



... to tend and care.

45th Annual NEAUCE Conference Pilgrim Pines, Swanzey, New Hampshire May 3-5, 2016

2016 NEAUCE Coordinating Committee

Chair

Carolyn Keilig
revcehk@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Debi Mastroni-Kenyon
faithformerdebi@yahoo.com

Registrar

Georgette Huie
georgettehuie@prodigy.net

Conference Rep

Karen Ziel
karenz@ctucc.org

Connecticut

Tracy Bausum
tbausum@yahoo.com

Maine

Mary Angela Davis
maryangeladavis@yahoo.com

Massachusetts

Sally Tomasetti
sallyt@hillschurch.org

New Hampshire

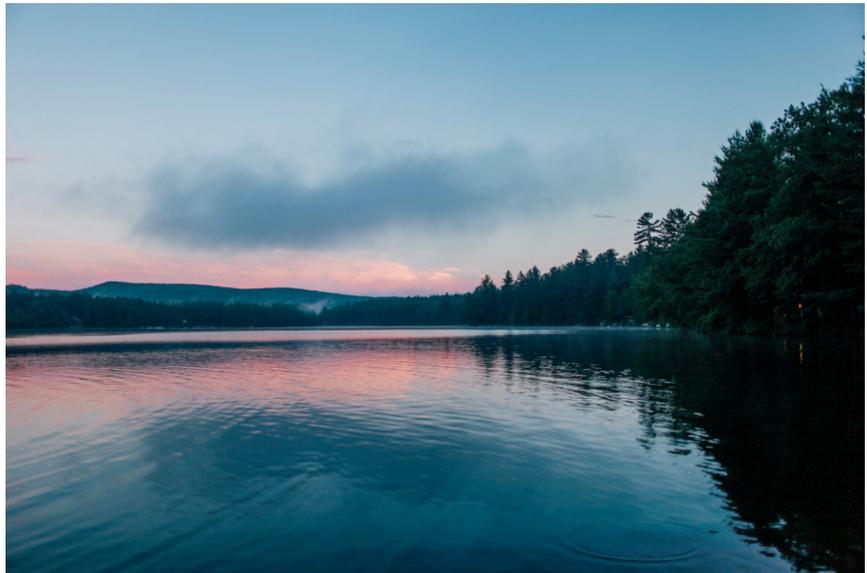
Ann Desrochers
desrochers.ann@gmail.com

Rhode Island

Heather Helger
ssfaihtful@ucc.necoxmail.com

The New England Association of
United Church Educators (NEAUCE)
is a regional chapter of the national
Association of United Church
Educators (AUCE)
www.auce-ucc.org

The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. Luke 10:34 (CEB)



Keynote Speaker: Maria Dixon, MDiv, PhD

Dr. Maria Dixon is currently an Associate Professor of Organizational Communication, Director of Communication Studies, and adjunct associate professor of Homiletics at Southern Methodist University, in Dallas, Texas.

She is the author of the "View from Dixon Hall", the highly rated blog on the Progressive Christian Channel of Patheos.com. A regular contributor to the *United Methodist Reporter* and *The Religious News Service*, Dr. Dixon currently serves as the Marketing Chair for the United Methodist Church's General Commission on Communication, overseeing the Global **Rethink Church** Campaign.

Worship Leader: Rev. Alison Buttrick-Patton

Rev. Alison Buttrick-Patton serves as Senior Pastor at Saugatuck Congregational Church, UCC in Westport, CT. She received her Master of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary in 1999 and was ordained in 2000. Alison has particular expertise in developing all-ages worship services, leading retreats, and pastoral care.

Music Leader: Cathy Clasper-Torch

Cathy Clasper Torch (violin/fiddle, piano, erhu, cello) has been playing, teaching, recording and performing in RI and New England for over 20 years. Cathy's collaborated with a wide variety of groups and musicians, and is on over two dozen recordings.



Workshops

W-1: Staying Strong in a Traumatized World, Rev. Jennifer Valentine

We all experience traumas, large and small. The results of trauma can be devastating if not addressed appropriately. We are a people of hope with a God who offers more than we can ask or imagine. Our sacred texts, traditions, and rituals hold valuable tools to helping us work through trauma. Let's explore how they can prepare us for the inevitable difficulties, or aid us in our response to trauma.

