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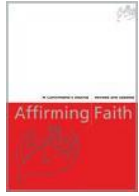
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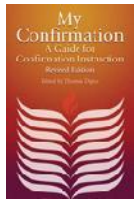
Affirming Faith | Revised and Updated

Author/Editor: Thomas E. Dipko

Learn More/Order: <https://www.uccresources.com>

This thorough, multifaceted resource is designed to assist congregations in leading youth ages 12-16 in Confirmation & Faith Formation. It is based on the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith.

Affirming Faith consists of two coordinated components. The *Congregation's Guide* is for leaders, complete with session plans, retreat plans, biblical and theological helps, music, liturgical resources, and a glossary of terms. For youth, there is the *Confirmand's Journal* which presents stories, quotes, illustrations, and questions, as well as space for journaling and reflection.



My Confirmation

Author/Editor: Thomas E. Dipko

Learn More/Order: <https://www.uccresources.com>

My Confirmation has been used by United Church of Christ (UCC) congregations for confirmation instruction since the early 1950s. This newly revised edition includes updated information on the organization of the UCC denomination; the Collegium of Ministers; the work the UCC is doing in each covenanted ministry; and more.

Designed as a workbook, it provides youth with insight into: the Bible, its origins, and how to use it; Christian beliefs; understanding God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit; and the Christian church.

This book also addresses some vital questions regarding the importance of church and the meaning of confirmation, and contains a helpful resource section.

THOMAS E. DIPKO is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and the former executive vice president of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

UCC Denominational Resources:

Resources specific information on the United Church of Christ Faith Traditions and providing background on what it means to become a member of a UCC church.

- [About the United Church of Christ](#) published by Channing Bete Company, Inc.
- [Who We Are What We Believe United Church of Christ Leaflet](#)
- [So You're Thinking About Joining the Church | A Guide to Exploring Church Membership in the United Church of Christ](#)
- [What Matters to You? Matters to Us](#) Engaging Six Vital Themes of our Faith by Sidney Fowler
- [Practices of Faith in the United Church of Christ](#) (Pamphlet)

*Resources listed in these sections have been successfully utilized and recommended by local church(es) in the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ.

Other Confirmation Curriculum Resources*:



Making Disciples (Coordinators Guide, Mentor Guide and Confirmand's Journal)

Author/Editor: William Willimon

Learn More/Order: <http://www.cokesbury.com>

Making Disciples is a mentor-based confirmation program that pairs confirmands with adult mentors and guides them through a variety of learning experiences that will strengthen the student's understanding of the faith while connecting him or her with the community of believers in a personal way. It can be used as a stand-alone program, or in conjunction with your current curriculum as a special experiential unit.

William Willimon is one of the foremost preachers in the English-speaking world. He and his Christian education committee decided to change the way they would provide confirmation. Willimon and co-writer, the Rev. Mark Flynn, designed a confirmation program that would be more like a process and less like a reading assignment, more engaging and congruent with the nature of the Christian faith than existing programs.

Willimon used an "apprenticeship" approach to confirmation, pairing adult mentors from the congregation with confirmation students. He produced a series of learning experiences where adult mentors and confirmands are both teachers and learners at the same time.



re:form

Publisher: Spark House, a division of Augsburg Fortress
(publishing arm of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

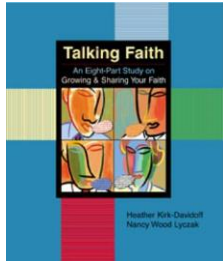
Learn More/Order: <http://wearesparkhouse.org/teens/reform/core/>

From the Spark House website: "You said it was time to jettison those crusty, sleep-inducing programs of the past. And we listened. You said youth ministry should be about exploration, not indoctrination. And we agreed. re:form is a totally new approach to youth ministry that trusts youth to wrestle with the historic Christian faith and theology.

re:form features two DVDs with 40 hilarious animated short films that frame the theological questions that youth really ask, an Anti-Workbook that's chock full of individual and group activities, and a fully reproducible Leader Guide."

The re:form Traditions material is currently available for Methodist, Lutheran, and Reformed. See the UCC Denominational Resources section of this file for supplementary material on the United Church of Christ Faith Traditions.

