

Dear Friends,

Our Connections Team – with leadership from First Church member, Baki Nelson, is working to form a Dragonheart Vermont Boat Team for the August 7th Lake Champlain Dragon Boat Festival.



Here are the basics:

- The 2022 boats require 16 paddlers and a drummer.
- The cost to participate is \$60.
- Each paddler is obligated to fund raise, or contribute, an additional \$75. n 2022 the Lake Champlain Dragon Boat Festival is raising money to support the programs of Dragonheart Vermont and the Cancer Patient Support Foundation's Emergency Fund.
- There is more detailed information regarding the festival on DHVT website: [Welcome to Dragonheart Vermont - Lake Champlain Dragon Boat Team \(www.dragonheartvermont.org\)](http://www.dragonheartvermont.org)
- This a great, fun opportunity to invite a neighbor, colleague or friend to take part with you!

From organizer Baki Nelson:

“In 2017 our church formed a team we called *"Pull Together"* to participate in the festival. That was the first time I got to know Dragonheart Vermont and their mission in support of breast cancer survivors. Thea Knight was the leader and put together a full team (20 paddlers) and we were able to make it to the semi-finals!

Right after the festival I joined Dragonheart VT and since then I have been paddling with the premier team, competing all over the nation. I served a term on the DHVT board from March 2019 to March 2022. We just started the season on the water this past week by “awaking the Dragons” - a traditional eye dotting ceremony we hold every year to mark the beginning of the season. WCAX reported on the event and our first time on the water this year: [Dragonheart Vermont kicks off 2022 season \(wcax.com\)](http://www.wcax.com) The guy in the very front of the boat with the red hat is me :)

I look forward to our church team participating in the festival this year. We will have our own tent (booth) and that is a great time and place for us to actively talk about our church mission, vision, programs,.... with those visiting our booth.

There will be a dedicated day when all community teams get an hour of practice on the water (usually a week before commencement of the festival). Let's go strong and revive the legacy of our church team "PULL TOGETHER" this year! We can show other community teams that THE DRAGON IS BACK!

If you have any questions or suggestions, or want to sign up to be part of our Dragonheart 2022 Team - please email Baki Nelson at: fn.info@icloud.com - or call/text me at: (561) 214-0816.

Thank you,

[Baki Nelson](#)

On Behalf of the First Church Connections Team



Picture: Our FCCB 2017 Dragonheart “Pull Together” Team!