W-2: Sharing Tools to Form a Solid Foundation, Anne Hodgman

Workshop participants will look at old tested resources full of ideas still useful for today's church and explore new and creative ways of engaging the children in your church on their faith journey. There will be time to share your success stories as well as those not so successful experiments. The hope is that through sharing you will go away with many new ideas & resources.

W-3: The Joy of the "Word for Young People", Rev. Ruth A. Martz

Why do we include the Word for Young People (Children's Sermons) in our Worship services? Do you have fun and feel the Spirit moving during this Word? In this workshop, we will discuss why we do it, the people who deliver it, how to plan for and share this Word, along with our hopes for those who hear it. Participants will be invited to share their ideas, questions, and experiences. All are welcome!

W-4: Body and Soul: Living our Values and Implementing Sexuality Education Plans, Dr. Kate Ott

Many children and youth ministries find addressing sexuality issues difficult and may plan only one or two sessions to address sexuality issues each year. During this session, we will discuss ways to integrate sexuality education throughout the faith formation provided by congregation ministries. We will discuss ways that explicit, implicit and null curriculum teach sexuality related messages so as to become more intentional about communicating equitable, healthy, and positive sexuality education grounded in faith values.

W-5: Nurturing Your Volunteers, Cindy Cole

This workshop will discuss how to nurture your volunteer staff. We will be discussing ways to recruit, equip, and retain your volunteers. You will be given an opportunity to hear some ways to nurture your volunteers and brainstorm with colleagues about best practices for volunteers. We will also have a sharing table of volunteer giveaways. If you have extra unused volunteer gifts, please bring them to share with others who might have a small volunteer staff.

W-6: Holy Formation! Comics and Ministry, Heather Annis

Comic books and graphic novels have entertained young people for generations. The classic hero archetype, complete with archenemies, secret identities, and super powers has much to tell us about God, prayer, and discipleship, and can be a fun, creative, and powerful way for children and youth to find a place in God's continuing story. Participants will explore the qualities of superheroes and create their own comic book characters. No artistic experience necessary!

WA-1: Tending & Caring for your Faith Formation Ministry, New England Conference Staff (Ann Desrochers, NH; Anne Hodgman, ME; Kristin Putney, RI; Karen Ziel, CT). Moderated by Carolyn Keilig

Panel discussion.

WA-2: Care and Nurture through Contemplative Prayer and Meditation, Rev. Patricia Hatch

A practice of contemplative prayer and meditation allows one to calm the mind and body and rest in the quiet presence of God. In this workshop, you will have the opportunity to experience centering prayer and guided meditation. You will hone your awareness and allow the peace of God to be with you. You will also have an opportunity to share your experience and give a blessing to others.

WA-3: Journaling the Sacred, Rev. Rachel Hackenberg

Putting pen to paper, we can touch the holy and give witness to faith in ink. Tend to your spirit during this creative workshop filled with conversation, writing, drawing, and prayer. Leave refreshed and equipped with practical journaling ideas for your faith formation program. All participants welcome: no journaling experience needed. Please bring your own notebook/journal & pen.

WA-4: Rhythms of Grace - Combining faith formation & worship for families with members with special needs. Linda L. Snyder

We will begin with a PowerPoint outline of Rhythms including characteristics of individuals on the Autism Spectrum. We will discuss little things that parishes can do to welcome those who are differently able into their community. We will then run through a typical worship service and discuss how to implement a Rhythms in your community. Balance of workshop will be discussion around welcoming and incorporating those with special needs.

TH-1: Confirmation Brainstorming Workshop, Jessica Boose

Confirmation is considered a necessary tradition by some and an outdated tradition by others. What has worked for your church and what does not work? Do you need to find ways to get the youth more invested or their parents? Should there be a set of standards, other than what is offered by "Affirming Faith: A Congregation's Guide to Confirmation"? Bring your own ideas and questions to this discussion. We may even be able to create a Confirmation Leaders Community of Practice out of this workshop.

TH_2: Equipping Parents to be Faith-filled Sexuality Educators, Dr. Kate Ott

Parents often don't know where to start when talking about sexuality with their kids. Then, the church asks them to talk about their faith as well. Parents need help! This workshop will provide a foundation for how to engage parents and equip them to be faith-filled sexuality educators. This requires helping parents discern their own faith values as well as providing tips for addressing developmental, teachable moments throughout a child's life.