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Talking Faith

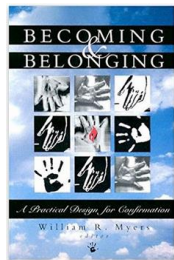
Author: Heather Kirk-Davidoff, Nancy Wood

Publisher: Chalice Press

Methodology: Experiential,

Learn More/Order: <http://www.chalicepress.com/>

From the Chalice Press website: “*Talking Faith* is not about teaching people what to believe or about going door-to-door in an evangelism campaign. It is about helping people to better understand and develop their own faith and helping them to be comfortable in sharing their faith with others.”



Becoming and Belonging: A Practical Design for Confirmation

Author: William Myers

Learn More/Order: <https://www.amazon.com/>

This long-awaited resource for church leaders is inspiring in concept and exhilarating in execution. Designed to revitalize the experience of confirmation--for youth as well as those dedicated to nurturing the faith of the church's youth--this guide is a practical and an enlivening approach to confirmation. Contributors include Gary Halstead, Timothy Nelson, Richard Wolf, and others.



Confirm not Conform

Learn More/Order: <http://www.confirmnotconform.com/cnc-youth-ucc>

The extravagant welcome of the United Church of Christ includes welcome to those of all ages, recognizing that God is still speaking through young and old alike. Confirm not Conform UCC empowers youth for ministry and helps your congregation recognize youth as full members of the Church of Christ.

In addition to more general sessions on Scripture, church history, the Nicene Creed, the Lord's Prayer, worship, world religions, and social justice, CnC UCC includes sessions on:

- The history and structure of the UCC
- The meaning of Sacraments in the UCC tradition
- The church year
- The priesthood of all believers

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Supplemental Resources*:

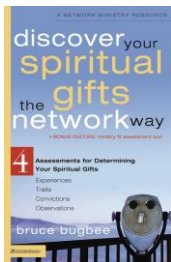


NOOMA® DVD SERIES

Author: Rob Bell

Learn More/Order: <http://nooma.com>

From the nooma.com website: "Jesus lived with the awareness that God is doing something, right here, right now, and anybody can be a part of it. He encouraged his listeners to search, to question, to wrestle with the implications of what he was saying and doing. He inspired, challenged, provoked, comforted, and invited people to be open to God's work in this world. Wherever he went, whatever he did, Jesus started discussions about what matters most, because for Jesus, God is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in. **NOOMA** is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. **NOOMA** is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion."



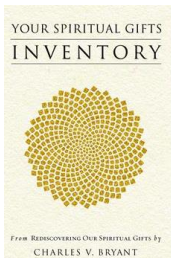
Discover your Spiritual Gifts the Network Way

(Note: related resources include the Network Kit and Participants Guide)

Author: Bruce L. Bugbee, Don Cousins

Learn More/Order: <http://zondervan.com>

This is a small booklet containing five assessments in the areas of traits, observation, experience, conviction, and ministry fit to help people understand their spiritual giftedness.



Your Spiritual Gifts Inventory

(Note: related resource is *Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts*)

Author: Charles Bryant

Learn More/Order: <http://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/819/your-spiritual-gifts-inventory.aspx>

A companion to Bryant's *Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts*, this easy-to-use, 32 page inventory uses 160 questions, a scoring grid, and lists of biblical references to help ascertain spiritual gifts such as hospitality, intercessory prayer, and leadership.



The Unofficial Handbook of the United Church of Christ

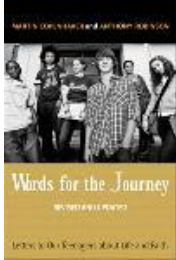
Author: Quinn G. Caldwell, Curtis Preston

Learn More/Order: <http://www.uccresources.com>

A lighthearted, humorous book about the United Church of Christ (UCC) denomination.

The co-authors—two young UCC ministers who are lifelong "UCCers"—have written this useful resource for all UCCers, but particularly for millennials: confirmation-aged youth and teens. Readers will learn about, appreciate, and be proud of their denomination—while not taking themselves too seriously.

