



## Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

August 2015

### A Prayer for Volunteers

Everlasting God,  
strengthen and sustain  
all those who volunteer in  
our churches;  
that with patience and  
understanding  
they may love and care  
for your people;  
and grant that together  
they may follow  
Jesus Christ,  
offering to you their  
gifts and talents;  
through him who lives and  
reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and  
ever. Amen.

(adapted from the Collect  
at a New Ministry, 1979  
Book of Common Prayer)

Source:  
<http://www.buildfatih.org>

Google the term "church volunteer" and what happens? You see the challenges: recruiting, burnout, retention and accountability. You see the opportunities: building relationships, sharing God's love and making a difference. And then you come across a commentary titled [Church Volunteers: An Oxymoron](#). In this article Michelle Van Loon, a guest blogger for Christianity Today, shares a Biblical perspective on why she no longer refers to those who serve in the church as volunteers. Simply put, as members of the body of Christ we are called to discipleship. How, then, do we engage our members as faithful servants?

### Six Key Characteristics

Six key characteristics of church programs that "equip the saints for ministry" are:

- Invite people to serve (face-to-face, personal and intentional)
- Create a way for people to "test drive" a service opportunity (one-time commitment with "no strings attached")
- Match people with a ministry that is a good fit for their gifts
- Cultivate a Volunteer-Friendly Environment (communicate your vision and how the role of the volunteer supports your church mission - it makes their work meaningful)
- Provide training that helps develop leadership skills, skills that are useful not only in service to the church but in our families, careers and personal life
- Encourage, Recognize and Thank your Volunteers!

### Quick Reads

To learn more about developing a strong discipleship program in your church check out these quick read articles:

- [10 Things Church Volunteers Wish Their Pastor Knew About Them](#)
- [Grow a Healthy Church](#) offers several short articles on recruiting, creating a volunteer on-boarding process, increasing your volunteer numbers, and developing leadership
- [33 Ways to Show Appreciation to Volunteers](#)
- [The Challenge of Leading Volunteers Seven Ways to Boost Volunteer Engagement](#)

### Join Our Mailing List!

### Resource Center

Visit the

[NH Conference Website](#)

[Curricula and Events](#)

have been updated with Fall 2015 information.

### "RECYCLE / REUSE"

Several older resources, which were previously

### Delve Deeper

#### Newly Released (August 4, 2015):

These two books were developed out of the ministry of Leith Anderson at Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, where a vital and vibrant volunteer program

found on the shelves of the Media Center, are looking for a new home.

*The Disciple Experiment*  
Leader's Guide  
&  
A Faith-in-Action  
Student Journal  
(Mike Yaconelli  
Zondervan, 2003)

Heartshaper Curricula  
Teacher Books and  
Student Activity Guides  
Pre-K & K,  
Early Elementary,  
Middle Elementary,  
PreTeen  
(Standard Publishing,  
Spring 2007)

Gather Round  
Multiage Teacher's Guide  
and Student Book  
(Fall 2007)

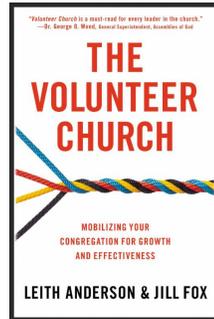
(Note: as these are older,  
usage might require some  
modification for inclusive  
language and sensitivity  
to current issues.)

If you are interested in  
any of these resources  
please email  
Ann Desrochers at:  
[adesrochers@nhcucc.org](mailto:adesrochers@nhcucc.org)  
by **September 15**.  
After that date they will  
become recycled paper.

**"The Guide"**  
Called To Educational  
and Formational  
Ministries: A Guide for  
Local Churches,  
Educators, and Youth  
Workers

**edUCCators epistle**  
Bi-weekly e-mailing from  
the UCC's Publishing,  
Identity, and  
Communication Ministry  
Team. To subscribe,  
contact Aimee Jannsohn  
at [jannsoha@ucc.org](mailto:jannsoha@ucc.org)

boasting 4,000 participants grew under the leadership of [Jill Fox](#). The principles and training have been applied in churches of all sizes and denominations in seminar settings across the country.



