



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

May 2015

Then and Now

Association of United Church Educators (AUCE)

2005

A group of people dedicated to the continued improvement of the teaching and learning ministry of the United Church of Christ. Meet periodically to plan for the advocacy and support of Christian Education and Educators.

2015

AUCE has recently updated their national website www.auce-ucc.org and renewed their focus on being The Voice of Christian Formation for the 21st Century. AUCE continues to provide information about resources and training to to equip you for Faith Formation ministry.

Christian Educator Training Program / Certification

2005

A training program designed for Directors of Christian Education and Sunday School Superintendents. Course work qualified toward National Certification.

2015

After prayerful consideration, a recommendation was made to discontinue the certification program and offer an alternative path for providing educators

Found while spring cleaning...the May 2005 Edition of NH Conference Educational Ministries. A Newsletter for Christian Educators and Pastors.

While it was a printed copy of the old newsletter that was found, upon further reading it was discovered that May 2005 was actually the first online version to be published. It was new and embodied the changing face of Christian Education.

This month the newsletter presents a brief retrospective of the last decade: what has changed and what has stood the test of time.

Then and Now: We are Called to Share Our Story

In May 2005 Jessica McClain, newsletter editor, wrote an article titled "Seasonal Musing" encouraging educators and pastors to share our story. Our story is the story of the season. It is the Eastertide story, starting with the wonder and amazement of the resurrection and bringing us to the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit.

Jessica writes, "We are called to remember that God fulfills God's promise in God's time. No matter how short-staffed we are, no matter how hard it is for us to wait. God brings all things to pass in God's time. And we are called to remember that we, working women and men, are commissioned to communicate this wonderful reality to the world. Pentecost not only gives us the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit, but also the enduring support of the Church community. God asks us to work and tell our story, but God does not ask us to go it alone."

In May of 2015, we continue to share our story with shouts of "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" We continue to see the presence of the Holy Spirit, sometimes in the most unexpected places. We continue to celebrate the season of new life and new birth and we continue to know we are held in God's loving arms as we carry out this work we are called to do. The Christian story is timeless.

NEAUCE: Another timeless tradition

May 2005:

"Mountains and Valleys Journeying Through the Psalms"

Keynote Speaker: the Rev. Donna Schaper

Location: Craigville Conference Center, Cape Cod, MA

May 2015:

"From Broken Hearts to Burning Hearts"

Keynote Speaker: the Rev. Mollie Baskette

Location: Craigville Conference Center, Cape Cod, MA

More than a decade! For 44 years the New England Association of

with professional development.
[Click here](#) to learn more.

Outdoor Ministries

2005

The NH Conference Outdoor Ministries summer programs take place at Horton Center and Geneva Point.

2015

Outdoor Ministries and Horton Center continue to be an integral part of the Christian Formation Ministry of the New Hampshire Conference.

Service Trip Programs

2005

The Service Trip Program was a service-learning experience designed for senior high youth and adult volunteers to live, learn, and work in urban and rural communities. Service Trip opportunities were often offered during school vacation weeks.

2015

Service and Mission continue to be at the heart of faithful servanthood. Opportunities abound through:

[Mission Trips](#)

[Disaster Recovery Volunteering](#)

[Young Adult Service Communities](#)

[Summer Communities of Service](#)

Church Media Center

2005

The Church Media center, was a lending library, jointly sponsored by the NHCUCC and Episcopal Diocese of NH.

United Church Educators (NEAUCE) has gathered for a spring conference providing church leaders, passionate about Christian Education and Faith Formation, a chance to refresh, rejuvenate and renew.

NHAUCE: A Reflection of the Changing Times

May 2005:

NHAUCE presents a week day program
A Day in the Life of Campus Ministries

Ever wonder how spirituality is fostered and nurtured in a campus setting? On Wednesday May 4, 2005 participants had an opportunity to visit the Waysmeet Campus Center at UNH and hear presentations from Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood. Chaplain and Executive Director of the United Campus Ministries to UNH and Elizabeth Barnum, Interim Director of Christian Growth at the Congregational Church of Exeter.

Click on the links below to learn more about the current (2015) vision and mission of campus ministry programs here in New Hampshire:

- [Waysmeet Center at UNH](#) (website)
- [Waysmeet Center](#) (Facebook Page)
- [United Campus Ministry at Plymouth State](#)
- [C3: Caring Campus Coalition](#) (Facebook Page, PSU)
- Contact [Rev. Stacey Kullgren](#), Executive Director & Interfaith Chaplain to Keene State College

May 2015:

NHAUCE launches a new Facebook Group

After a frank discussion on the realities of leadership serving in Faith Formation today, we came to the conclusion it is difficult for people to juggle demanding work, personal and family schedules and still find time for in-person workshops and meetings. As a result, there was a request to create an online group as a means of keeping connected, sharing ideas/resources and asking questions in real time. We are looking forward to adding new members -- so please "Friend me ([Ann Desrochers](#)) on Facebook" to join the group and then feel free to invite others!

Then and Now: Safe Church Policies

May 2005: Key focus on laws, liabilities, and insurance

The New England Pastoral Institute and Andover Newton Theological Seminary co-sponsor an Annual Conference on Safe Church Policies and Procedures. Churches historically established and demonstrated high standards for ethical and moral environments of safety, security and sanctuary. However, the church is now (2005) being held to legal and insurance responsibilities never before experienced by local congregations.

May 2015: Key focus on safe conduct, abuse prevention ministry

The Insurance Board website page so aptly reminds us, "Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your

2015
Welcome to the Digital Age, most resources are now accessible online. Visit the [Faith Formation Resource Center](#) section of the NH Conference Website

Partners in Education

2005
Partners in Education were trained consultants available to help local churches with planning educational programs, choosing and using UCC curricula and resources.

2015
While a formal Partners in Education program no longer exists, the Christian Formation Ministry team and Ann Desrochers, Specialist in Christian Education for the NHCUC, are available to assist local churches with their Faith Formation program planning and in selecting curricula and resources.

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conduct." (1 Peter 1:15). As you review the current safe conduct policies for your church, the following resources may assist you with the topic of sexual abuse prevention.

- [Stop It Now](#) An organization providing support, information and resources to keep children safe and create healthier communities.
- [Safe Sanctuaries](#) a publication by Joy Thornburg Melton, an attorney and an ordained clergyperson in The United Methodist Church.
- [Reducing the Risk](#), from Christianity Today

Popular Practices Then and Now

May 2005: Godly Play

Godly Play training events were equipping leaders to use this tested method of Christian education and spiritual direction primarily for children ages 2-12. Based on the work of Jerome Berryman, the goal was to teach children the art of using religious language--parable, sacred story, silence, and liturgical action-to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

May 2015: Intergenerational Faith Formation

Today we are called to re examine the challenges facing Christianity and faith formation in the context of all ages and generations and in a 24x7x365 culture. Keeping abreast of the research and resources can be overwhelming, however, the [Faith Forward](#) and [21st Century Faith Formation](#) websites provide help by summarizing the approaches, methods, technologies, and tools for creating an effective ministry.

Save the Date:

Confirmation Retreat 2015 - "UCC: Why Me?"

Horton Center - Pine Mountain, Gorham, NH

Expanded to Two Nights: October 2-4, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

National Youth Event (NYE) 2016 - BELIEVE

Walt Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort

July 26-29, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Visit the National Youth Event website:

<http://nye.uccpages.org/>



Believe! United Church of Christ National Youth Event (NYE) 2016

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