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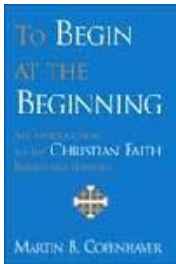


**Words for the Journey: Letters to Our Teenagers About Life and Faith
(Revised and Updated)**

Authors: Martin B. Copenhaver and Anthony B. Robinson

Learn More/Order: <http://www.uccresources.com>

First published in 2003, the book includes an original collection of letters written by Copenhaver and Robinson to their teenagers. They discuss a wide variety of topics - God, church, Bible, vocation, relationships, difficult matters, faith, doubt, prayer, sex, abortion, race, and homosexuality - and share what God and their faith means to *them*. This revised and updated edition includes a new introduction and afterword. The book will appeal to parents, teenagers, and those in youth ministry and is an excellent supplemental confirmation resource or meaningful confirmation and graduation gift.



**To Begin at the Beginning: An Introduction to the Christian Faith
(Revised and Expanded)**

Authors: Martin B. Copenhaver

Learn More/Order: <http://www.uccresources.com>

Fresh, bright, and readable, *To Begin at the Beginning* is an enjoyable, enlightening journey into the basics of Christianity and an invitation and encouraging provocation to deeper study. This revised and expanded edition includes study questions at the end of each chapter that can be used individually or in group study. Copenhaver has written a clearly accessible guidebook to familiarize new Christians with the terrain of belief and even more, it opens up new vistas for long-time church-goers.

*Resources listed in these sections have been successfully utilized and recommended by local church(es) in the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ.

Best Practices *:

Visit Other Faith Communities. If your Confirmation programs runs over a long period of time, you might consider scheduling a visit once a month. Recommendations include:

- a Jewish Temple (for our heritage from the Jews)
- Participation in Shabbat Across America - contact a local synagogue for details (<http://njop.org/programs/shabbat/shabbat-across-america-canada/>)
- a Mosque (for the world we live in)
- an Islamic Society (contact information for the Islamic Society of Greater Manchester: 228 Maple Street Manchester, NH 03103, (603) 644-0939 or <http://www.isgm.net/>)
- a Greek Orthodox Church
- other very different expressions of Christian Worship (to give them something to use to figure out how they best worship and if this worshipping community is where they belong)

Spiritual Gifts Assessment

Every Christian is gifted for ministry. Helping our Confirmands to discover how God has gifted them to serve will reinforce the concept that Confirmation is not a graduation (end), but rather a milestone on their life long faith journey. Encourage them to use these newly discovered gifts to serve in the local church and community. (Refer to the Supplemental Resources for tools to assist in discerning gifts)

Participation in Annual Meeting

Participation in the Annual Meeting is an excellent way to introduce Confirmands to the polity (operational and governance structure) of our church.

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Community Service Ideas *:

Common cathedral is the heart of Ecclesia Ministries. It is our church - and it takes place outdoors on the Boston Common at 1:00 pm every Sunday, rain or shine, sleet or snow. Roughly 100 people gather at the now defunct (but still beautiful) Brewer Fountain for worship each week. While most of our congregation is homeless, many who call our church home are also professors, business people, clergy, students, care-givers and professionals. Most weeks, members of suburban parishes from across New England join us as well. Together we sing and pray, reflect on the Gospel and break bread. This diverse and supportive spiritual community provides the basis from which many garner the strength and hope necessary to soften hearts, counter despair, and make positive choices

For more information visit the websites: <http://commoncathedral.org/> and <http://www.ecclesiaministriesmission.org/>

ECCLESIA MINISTRIES

P.O. Box 51003
Boston, MA 02205
617-247-4927
info@ecclesia-ministries.org

To schedule a date for groups, (e.g., youth groups) to worship with us and bring lunch, please call 617-247-4927 or e-mail info@ecclesia-ministries.org



New Horizons is an adult Homeless Shelter, a Soup Kitchen and a Food Pantry serving the greater Manchester area. New Horizons always needs volunteers to help with meal preparation, sorting and packing food, picking up donated product. We ask that children under the age of 16 be accompanied by an adult.

Visit <http://www.newhorizonsfornh.org/index.php/volunteer/opportunities> for a complete list of volunteer opportunities and details on time, place, and location of service.

