



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

August 2017 News & Updates

Church membership means so much more than just "joining" a congregation.

The resources listed below are intended to help your Confirmands or new members learn what it means to belong to the church and belong to Christ; and the significance of establishing a covenantal relationship with a church body that lives out its life together.

Featured Resources

Confirmation Curriculum

- [Making Disciples](#) is a 13-session mentor-based confirmation program that pairs confirmands with adult mentors and guides them through a variety of learning experiences that will strengthen the student's understanding of the faith while connecting him or her with the community of believers in a personal way. It can be used as a stand-alone program, or in conjunction with your current curriculum as a special experiential unit. The curriculum includes a Coordinator's Guide, Mentor's Guide, and Confirmand's Journal.

Confirmation Service Project

- [City Mission Boston](#) is now offering a Confirmation Workshop. One of their staff members will visit with your confirmation or youth group during their regular meeting time, bringing dynamic conversation and moving stories to the group.

With a solid background on the issues, youth are now ready to go hands-on. The week after the education session, the group goes into Boston for a service opportunity at a community organization that directly impacts homeless families. With City Mission staff on hand to answer questions and guide learning, the volunteer opportunity is so much more than that, ending with an advocacy action on a timely piece of legislation. This is a real chance to engage and make a change!

Want to make a reservation? Need more information? Email [Katie Omberg](#), Director of Community Engagement.

New Member Program

- [Companions: Accompanying Newcomers into Church Life and Faith](#) is a church development and outreach resource that envisions a new way of ministering with the newcomers in a congregation -- inviting them into a one-on-one companioning relationship with a church member for 8 weeks of guided conversation about Christian life and faith.

This approach replaces the information-based new member class with a relational model that invites discernment and spiritual growth. Learn more in a [recent review](#) (published July 2017 in the *Presbyterian Outlook*).

UCC (Denominational Specific) Resources

- [Who We Are, What We Believe](#)
- [Practices of Faith in the United Church of Christ](#)
- The extravagant welcome of the United Church of Christ includes welcome to those of all ages, recognizing that God is still speaking through young and old alike. [Confirm not Conform UCC](#) empowers youth for ministry and helps your congregation recognize youth as full members of the Church of Christ.

Learn about more resources in the [Confirmation document](#) found on the [Christian Formation Ministry webpage](#).

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

Make It Plain Authorizing Ministry for the 21st Century September 8-9, 2017 - Boston, MA

The changing landscapes of church and denominational life in the 21st century impact the form and function of ministry, including the ways in which the United Church of Christ calls, authorizes and oversees ministers. Consequently, our Manual on Ministry - which saw its last revision in 2002 and its last significant rewrite of content in 1986 - has been due for an intentional re-imagination to meet the needs of the Church and especially of Committees on Ministry.

Learn more about the proposed changes by reviewing the [draft Manual on Ministry](#). Please consider [registering for this event](#) to raise your questions and offer your voice to the conversations, especially around the future of licensed and commissioned ministry, the authorization many Christian Education and Faith Formation leaders hold.

Spaces are Filling Fast - Register Now!
"UCC: Is that for Me?" Confirmation Retreat
September 29, 2017 - October 1, 2017



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 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. [Download the retreat brochure](#) or [register now!](#)

SAVE THE DATE!



2018 *EASTERN* REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT

JULY 19-22, 2018



CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

NH Youth, mark your calendars for **next** summer! Join us as we worship, play, pray, learn, serve, sing and dream at the 2018 Eastern Regional Youth Event. For more information, contact Ann Desrochers at adesrochers@nhcucc.org or 603-715-9526.

Quick Links

- The [Association of United Church Educators](#) (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.
- "[The Guide](#)" Called to Educational and Formational Ministries: A Guide for Local Churches, Educators, and Youth Workers

Employment Opportunities

Local (New Hampshire):

- **The UNITED Church of Christ in Keene** is seeking a **part-time Youth Director** to develop and lead a ten-month (September-June) Program for Middle School and High School age youth. This position is approximately 16 hours per week, with 6-8 weeks of unpaid time-off during the summer months. Groups typically gather on Sunday afternoons/evenings and for

special day, evening, or overnight activities. Learn more in the [position description](#).

- **The Meriden Congregational Church** (<http://www.meridenucc.org>), a spiritually progressive, Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ, is searching for a **Spiritual Formation Coordinator** for our children and their families. We invite the person we call to this part-time position (10 hours/week) to help us live out our church's mission to "choose life-transforming love as our response to one another and the world around us. . ." Learn more in the [detailed position description](#).
- Visit the [Classifieds/Help Wanted](#) section of the NH Conference UCC website.

National: Willing to relocate? The [UCC Ministry Opportunities webpage](#) is a great source for Christian Education and Faith Formation openings nationwide. *(It also includes opportunities here in NH, such as the current opening at the Lyme Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.)*

The Word of God

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."
John 8:12 (NRSV)

Ann Desrochers | Christian Education Resource Consultant | New Hampshire Conference UCC adesrochers@nhcucc.org

New Hampshire Conference UCC, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH 03275-3711

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