TH-3: Engaging children & families into church school starting with Nursery & Preschool, Kristin Putney

Learn a variety of ways to create an inviting Nursery and Preschool program. Workshop includes power-point, handouts, discussion and resources to view. Topics will range from baptism ceremonies, creative space for the nursery and preschool, making memorable moments, teachers & caregivers, praying with preschoolers and building your church school. Care and tend for the littlest group...their faith journey begins here in the nursery!

TH-4: Nurturing Excellent Leaders, Rev. Rachel Hackenberg

How do we continually form & nurture our own gifts even as we sow seeds to nurture the gifts of others? Using the "Marks of Faithful & Effective Authorized Ministers of the United Church of Christ" as our tool, this workshop will consider measures of excellence, systems of support, and resources for leadership development – for our church volunteers, for ourselves, and for our denomination as both lay leaders and authorized ministers for faith formation. (Intermediate)

TH-5: Youth Need Pastoral Care Too!, Rev. Dawn Karlson

What do you do when...you notice one of your youth has been cutting or you think one of your kids is depressed and suicidal? How do you support kids when they're stressed about friends, parents, school, college, S.A.T.s? Being a teen in today's materialized, sexualized, individualized culture is tough stuff. Pressures to "succeed" academically, socially & athletically weigh heavy on adolescents. This workshop will explore * understanding youth today including faith development stages * developing your own spiritual practices & pastoral care style so you can be fully present with kids to support them * handling youth in crisis 101.



Presenters

Heather J. Annis is Director of Children and Youth Ministries at St. John's Episcopal Church in Barrington, RI, where she is responsible for all aspects of programming for kids in preschool through grade 12. She is also the founder of Studio 35 Community Arts Consulting, through which she seeks to engage individuals and groups in the act of art-making. A graduate of Andover Newton Theological School, Heather is passionate about the intersections among art, faith, and community

Jessica Weaver Boose has been the Youth Ministry Coordinator at Hills Church in Wellesley Hills, MA since 2011. She loves spending time with kids of all ages, leading service trips and encouraging youth to think deeply about their faith, the world and themselves. Jess grew up in Connecticut and graduated from Smith College with a bachelor's degree in English. She volunteered extensively at Cape Cod Covenant Church for the 11 years she was a member there. She now lives in Millis, MA.

Cindy Cole has been the Director of Children's Ministries at First Church Simsbury for 9 years. There are approximately 120 children, 7th grade and younger registered in their church school program. Cindy oversees a volunteer staff of 25 individuals who teach, shepherd, volunteer at special events, participate in special projects, or are on the Board of Christian Education. 90% of the children's ministry volunteers at First Church, Simsbury have been participating in the children's programs for over two years.

Rev. Rachel Hackenberg serves on the national staff of the United Church of Christ as a member of the Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization (MESA) Team. She is also an author, blogger, and retreat leader.

Rev. Patricia Hatch leads workshops on spiritual practices and poetry. She is an ordained Unitarian minister, a preacher, and a poet. She currently serves as Minister of Christian Education at First Parish of Westwood, MA (UCC). She loves inspiration of all kinds.

Anne Hodgman served 12 years as the educator in Auburn, ME before beginning her role as the Resource Center Director for the Maine Conference. She has also served as the state rep. and chairperson of the NEAUCE Planning Team. She was one of the last educators Certified by the UCC.

Rev. Dawn Karlson loves the evolving challenge of keeping faith & spirituality real for today's youth. She recently began serving as Associate Minister for Faith Formation & Youth Development at South Church (UCC) in Granby, CT after serving for 4 years as Pastor for Youth & Families at FCC in Southington, CT. Favorite ministry moments include youth discussions about homelessness after a multi-faith Solidarity SleepOut, guiding at-risk youth in supporting each other in a teen support group, introducing mindful eating to 7th & 8th graders and watching middle school girls dance their hearts out at a "Soul Sisters" retreat at Silver Lake. Dawn's husband, 2 children, 2 dogs, meditation practice, friends and running ground her and bring her joy.

Rev. Ruth A. Martz serves as the pastor of the Sanbornton Congregational Church, UCC, in Sanbornton NH. In December, 2011, Ruth and her husband moved to Sanbornton from West Hartford CT, where they had lived for 32 years. Ruth began church ministry in 1990 as a Christian educator and Youth Minister. Ordained in 2002, Ruth first served as Associate Minister at the Immanuel Congregational Church, UCC, in Hartford CT, and then at the First Church of Christ Congregational, UCC, in Glastonbury CT. She loves to tell biblical and multi-cultural stories, link Scripture with art, music, and everyday life--and spend time with children and youth!

