



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

May 2016 News & Updates

Graduation season is upon us. For many students and their families it is a time to celebrate accomplishments. It is also a time for reflection. Much to my surprise, that reflection turned into a personal testimony at a recent graduation party I attended. A midlife adult guest at the party was recalling her own high school experience and shared her regrets at standing by in silence as she observed a former classmate being bullied. All these years later her first thoughts were not of classes, teachers, dances, pep rallies and friends, but she was still haunted by those not so pleasant memories of high school life.

In her honor, this issue of the newsletter shares resources to help our faith communities address the important topic of bullying.

Featured Resources



Resources from the UCC

The national staff of the United Church of Christ have gathered resources from a number of points of view to help faith communities understand [what bullying is](#) and [how to stop it](#). A comprehensive list of resources can be found on [their website](#).

The **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services** manages the website [stopbullying.gov](#) to provide information on what bullying is, what cyberbullying is, who is at risk, and how you can prevent and respond to bullying. The site includes an advocate's perspective on how to be more than a bystander (see video clip to the right).



[WiredSafety](#) focuses on online safety, providing

one-to-one help, resources and extensive information, and education to cyberspace users of all ages on a myriad of Internet and interactive technology safety, privacy and security issues.

Stop Bullying with Mike Hall

[Paraclete Press](#) is an ecumenical publisher offering an excellent video on this topic, [Stop Bullying with Mike Hall](#) (DVD). Learn more in the video clip or visit Mike's [website](#).



The Story of Kyle: [This Guy Was Bullied. Read His Graduation Speech](#)

While sited as legend on the [snopes.com site](#), this inspirational story can still be useful to encourage acts of kindness and highlight an example of how one small gesture may change a person's life.

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities



LifelongFaith Associates

eFormation 2016 Conference (Digital Ministry)

June 6- 8, 2016 - Alexandria, VA

The eFormation Conference is an education event for leaders who want to learn the skills for ministry and faith formation in a digital world and who want to connect with other leaders in a shared commitment to 21st century ministry and faith formation.

Learn more about [Webinar Access](#) to the program or [attending the full conference](#) at Virginia Theological Seminary.

**NH Youth attending the National Youth Event
(NYE) 2016 - Believe**

July 26-30, 2016 - Buena Vista, Florida



Eight NH teens and three adult chaperones will travel to Florida this summer to join UCC and Disciples youth from across the country and around the world for an event centered on faith, fellowship, leadership, service, social justice and fun.

[Click Here](#) for information on other upcoming events & training opportunities.

Employment Opportunities

Local (New Hampshire):

- **The First Congregational Church and Society of Rindge** is seeking a [Part Time Director of Faith Formation](#) to plan, coordinate, and promote activities for both Middle and High School Youth Groups.
- **Lyme Congregational Church** is looking for a Part Time Christian Educator to organize and teach Sunday School and to mentor and encourage lay teachers. Learn more on their [church website](#).
- The **Congregational Church of Hollis** is currently searching for an [Interim Christian Education Coordinator](#).
- Find additional information and other career opportunities posted on the [New Hampshire Conference UCC website](#).

National: Willing to relocate? The [UCC Ministry Opportunities webpage](#) is a great source for Christian Education and Faith Formation openings nationwide.

The Word of God

"And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone." 1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NIV)