



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

June 2015

A Prayer for Historic Emanuel AME Church of Charleston, SC

Dear Mother Emanuel:

You, who authored
courageous slave
rebellions,
who suffered and survived
wretched bigotry, burnings
and earthquake,
You, you who worshipped
underground when black
churches were outlawed

...

Dear Mother Emanuel,
in this day of grievous
heartache we wrap you
in bands of prayer.

We pour out upon your
broken hearts the healing
balm of Gilead.

You, whose shepherd has
been taken from you,
whose building has
become a tomb,
whose children are
terrified:

We stand with you.

We weep with you.

We rage for you.

We keep vigil with you
for your beloved dead.

May the God of
Moses and Miriam,
of Jesus and the Mary's,
anoint you with healing,
furnish you with hope and,
one day, some day,
mend your torn hearts and
wipe the tears from
your swollen eyes.

God help us.

Amen.

source:

[United Church of Christ](#)

[Daily Devotional](#)

June 19, 2015

Written by Nancy Taylor

102 people who are passionate about faith formation for all ages gathered on Cape Cod from May 5-7, 2015 for the 44th Annual New England Association of United Church Educators conference. The event included worship, fellowship, an inspirational keynote speaker and workshops for every interest. Below are a few highlights from the conference.

NEAUCE Keynote: "and a little bit of each"

The Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette, Lead Pastor of First Church Somerville UCC in Somerville, MA and author of [Real Good Church](#), spoke about "how her church came back from the dead and yours can, too." She provided practical recommendations for revitalizing the church and engaging all ages in faith formation.

Throughout her keynote Molly's mantra was "and a little bit of each." Her home congregation starts Sunday worship with, "Welcome to you if you are male or female or a little bit of each...queer or straight or a little bit of each...young or old, black or brown or white, doubting or believing, or a little bit of each."

Imagine faith formation that appeals to the complex, imperfect, "little bit of each" facets of all of us as human beings. It reminds us to create worship, programming, and communications that embrace everyone, just as they are. It can be worship that is multisensory and spontaneous appealing to the child like nature in each of us or worship filled with tradition and ritual or a little bit of each. It can be reading Scripture or sharing personal faith stories or a little bit of each. It can be getting together for a cup of coffee or serving as a prayer partner or a little bit of each. Faith formation experiences that build relationships and actively engage participation lie at the core of what it truly means to "be the church" and be a part of the Body of Christ.

You can learn more about the revitalization of Molly's church in her blog: <http://realgoodchurch.com>

For other perspectives on why it is healthy for the church to include all ages together in worship, check out these articles:

- [Sunday Schooling our Kids out of Church](#) by Tim Wright
- [Killing the Church with Sunday School](#) by Jonathan Aigner

Spiritual Practice Workshops

This year the NEAUCE conference offered several workshops for those wanting to explore spiritual practices promoting self-reflection.

Among the different disciplines presented were:

Join Our Mailing List!

Resource Center

Visit the
[NH Conference Website](#)

Recently Added or
 Updated Resource Files:

Events

If you are using a resource that is not mentioned here and would like to share that information, please email Ann Desrochers at: adesrochers@nhcucc.org

"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

Quick Links

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

Check it out!
www.auce-ucc.org

AUCE:
 a membership organization, of and for lay and ordained, paid and volunteer pastors, educators, and youth

- [Contemplative/Centering Prayer](#): a practice that allows one to calm the mind and body and rest in the quiet presence of God.
- [SoulCollage](#): a creative, fun tool for artful self-expression. Using intuition and imagination, you create your own deck of collaged cards, where each card reflects a different aspect of who you are. This is a soul-tending practice that honors one's personal journey, while promoting personal growth and self-acceptance.
- [The Labyrinth](#): one of the oldest tools known to human kind, used for prayer, ritual, relaxation and stress relieving; a way to connect with something larger than ourselves.

Faith Formation Turns to Facebook

May 2015: NHAUCE Launches a new Facebook Group

In case you missed the news from May, the New Hampshire Association of United Church Educators (NHAUCE) has created a Facebook group as a means of keeping our local churches connected, sharing ideas/resources and asking questions in real time. We are looking forward to adding new members. "Friend me" ([Ann Hower Desrochers](#)) on Facebook to join the group and then feel free to invite others!

June 2015: National Launches a Faith Formation Facebook Page

Just this week Ivy Beckwith announced that a new [UCC Facebook page](#) is live. This provides an opportunity to become part of a larger network and to resource with others around the country on all things faith formation and worship.

Save the Date: Confirmation Retreat - Oct 2-4, 2015

Confirmation Retreat 2015 - "UCC: Why Me?"

Expanded to Two Nights: October 2-4, 2015 - Horton Center

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 on Pine Mountain for a **weekend 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.

Registration will open for this event in August.

Visit the Horton Center website to see photos from past years and [Learn More >>](#)

Training Opportunities

Our Whole Lives - Training Educators to Teach Human Sexuality

workers, which has been providing advocacy and support for church education and educators in the United Church of Christ since 1971.

July 10-12, 2015 - Nashua, NH
*The First Church, UCC, in Nashua will offer two workshops to train educators how to teach participants about sexuality in age-appropriate ways. One workshop will focus on the curricula for **grades 7-9 and grades 10-12** and the other on **grades K-1 and grades 4-6.***



Act Now! The [registration](#) deadline has been extended to June 26.

If you are unable to attend the Nashua training, visit www.ucc.org for a complete (nationwide) training schedule.

Employment Opportunities

Visit the [Classified/Help Wanted Section](#) of the NHCUCC website or the the UCC (National) Ministry Opportunities webpage for 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 26-29, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Visit the National Youth Event website:
<http://nye.uccpages.org/>



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

The Word of God

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28 (NIV)

Contact Info

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