Dr. Kate Ott is author of *Sex + Faith: Talking with Your Child from Birth to Adolescence*, co-editor of *Faith, Feminism, and Scholarship: The Next Generation*, and the forthcoming *Life Enhancing Settings: The Technology and Ethics of Everyday Living*. She lectures and leads workshops across the country on sexuality and technology issues related to children, teens, young adults and parents. She is Assistant Professor of Christian Social Ethics at Drew University Theological School in Madison, NJ. To find out more about her work visit www.kateott.org.

Kristin Putney is the Resource Consultant for the RI Conference UCC since 2012 and has been a church school educator for 30 years. Her work involves connecting with Christian Educators and Youth Leaders. She provides youth programming, CE sharing meetings and workshops with special focus on creating engaging experiences for all ages, including children in worship. Kristin offers a variety of resources and approaches for a wide spectrum of church school needs.

Linda L. Snyder has served at the parish and state level in Christian formation for over 30 years as well as working in public education. Presently she works with special needs children in a local school system and serves as Christian Formation Director at St. John's Episcopal Church, Pine Meadow, CT. which offers a Rhythms of Grace service the first Sunday of the month, as well as serving as president of the board of directors of Rhythms of Grace. As co-author of the Rhythms of Grace curriculum she supports and nurtures new sites throughout the country. She also works with individual families offering assistance in enriching faith formation for families with differently abled children in the home.

Rev. Jennifer Valentine (Jennie) is a New England girl, having served churches in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. She is active in youth ministry, and has led multiple youth trips from our region to National Youth Event and Youth@Synod. She is an active supporter of Horton Center and the New England Outdoor Ministries Assoc. Jennie is certified in Critical Incident Stress Management. She is passionate about intergenerational church life, and bringing emotion and intention to our faith practices and worship. Jennie has 2 adult children with her husband, Paul, the cutest dog in the world, Pikku, and Melody, her cockatiel. She enjoys hiking and knitting in her rare spare time.



Registration Form & Schedule

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Alternate phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Church Name: _____

C.E. Role: _____

In which state? _____

Have you attended NEAUCE before? Yes _____ No _____

Roommate Preference _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

AUCE Member? Yes _____ No _____

Enter Full Event cost: _____

(Costs: AUCE members \$250; non-AUCE members \$285; Commuter Rate for AUCE members with meals \$160; Commuter Rate for Non-AUCE Members - \$180. Become an AUCE member before 3/30/16 and save).

Single room - add \$55 per night-\$110 for 2 nights \$ _____

Monday night lodging – Yes / No - add \$65 \$ _____

Registering after 4/1/16 – add \$30 late fee \$ _____

Scholarship -Yes/No- Where is scholarship coming from?

Subtract Scholarship Amount \$ _____

Subtotal: \$ _____

Total due upon arrival: \$ _____

Minimum non-refundable deposit required: \$55.00

Make checks payable to "NEAUCE." Make a copy of your registration form for your records and mail completed registration form and payment to: Georgette Huie, NEAUCE Registrar, P.O. Box 2851, Waterbury, CT 06723.



Scan the QR Code or go to <http://goo.gl/DsaOvE> if you prefer to register online. Secure credit card payments can be made online.

NEAUCE is endorsed by the Lay Development Ministry Council.

Workshop Selections:

Wednesday Morning :

W-__Title_____

Wednesday Afternoon:

WA-__Title_____

Thursday Morning:

TH-__Title_____

Tentative Schedule of Events

Tuesday

- 1:00 to 3:00 PM Registration
- 2:00 PM Guided Tours of the new Site
- 3:45 PM Gathering
- 4:00 PM Welcome
- 4:15 PM Worship
- 5:00 PM State Meetings
- 6:00 PM Dinner
- 7:15 PM Keynote Speaker
- 8:45 PM Hospitality

Wednesday

- 8:00 AM Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Wednesday Morning Workshops (W-#)
- 10:30 AM Keynote Speaker
- 12:30 PM Lunch
- 1:30 PM Wednesday Afternoon Workshops (WA-#)
- 2:45 PM Free Time
- 6:00 PM Dinner
- 7:00 PM Business Meeting and Commissioning
- 7:45 PM Worship with Communion
- 8:45 PM Hospitality

Thursday

- 8:00 AM Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Thursday Morning Workshops (TH-#)
- 10:30 AM Keynote Speaker
- 12:00 PM Closing Worship
- 12:30 PM Lunch To Go