For more information on group volunteer opportunities, contact the [volunteer coordinator](#) at 603-668-1877 ext.122.

City Mission Society of Boston. Founded in 1816, City Mission Society of Boston (CMS), a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, is the oldest multi-service social justice agency in New England. **Our services reach over 35,000 people each year**, both directly and through the volunteer efforts which CMS directs. CMS's purpose is to meet the educational, economic, social, and advocacy needs of impoverished residents in the Boston neighborhoods. CMS partners with congregations and community agencies to fulfill its dynamic vision of providing services in the context of empowering residents to be active participants in changing their neighborhoods and their lives. Learn more: <https://citymissionboston.org/>

*Resources listed in these sections have been successfully utilized and recommended by local church(es) in the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ.

Field Trip Ideas *:

Plimoth Plantation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit museum supported by admissions, contributions, grants, and generous volunteers. For more information visit their website at: <http://www.plimoth.org>

The United Church of Christ came into being in 1957 with the union of two Protestant denominations: the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches. Each of these was in turn the result of a union of two earlier denominations.

The Congregational Churches organized when the Pilgrims of Plymouth Plantation (1620) and the Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony (1629) united in 1648. The Christian Churches sprang up in the late 1700s and early 1800s. The Reformed Church in the United States traces its beginnings to congregations of German settlers in Pennsylvania founded from 1725 on. The Evangelical Synod of North America began in an association of German Evangelical pastors in Missouri in 1841.

(UCC history from <http://www.middletonucc.org/about-us/our-story/>)



Heifer International offers a powerful global education experience at its **Learning Center at Overlook Farm**, located in Rutland, MA (62 miles West of Boston). Each program introduces participants to the idea that one person can make a difference in ending hunger and poverty.

Overlook Farm programs range from tours to multi-night programs that provide participants a first-hand look at the challenges surrounding hunger and poverty. Overlook Farm programs are ideal for schools, congregations, youth organizations, families and individuals that want to learn more about the issues surrounding hunger and poverty, Heifer's sustainable solutions and what they can do to help.

Experiential, hands-on, interactive and fun, Overlook Farm is also a demonstration farm complete with gardens and animals including water buffalo, yaks and traditional farm animals such as pigs, goats and more.

For more information about **Global Gateways** and other group programs, visit: <http://www.heifer.org/visit/overlook/programs>

Activities *:

Lateral Thinking Exercises

- Use this type of exercise as a meeting opener, encourages youth to “think outside the box”

Ways to Involve Other Members of Your Congregation (build community/relationships)

- Mentoring
- Invite parents of newly Baptized infants to talk about their experience
- Panel Discussion with other adults from the church (oldest member of congregation, newest member, people in key leadership positions) – what it means to be a church member

*Resources listed in these sections have been successfully utilized and recommended by local church(es) in the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ.

Retreats *:

Hallelujah Farm in Chesterfield NH.

Roger Daly and his wife are clergy and offer their retreat site and her leadership for Confirmation retreats.

PO Box 189
48 Bradley Road
Chesterfield, NH 03443
hallelujahfarm@yahoo.com
(603) 256-8682

UCC: Is That for Me? New Hampshire Conference, UCC Confirmation Retreat

Calling all Confirmands to join us at **Horton Center** the **first weekend in October!**

Confirmation Retreat: Friday evening, September 29 – Sunday, October 1, 2017

What does the United Church of Christ have to do with my life and my church? Do my beliefs and dreams fit with the UCC? What does the phrase "God is still speaking" mean anyway?

Come join us for an overnight retreat so that we can talk about questions like these! Youth from NH Confirmation classes will gather for worship, music, discussion, good food and games. This is a great opportunity to meet other youth and Confirmation leaders.

Watch the Horton Center website for more details and registration information:

<http://www.hortoncenter.org/summer-camp/schedule/>

Massachusetts Conference offers several Confirmation retreats throughout the year.

For additional information visits their website: <http://www.macucc.org/confirmation>

Connecticut Conference does this as well, visit the Silver Lake Conference Center website for

information on their retreats or <http://www.ctucc.org/confretreats/>

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