony with one another and assist those less fortunate. We do not claim to be wiser than others, nor do we repay anyone evil for evil. So far as it depends on us, we will live peaceably with all. (A modern paraphrase of Roman's 12: 9-18)

B) *Description of the church's programs over the last several years*

Use of building in 2015

One Billion Rising Rehearsals	Matter of Balance – NEK Council of Aging
Adoption Support Group	Mood Disorder Support Group
Caledonia Court Guardian Ad Litum training	NEKYS annual walk
Caregiver's Class – NEK Council on Aging	Piano recitals
Catamount Arts concert venue	Prevent Child Abuse Vermont programs
Church World Service kits depot	Private voice, piano, organ lessons
Community Lunch (weekly on Wednesday)	Psychotherapists monthly meeting
COSA	Pumpkin Hill Singers
DART	Reiki Share massage therapist meetings
Early music rehearsal space	Seed & Weed Garden club
Easter Egg Hunt – Magic 97	Senior companions
Easter Seals parent meetings	Springfield College graduation
First Night venue	St. Johnsbury Town Band rehearsals/concerts
Folk music rehearsal space	St. Johnsbury Lacrosse fundraisers
Food bank delivery station	St. Johnsbury Players rehearsal site
Food shelf yard sale	String ensemble rehearsal space
Girl Scout Leaders of SU218	Umbrella meeting/training
Global Campus	Vermont Symphony Orchestra concert venue
Growing Stronger exercise group	Vocational Rehab meetings
Kingdom Animal Shelter fundraisers	Plus church specific activities:
Kingdom Community Service meetings	Sunday Worship, Choir, Executive Council meeting, Sunday School, Business Committee meetings, Music Committee meetings, Mission Committee meetings, weddings, funerals, special services, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Dinner, Bible Study
Kingdom Productions concert venue	
Learning Kitchen – CCV	
NEK LGBTQA Advocacy training	
Lifeline screening	

Use of building in 2016

Ballroom Dancing
 Boy Scouts of America District meetings
 Caledonia Democratic party meeting
 Caregivers Class – NEK Council of Aging
 Catamount Arts concert venue
 Church World Service kit depot
 Community Lunch (weekly on Wednesday)
 COSA
 DART
 Death Café
 Dulcimer group
 Early music rehearsal space
 Easter Egg hunt – Magic 97
 Fall Prevention workshop – NEK Council of Aging
 First Night
 Food bank delivery station
 Girl Scout Leaders of SU218 meetings
 Girl Scouts of SU.218
 Global Campus
 Green Mountain United Way meetings
 Growing Stronger
 Interfaith Help group
 Kingdom Animal Shelter fundraisers
 Kingdom Community Services meetings
 Learning Kitchen
 NEK LGBTQA Advocacy
 Main St Arts @ North

Mood Disorder Support Group
 NAMI of Vermont
 NEK Orchestra rehearsal space
 NEKYS Annual Walk
 North Country Chorus rehearsal and concert venue
 Prevent Child Abuse Vermont programs
 Private voice, piano, organ lessons
 Psychotherapist monthly meetings
 Pumpkin Hill Singers
 Reiki Share Massage therapist meetings
 Regional Food Bank meeting
 Rummage Sale
 Seed & Weed Garden Club
 Senior companions
 Springfield College graduation
 St. Johnsbury Chamber of Commerce
 St. Johnsbury Lacrosse fundraisers
 St. Johnsbury Town Band rehearsal/concert venue
 String group rehearsal space
 Umbrella trainings
 Plus church specific activities:
 Sunday Worship, Choir, Church Council meeting, Sunday School, Stewardship Ministry meetings, Worship and Care ministry meetings, Music Committee meetings, Outreach Ministry meetings, Spiritual Formation and Nurture meetings, weddings, funerals, special services, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Dinner, Bible Study.

Use of building in 2017

Boy Scouts of America Cub Scout meetings

Caledonia Democratic party meeting

Catamount Arts concert venue
Church World Service kit depot
Community Lunch (weekly on Wednesday)
COSA
DART
Dulcimer group
Early music rehearsal space
Easter Egg hunt – Magic 97
Fall Prevention workshop – NEK Council of Aging
First Night
Food bank delivery station
Girl Scout Leaders of SU 218 meetings
Girl Scouts of SU 218
Global Campus
Growing Stronger
Hilltoppers Quilters and Crafters
Interfaith Partners
Kingdom Animal Shelter fundraisers
Kingdom Community Services meetings
NEK LGBTQA Advocacy
Main St Arts @ North

Mood Disorder Support Group
NEKYS Annual Walk
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont programs
Private voice, piano, organ lessons
Psychotherapist monthly meetings
Pumpkin Hill Singers
Seed & Weed Garden Club
Senior companions
Springfield College graduation
St. Johnsbury Chamber of Commerce
St. Johnsbury Lacrosse fundraisers
St. Johnsbury Town Band rehearsal/concert venue
String group rehearsal space
Umbrella trainings
Plus church specific activities:
Sunday Worship, Choir, Handbell rehearsals, Church Council meeting, Sunday School, Stewardship Ministry meetings, Worship and Care ministry meetings, Music Committee meetings, Outreach Ministry meetings, Spiritual Formation and Nurture meetings, weddings, funerals, special services, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Dinner, Bible Study.

