

**August 29, 2025**

**Characters: 763**

**SIDE ONE**

## **Winooski United Methodist Church**

The Winooski United Methodist Church was constructed in 1917 on land donated by the Burlington Woolen Company to replace the 1859 Greek Revival-style church that burned. Noteworthy for its stained-glass windows, the building was designed by Vermont architect Frank Lyman Austin in a hybrid of Gothic Revival and Shingle Style architecture. The bell in the tower was cast in 1849 and acquired in 1922 from the local Congregational church once located across the street. From its founding, the WUMC has balanced devotional worship with community outreach. Historically, its social mission ranged from teaching English to immigrant mill workers to providing a welcoming place of worship for the Buffalo Soldiers.

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**Characters: 700**

**SIDE TWO**

## **A Place of Worship for the Buffalo Soldiers**

(continued from other side)

After the Civil War, four “colored” regiments were formed. Serving mostly on the Western frontier, the Buffalo Soldiers saw combat in the Spanish-American War in Cuba and the Philippines. Hailed as heroes upon their return, the Fighting 10th was transferred to Fort Ethan Allen in Colchester in 1909. Many of these soldiers found a spiritual home at WUMC. When the regiment was redeployed in 1914, five of them—Sgt. Silas Johnson, Staff Sgt. John Ralph Lyons, First Sgt. Willis Hatcher, Cpl. Beverly Thornton, and Staff Sgt. George Osborne—retired in Winooski, four of whom contributed funds and manpower to rebuilding the church.

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