



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

June/July 2016 News & Updates

In light of recent events, I lift up resources to help guide caring conversations on race and violence. As we approach these conversations I recall the concluding words of UCC Pastor Chase Peeples in his blog post, [Either Black Lives Matter or the Police: It's Not That Simple](#). He ends with his personal desire to, "follow Jesus Christ who condemned systems of violence and oppression AND loved the people caught in those systems. He teaches us we do not have to choose either one or the other."

Featured Resources

Sacred Conversations on Race

[Sacred Conversations on Race](#) is a church-wide initiative for United Church of Christ congregations, as we seek to confront the sin of racism in our desire to see the Church live and be as one. The [Resource Guide](#) is a great place to begin, with ideas for starting the conversation and planning the next steps.



TEACHING TOLERANCE

A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

The [Teaching Tolerance](#) project, founded by the Southern Poverty Law

Center, is dedicated to reducing prejudice, improving intergroup relations and supporting equitable school experiences for our nation's children. Their [educational kits](#) and magazine subscriptions are **FREE** to classroom teachers, librarians, school counselors, school administrators, professors of education, youth directors at houses of worship and employees of youth-serving nonprofit organizations.

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Harvey, an ordained American Baptist minister, Associate Professor of Religion at Drake University, and author is especially committed to working with white U.S.-Americans on ways to become more able, reliable and powerful allies to communities of color in the struggle for racial justice.

In her book, [Dear White Christians](#), she calls for moving away from the



reconciliation paradigm that currently dominates interracial relations and embracing instead a reparations paradigm.

New York Times journalist, Haig Chahinian shares some wisdom and resources for making sense of violent racism and working toward something better in the article [Talking to Kids About Racial Violence](#).

Thoughtful Christian curriculum on Racism. The Thoughtful Christian provides an [eleven-session adult study pack](#) with a tour through the biblical and historical realities of race and racism as a foundation for asking difficult yet necessary questions about where we stand today--and where we must go from here. It acknowledges that racism is difficult to talk about even as it opens up some avenues for interaction that make the conversation easier.

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 free event made possible in part by an award from The [BTS Center](#). Massachusetts Bible Society Executive Director, Rev. Anne Robertson will join humanist author Tom Krattenmaker and Catholic priest Fr. Warren Savage in a series of discussions about the Bible this September.



The "experiment" part is a survey to see if exposure to this sort of respectful dialogue about the Bible can shift attitudes toward this book that is both the most loved and the most challenged in the world. [Learn More >>](#)

Employment Opportunities

Local (New Hampshire):

- **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](#).
- 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

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22:36-40 (NRSV)

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