Use of building in 2018

Ballroom Dancing

Boy Scouts of America Cub Scouts

Caledonia Court trainings
 Catamount Arts concert venue
 Church World Service kit depot
 Community Lunch (weekly on Wednesday)
 DART
 Daughters of the American Revolution
 Dowzers
 Easter Egg Hunt – Magic 97
 Fairbanks Museum -Outdoor class
 Food bank delivery station
 Girl Scout leaders of SU 218 meetings
 Girl Scouts of SU 218
 Hilltoppers Quilters and Crafters
 KCP performance venue
 Kingdom Animal Shelter fundraiser
 Kingdom Community Services meetings
 League of Woman Voters
 Lieutenant Governor's series
 Mood Disorder Support Group
 NASW trainings
 Neighborhood Association meetings
 Neighbors on the Plain
 NEK Council of Aging
 NEKYS Annual walk
 Northern Counties Health Center

Poor People's Campaign
 Prevent Child Abuse Vermont Programs
 Private voice, piano, organ lessons
 Psychotherapists monthly meetings
 Pumpkin Hill Singers
 QTs in the Kingdom, LGBTQ+ Youth Support Group
 Senior Companions
 St. Johnsbury Lacrosse fund raisers
 St. Johnsbury Players rehearsal space
 St. Johnsbury Town Band rehearsal/concert venue
 Tai Chi
 Twin State Network
 Umbrella trainings/activities
 Vermont Workers Center
 White Privilege Training
 WRAP
 Plus church specific activities:
 Sunday Worship, Choir, Handbell rehearsals, Church Council meeting, Sunday School, Stewardship Ministry meetings, Worship and Care ministry meetings, Music Committee meetings, Outreach Ministry meetings, Spiritual Formation and Nurture meetings, weddings, funerals, special services, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Dinner, Bible Study, Youth/family activities.

Use of building in 2019 (so far)

A Matter of Balance – NEK Council of Aging

AA

Al-anon
Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program
Boy Scouts of America Cub Scouts
Caledonia County Democratic party
Catamount Arts concert venue
Church World Service kit depot
Coffee & Community place (trainings)
Community organizing Meeting
Community Lunch (weekly on Wednesday)
Concerned Citizens
Continua
DART
Dowers
Easter Egg hunt – Magic 97
Elizabeth Lund Home adoption meetings
Food bank delivery station
Girl Scout leaders of SU 218
Girl Scouts of SU 218
Global Campus
Headstart Trainings
Hilltoppers Quilters and Crafters
Interfaith Partners Community Dinner
(monthly)
Interfaith Power and Light program
League of Woman Voters
Mood Disorder Support Group
NAMI
Neighbors on the Plain

NEKYS Annual Walk
People's Forum
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont programs
Psychotherapists monthly meetings
Pumpkin Hill Singers
QTs in the Kingdom, LGBTQ+ Youth
Support Group
Senior Companions
Springfield College graduation
St. Johnsbury Chamber of Commerce
training
St. Johnsbury Lacrosse fundraisers
St. Johnsbury Players rehearsal space
St. Johnsbury Town Band rehearsal/concert
venue
Tai Chi
Twin State network
Umbrella activities
Vermont Worker's Center
WRAP
Plus church specific activities:
Sunday Worship, Choir, Handbell
rehearsals, Church Council meeting, Sunday
School, Stewardship Ministry meetings,
Worship and Care ministry meetings, Music
Committee meetings, Outreach Ministry
meetings, Spiritual Formation and Nurture
meetings, weddings, funerals, special
services, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas
Dinner, Bible Study, Ashes and Joe to go,
youth/family activities.

C) *Information about this specific program to include hours of operation, number of people anticipated to take advantage of the program, volunteers/staffing, training, etc.;*

Name of the "Program:" Coffee and Community Warming Center

Lead Coordinators: Partnership between NEKCA and United Community Church

Goal: To offer radical hospitality in the form of a warm space, a free cup of coffee and some breakfast food to anyone who may need a warm place to be and wants to be in community during the coldest and most isolating months of the year.

Hours of operation: 7:30 am – 12 noon, 7 days a week from November 15th – April 15th.

Number of People: At this point we have no way of knowing how many people will take advantage of the hospitality we are offering. Our hope is that all members of our community will feel invited to join us. We are also working to reach out to vulnerable members of our community specifically elders who may be struggling with heating insecurity, those who are struggling with housing insecurity and other members of the community who for whatever reason might have barriers to accessing warmth and food.

Volunteers/Staffing: The day to day details of the center as well as volunteer coordination are overseen by Mr. Ted Sharp, Warming Center Coordinator. This is a compensated position funded by grant money secured by NEKCA. United Community Church also has a Faith Community Nurse, Rosanne Hebert, RN who is available at the church 3 days a week. Volunteers are members of the congregation and members of the wider community as well as representatives of various support organizations that serve the community.

Training: Our first information/orientation session was held on November 6th. There were approximately 20-25 in attendance. We covered the following topics – Welcome and introductions, Overview of the Programs and Volunteer positions, Radical hospitality, Values Clarification Activity, Reflective Listening, Empathy vs. Sympathy, De-escalation Strategies and Safety Intervention, Emergency Protocols and a tour of the facility. A second information/orientation session is scheduled for January 16, 2020.

D) *and any other helpful information*

The congregation views this "program" along with the hosting of the various other groups and programs in the community as way to put their faith into action, as a mission of the church.