



The Visioning Team

The Seventh Generation Principle is based on an ancient indigenous philosophy that the decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future.

The people of the First Congregational Church of Burlington find themselves in possession of land on which the Abenaki (specifically Missisquoi) lived and freely roamed for thousands of years.* The Church and the former Parsonage rest on this land. Especially now, with the sale of the Parsonage land, we seek to honor the legacy of those who once called this area home, by honoring their commitment to a future we will not live to see. In so doing, we will be building upon the best of what First Church has been and is even now becoming. Please join us.

Since our commissioning in November, the Visioning Team has been hard at work, creating a process whereby we hope to gather *tons* of useful information that will help us identify our vision and outreach missions for the next chapter of our “being church” in God’s world. Our shared stories, and the insights they articulate, will literally not be complete without wide and deep participation from our entire congregation in this process.

To this end, we are asking you to please plan to join a small group, led by a trained facilitator and scribe, for a single, two-hour Zoom cottage meeting/listening session. The information gathered will be compiled and available, anonymously, for all of us to see. Themes will be identified, and the Team will use the invaluable information gathered to propose our next steps together – steps that will seek to serve God, honor the peoples of Burlington, be respectful of the legacy of the tribes whose lands we steward, and support us to live in ways that will proclaim our faith.

Process and Procedure: [Attached you will find a calendar](#) on which specific times on days of the week are noted. These are the times and dates available for our cottage meetings. Please let the office know by May 20th, or as soon as you are able, what your first three time and date choices are *for every individual in your home*. Please do **not** choose the same times as others in your home.

We will begin scheduling these meetings on Saturday, May 22, and will let you know which of your three choices you received by the morning of the 26th.

Again, at this time we are asking you to indicate your first three choices of times/dates, in order of preference. We will make one of those three times work for you. Please email the office at office@firstchurchburlington.org or call 802-862-5010 ext. 4.

May the things we do today bless those we will never meet, unto the seventh generation. Thank you for working with us to ensure a continued legacy of community engagement and support for all of God’s people.

Visioning Team: *Rob Backus, Amanda Grace, Tony Hall, Jennifer Jorgenson, Susan Saunders, Charlie Smith, Kipene Tabu*

* "Further analysis revealed that there had been two periods of intense habitation at the site [specifically 8 acres studied on the Winooski side of the river]: one dated about AD 60-350 and another AD 500-1000." (pg2), and again, on the same page "From about AD 1000 to about 1475, we lose sight of the Native Americans on the Winooski, not because they were not there, but only because we have not yet found remains of their habitation. But they reappear again at a location studied by the University of Vermont's Peter Thomas in 1978. On the Burlington side of the lower Winooski, on a ledge of a sandy ridge that parallels the Northern Connector.... Thomas found evidence of Native American occupation from 1475 into the seventeenth century." Burlington: A History of Vermont's Queen City, Vincent E. Feeney.