Click on image for  
availability at Amazon

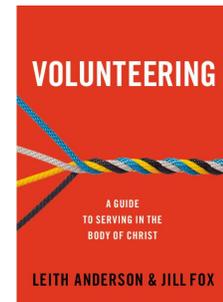
**The Volunteer Church: Mobilizing Your Congregation for Growth and Effectiveness**  
In *The Volunteer Church*, leaders will

- Learn how to effectively recruit and train volunteers
- Discover how to build sustainable, long-lasting ministries led by volunteers
- Find methods for encouraging and maintaining your volunteers for success
- Know how to build teams of volunteers
- Understand how to find the right service that fits a willing volunteer

### **Volunteering: A Guide to Serving in the Body of Christ**

Volunteering can be a rewarding and exciting experience-but to effectively serve you need to understand the why, how, and what of serving others. This short and accessible book will help you better understand:

- The importance of prayer in ministry
- Avoiding burnout and serving for the long-term
- Recruiting others to serve in ways that are natural and easy
- Enjoying the 'pay' that is more valuable than money
- Finding your fit and serving out of your strengths



Click on image for  
availability at Amazon

Listen to a [Podcast](#) featuring Liz Perraud, Executive Director of GenOn Ministries and Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church webmaster Lesley Carter as they discuss identifying the call of a church and then connecting the needs of that church with the people God has called to fill those needs.

## **Registration is Open!**

### **Confirmation Retreat 2015 Expanded to Two Nights: October 2-4, 2015**

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 at **Horton Center** a on Pine Mountain for a **weekend**

### **"UCC: Is That for Me?"** Confirmation Retreat

Join Us  
October 2-4, 2015  
at  
Horton Center  
Pine Mountain  
Gorham, NH

Gather for Music, Worship,  
Discussion, Good Food, Games and a Low  
Ropes Course Challenge as we  
explore what it means to be part of  
the United Church of Christ (UCC).

## Quick Links

The Association of United Church Educators (AUCE) has recently updated their national website.

Check it out!  
[www.auce-ucc.org](http://www.auce-ucc.org)

AUCE: a membership organization, of and for lay and ordained, paid and volunteer pastors, educators, and youth workers, which has been providing advocacy and support for church education and educators in the United Church of Christ since 1971.

**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.

For more information [download the retreat brochure](#). Visit the Horton Center website to [Register Now>>](#)

## Training Opportunities

### Learn-to-Lead: Promoting Excellence in Small Group Ministry

**Saturday, October 17, 2015 - Pembroke, NH**

Churches know that small groups are key to spiritual formation and vitality in their congregations. Yet many are floundering for lack of small group leadership, especially when it comes to leading Bible studies.

This workshop features Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series, a proven Bible study system where those who know little about the Bible can learn to lead. This workshop - to be led by Rev. Anne Robertson, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Bible Society - will go beyond just introducing you to that material. In this six-hour workshop, you will:

- Learn the basics of leading any small group.
- Build confidence in leading a Bible study.
- Understand the difference between teaching and facilitating.
- Learn how to use Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series
- Practice the skills you've learned.
- Receive tips on recruiting your first group, even if you are in a small, rural church.
- Learn how to structure your group for success.
- Network with others who are learning to lead.
- Discuss ways to overcome the challenges of difficult personalities and group conflict.

**Registration to Open Early September!**

**Cost: \$20 (includes breakfast, lunch and course materials)**

## Employment Opportunities

### Part Time Interim Christian Educator - Lyme, NH

The Lyme Congregational Church, UCC, is seeking an energetic, spirit-filled individual to lead a growing and dynamic youth program.

**Qualifications:** A seminary degree is preferred, but we will consider applicants with a strong background in education combined with extensive church experience. The Christian Educator provides leadership in the assessment, planning, and implementation of the ministry of children and youth within the congregation and in the greater Lyme community.

**Primary Responsibility:** The primary responsibility of the position is to organize and teach Sunday school and to mentor and encourage lay teachers.

15-20 hours per week. Please send letter of interest and resume to Lyme Congregational Church, POB 27, Lyme NH 03768 or email: [lcc@nhvt.net](mailto:lcc@nhvt.net).

Visit the [Classified/Help Wanted Section](#) of the NHCUC website or the the UCC (National) Ministry Opportunities webpage for more employment opportunities in the area of [Christian Education and Formation](#).

### Save the Date:

**National Youth Event (NYE) 2016 - BELIEVE**  
Walt Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort  
July 26-30, 2016

Visit the **recently updated** National Youth Event website to learn more: <http://nye.uccpages.org/>

Look for New Hampshire specific NYE event participation plans this fall.



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

### The Word of God

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

### Contact Info

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