



## Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

December 2013

Editor's Corner

### A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Wilda English, n.d.

God grant you  
the light of Christmas,  
which is faith;

the warmth of  
Christmas,  
which is purity;

the righteousness of  
Christmas,  
which is justice;

the belief in Christmas,  
which is truth;

the all of Christmas,  
which is Christ?.

### Faith Formation in the Small Church

I, myself, am a member of a small New Hampshire church that also happens to be affiliated with both the United Church of Christ (UCC) and the United Methodist Church (UMC). One of the benefits of this dual affiliation is access to a wealth of resources available through both conferences.

The challenges and joys of belonging to a small church have no denominational boundaries and I encourage you to read some of the articles and explore some of the resources developed by the UMC [Hinton Center](#).

The Hinton Center is a retreat facility and offers workshops that focus almost exclusively on rural and smaller membership churches. While some of these resources focus on UMC traditions, they could easily be adapted for use in your own congregations.

Click on the following link for an article specifically written about Christian Education in the Small Church:

<http://www.hintoncenter.org/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/uploads/education.pdf>

Additional resources for all facets (music, stewardship, administration) of a small church can be found at: <http://www.hintoncenter.org/resources/e-learning>

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

### Resource Center

Visit the  
[NH Conference Website](#)

Recently Added files:  
[Advent Christmas](#)

#### "The Guide"

[Called To Educational  
and Formational  
Ministries: A Guide for  
Local Churches,  
Educators, and Youth  
Workers](#)

[edUCCators epistle](#)  
Bi-weekly e-mailing from

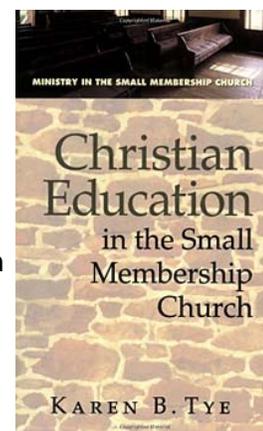
### General Faith Formation Resources for the Small Church

#### [Christian Education in the Small Membership Church](#)

Christian Education is part of the vital ministry of all churches, but especially of small membership churches. In a culture that places great value on numbers, small membership churches often mistakenly see themselves at a disadvantage. Small membership churches can create wonderful opportunities to form and disciple faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

In her book Karen B. Tye invites pastors and faith formation leaders to guide their small membership churches to develop an imaginative and holistic vision of Christian Education.

Catherine Sullivan wrote a [comprehensive review](#) of this book. (Note: Catherine is from the Orthodox church and the author writes from a mainline Protestant perspective. Catherine reviews concepts applicable to both faith traditions and shares her view of any contrasts.)

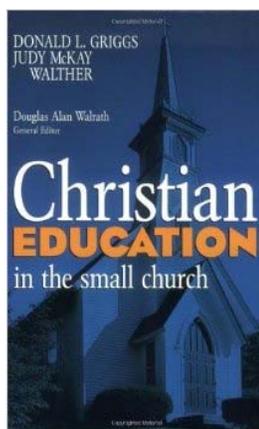


the UCC's Publishing, Identity, and Communication Ministry Team. To subscribe, contact Aimee Jannsohn at [jannsoha@ucc.org](mailto:jannsoha@ucc.org)

**Quick Links**

The Association of United Church Educators (AUCE)  
 National  
[New England](#)  
[New Hampshire](#)

AUCE: A membership organization, of and for lay and ordained, paid and volunteer educators and youth workers, which provides advocacy and support for church education and educators in the United Church of Christ.



**[Christian Education in the Small Church](#)**

Based on the premise that Christian education is more than Sunday church school, the authors (Donald L. Griggs, Judy M. Walther, and Douglas A. Walrath) encourage a holistic perspective of education encompassing all age groups and all activities of the church.

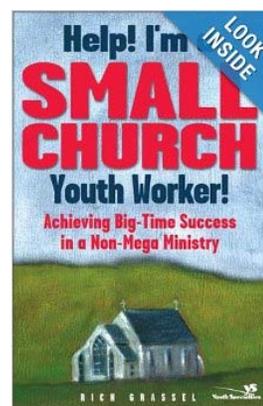
More information on this book is available in a [review](#) written by reviewed by Patty Meyers, D. Min., Ed. D.

**Youth Resources for the Small Church**

**[Help! I'm a Small Church Youth Worker!](#)**

Achieving Big-Time Success in a Non-Mega Ministry

Practical help for volunteer, part-time, and full-time youth workers in small churches. Eighty-five percent of the churches in America are classified as small. This book provides youth workers with processes and ideas that enable them to address their particular needs as part of small churches.



**Save the Date - NEAUCE 2014**

**NEAUCE 43rd Annual Conference**  
**May 6-8, 2014**  
**Craigville Conference Center (Cape Cod)**

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Chap Clark**

*Associate provost for strategic projects and professor and chair of the Youth, Family, and Culture Department in the School of Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary*

**Worship Leader: Rev. Mollie Landers**

*Associate Director of Outdoor Ministries  
 New Hampshire & Maine Conferences, UCC*

Dr. Clark is a well-known practitioner, adolescent and family scholar, and author. Among his most recent publications are Hurt 2.0 and Sticky Faith, which he co-authored with Fuller's Kara Powell.

[Click Here](#) to read his biography.



## Events:

### Homegrown Faith and Justice: Conversations on Faith Formation at Home

If you missed the live streamed event, you are invited to watch the video replay. To learn more [click here](#).

### Prepared to Serve

Saturday, February 22, 2014

### "Fulfilling our Purpose, Serving the Greater Good"

Join us for a day of worship, fellowship, and enrichment.



Homegrown Faith and Justice:  
Conversations on Faith Formation at  
Home

## The Word of God

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances." Psalm 119:105-106 (NRSV)

## Contact Info

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