



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

July 2014

Confirmation Retreat & Service Project Ideas

City Reach (Boston)

Overnight urban outreach program providing an opportunity to learn, firsthand, about homelessness.

Youth StreetReach (Cape Cod)

Modeled after City Reach.

Nightwatch Crossroads (New York City)

Offers two spiritual retreats to choose from: an Interspiritual and a Christian-oriented overnight. The Interspiritual retreat is an inclusive program created for youth of all faiths. It explores music, spiritual disciplines, stories and wisdom from a variety of the world's religious traditions, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity. The Christian-oriented evening will focus primarily on the wisdom teachings of Jesus.

Intergenerational Resources

Intergenerational Christian Formation

by Holly Catterton Allen
and Christine Lawton Ross

Generations Together
by Kathie Amidel, Jim
Merhaut, and John
Roberto

Faith Formation at Home

The
Vibrant Faith @ Home
website has
ideas for family activities

More Reflections from NEAUCE 2014

Whether it is NEAUCE, the New Hampshire Conference Prepared to Serve event, the National Youth Event (NYE), or General Synod it is always a challenge to decide which workshops you want to attend. There are so many excellent choices. This year I attended workshops on Confirmation and Intergenerational ministry. Below are some of the different perspectives shared on these topics.

NEAUCE: Confirmation Workshop

The Rev. Matt Carriker led the workshop, "Making the Confirmation Process Meaningful". As an ordained Christian minister in the United Church of Christ (UCC), Matt serves in several part-time ministries. He is currently the Protestant Chaplain at Brandeis; the Program Director for Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM), an interfaith social action organization that also runs the Interfaith Youth Initiative program; and a co-facilitator for confirmation and youth retreats, intergenerational and adult spiritual formation retreats for the Massachusetts Conference UCC.

In his workshop, he focused on best practices to engage youth in thinking critically about their faith in our modern world. In a premise, similar to that of *Sticky Faith*, he said we must create an environment for our programs where the youth feel safe to explore and share. This is a time of discernment. A time to honor their experiences and pay attention to how God is working in their lives. We need to create an environment modeling unconditional Christian love to help facilitate their spiritual growth.

He recommended retreats, lock-ins, and service projects as ways to help build trust and create a common shared experience among the youth (see sidebar for some retreat/service project ideas).

Workshop participants shared their ideas on programming models, from pastor led to mentoring. However, it was the women who quietly suggested a four year confirmation program that created the most buzz. [Click here](#) to read more about that approach.

NEAUCE: Intergenerational Ministry

The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth, Pastor of the United Congregational Church of Westerly, RI UCC, led the workshop, "Leave No Parishioner Behind". A former NEAUCE Chair and national AUCE Chair, Ruth has served in churches of varying sizes in various roles. Intergenerational ministries have always been integral to her work. She knows they are a vital aspect of keeping churches energized and faith alive for people of all ages and interests.

designed to promote faith conversations over the summer.

Do you plan to go to the beach or play in the sandbox with your younger children this summer?

Check out the [Sandcastles](#) activity.

Know a teen that is into "The Hunger Games"? The primary theme of the movie is used as a great conversation starter in the [Hope Sustains Teen Life](#) activity.

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Resource Center
Visit the
NH Conference Website

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

edUCCators epistle
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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

Every church is composed of people of different ages, backgrounds and interests, not to mention their different attitudes toward willingness to become more involved in the church. Intergenerational ministry is about creating opportunities for people to deepen their faith and relationship with God by creating connecting points with the church community in various ways.

Her primary recommendation was to view each aspect of church life from the perspective of how to involve everyone (all ages). Think outside the box and ask yourself:

- What can the children do to assist with church fundraisers?
- Is the language used during worship welcoming and easily understood by all ages?
- Have you created a competitive free zone, where people can share authentically?
- Are there opportunities for people, who are further along on their spiritual journey, to share their faith stories with those just starting out?
- Fellowship/conversation over food spans all generations. How often does your congregation gather for a meal?

(see sidebar for other resources on this topic)

There is still space available to participate in these Summer Activities...

Interfaith Youth Initiative (IFYI)

IFYI is a unique experience in youth empowerment, leadership development, interfaith education, and peacemaker training. Participants of diverse religious backgrounds come together for a joyful and intensive overnight immersion program that includes community building, workshops, service and social action experiences, field trips, theological dialogue, and much more!



IFYI 2014 will take place July 31 - August 7 at Brandeis University focused on the theme "Repairing Our Broken World."

Youth ages 15-18 and college students are welcome to apply.

Learn More at: <http://www.coopmet.org/IFYI.html>



Camp at Horton Center
Youth groups, families, alumni, individuals and friends are all invited to experience fun and discover faith at Horton Center.

Space is still available to

and volunteer educators and youth workers, which provides advocacy and support for church education and educators in the United Church of Christ.



participate in the [Horton Center Experience](#), [Best of Both Worlds](#)

and more!

[Click Here](#) for the complete Summer 2014 Schedule and registration information.

Training Opportunities

August 1 -3, 2014

Young Adult/Adult "OWL Facilitator" Training Nashua, NH

The First Church of Nashua, NH will be hosting a Young Adult/Adult "OWL Facilitator" training event on August 1-3, 2014. Jane Detwiler and T. Michael Rock will be the trainers. For more information and a registration form, [click here](#).

Saturday, November 15, 2014

10:00 am -3:00 pm

Keynote, Worship, Workshops and Lunch with Ivy Beckwith West Hartford, CT

CAUCE (Connecticut Association of United Church Educators) invites you to join them at the First Church of Christ Congregational in West Hartford, CT to meet with Ivy Beckwith, Team Leader, UCC Faith Formation Ministry.

Employment Opportunities

East Parish Congregational Church - East Derry **Director of Christian Education**

The congregation is looking for someone to oversee the Christian Education program, which includes church school classes for nursery through 12th grade students, and to reach out to young adults and help them find a niche. A detailed job description is posted on the [UCC Ministry Opportunities website](#).

Director of Christian Education - Hollis

A wonderful opportunity is available at the Congregational Church of Hollis for a Director of Christian Education.

The primary focus of this position is to provide leadership for the ministry of children and adults of the congregation. Our current programs are thriving and we are searching for someone who will help our Christian education programs continue to grow.

[Click here](#) for a detailed job description or visit the Hollis Congregational Church website, www.hollischurch.org.

The [Classified/Help Wanted Section](#) of the NHCUCC website also publishes employment opportunities throughout the Conference.

Save the Date:**Confirmation Retreat 2014 "UCC: Is That For Me?"**

Horton Center

October 3-4, 2014

[Download the Brochure](#) or visit the Horton Center website to [Learn More >>](#)

(Note: Registration for this event will open on August 1, 2014)

NEAUCE 44th Annual Conference - "From Broken Hearts to Burning Hearts"

Craigville Retreat Center, Cape Cod, MA

May 5-7, 2015

National Youth Event (NYE) 2016 - BELIEVE

Walt Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort

July 26-29, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)**The Word of God**

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."

John 16:13 (NRSV)

Contact Info

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