



## Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

### August 2016 News & Updates

Labor Day weekend is here and so many Faith Formation leaders are in the midst of ramping up for the year ahead. They are called upon to share their gift of administration when it comes to providing organization, oversight, vision and direction to all the tasks that need to be accomplished in order to get the job done. Check out the resources below for some last minute assistance with those administrative responsibilities.

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#### Featured Resources

##### Safety

As a church leader you have a duty to provide a safe place for worship and ministry. The Insurance Board provides a variety of resources to help you fulfill your covenant.



Refer to the [SafeConduct\(TM\) Workbench](#) section on their website for laws, tools, resources and details regarding abuse and bullying prevention and education.



FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency also offers suggestions for updating plans and procedures to ensure the safety and security of congregations, staff, and facilities in their [Guide to Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship](#).

More information on [Safe Conduct planning and policies](#) can be found in the [Christian Formation Ministry Online Resources section](#) the New Hampshire Conference website.

##### Legal Compliance (Copyright Issues & the Church)

If your programming plans for this this year include the use of video clips, DVDs or music to enhance the delivery of your message, please stop to consider if you are actually breaking the law by sharing these resources without permission. The UCC (national) website provides a list of Frequently Asked Questions on this topic and the respective answers. [Learn more >>](#)

## Recruiting and Training Volunteers

In his article, [Volunteer-Savvy Leadership](#), Jake McGlothlin, a staff member at Floris United Methodist Church in Virginia, shares perspectives on recruiting volunteers and keeping them happily engaged in ministry leadership.

## Budget Planning and Monitoring

Several years ago the Faith Formation and Discipleship Groups at the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church prepared a pamphlet called *Budgeting for Education & Formation Ministry*. In this piece they remind us to "think of your budget as a financial plan. Your budget will help you to analyze the needs of your ministry, prioritize your financing of those needs, and assist you with the overall management of the money. This budget should support and sustain the vision of the church for this ministry." [Click here](#) to download the pamphlet.

## Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

### The Great Bible Experiment:

#### Exploring the Bible in America's Least Bible-Minded Cities

September 7, 2016 - 7:00 PM, New Haven, CT (Yale Divinity School)

September 12, 2016 - 7:00 PM, Albany, NY

September 19, 2016 - 6:00 PM, Providence, RI

September 27, 2016 - 7:00 PM, Boston, MA (Harvard Divinity School)

(the Harvard event will be [live streamed](#) as well)

[The Great Bible Experiment](#) is a series of town-hall style discussions about the Bible. Presented by the Massachusetts Bible Society, they will talk about this book that is both the bestselling book in the world and the most challenged.



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

September 30, 2016 - October 2, 2016

Horton Center on Pine Mountain, Gorham, NH



Many youth going through the confirmation process in their local churches are wondering: So what does it mean to be part of the United Church of Christ? Am I really welcome in the UCC? What does it mean that 'God is Still Speaking'?



The 4<sup>th</sup> annual NHCUCC Confirmation Retreat will be an opportunity to explore those questions. The retreat is a full weekend that promises to be a very special time for our youth and confirmation leaders. We will gather for worship, music, discussion, good food, and games. Come and meet others who are going through the Confirmation journey with you.

[Download the Confirmation Retreat brochure](#) for more information or [Register Now!](#)

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## Employment Opportunities

### Local (New Hampshire):

- **Northwood Congregational Church, UCC** seeks a teacher for their small but enthusiastic Sunday school class. Visit the [classifieds section of the NH Conference UCC website](#) for more details on this position.
- **The Brookline Community Church** is looking for a [Faith Formation Director](#) to create something from the ground up that helps the church reach out to the children of Brookline.
- **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](#).

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

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## The Word of God

"We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness." Romans 12:6-8 (NRSV)

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