



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

February 2018 News & Updates

As February winds down and our thoughts turn to spring, a time of rebirth and rejuvenation, I challenge you to think about new approaches to your Faith Formation Ministry.

[Dr. Rich Melheim](#), Lutheran Pastor and author of *Let's Kill the Sunday School (before it kills the church) Volume 1 (2014) and Volume 2 (2016)*, has a basic premise that the traditional age segregated approach to faith formation no longer works. Instead he believes we should re-create a healthy Christian community, surrounding our children with multiple redundant faith mentors. Imagine intergenerational faith formation through his eyes, an "experience enriched by the wisdom of elders and wonder of children."

Featured Resources for Intergenerational Ministry

Background Information/Articles

- In her article [Partnering with Families for Children's Faith Formation](#) (December 17, 2017) Debbie Kolacki reminds us that research has found "the single most important social influence on the religious and spiritual lives of adolescents is their parents." She goes on to share some ideas on how to equip parents in this role.
- Matthew Kozlowski, manages, edits and writes for [Building Faith](#). Following his participation in the Lifelong Faith Associates symposium on intergenerational faith formation he wrote an article summarizing [Three Models for Intergenerational Faith Formation](#) (May 2015).
- Learn more by referencing the [Intergenerational document](#) (.pdf) found on the [Christian Formation Online Resources webpage](#).

Intergenerational Retreats

- Looking for resources for an intergenerational retreat for your church? The folks at Christ Church in Summit, NJ have graciously shared their plans for **all ages retreats** covering the topics of: Baptism and Communion; Praying and Playing; World Hunger; and What it means to

have and practice Faith. Visit the [UCC webpage on Faith Formation for Families and Children](#) to see the detailed plans for these weekend events.

Curriculum

- [SeasonsFUSION](#) for congregational life combines worship materials for clergy and other worship leaders with Christian Education materials that can be used with the entire congregation. SeasonsFUSION provides a thoughtful balance between practical planning, biblical background information and worship outlines as well as pages that can be used along with a Christian education team.

*Special Opportunity: The NH Conference will be hosting a **curriculum development event** at the Conference Center Office on **May 11, 2018**. This is a chance for you to have a voice, lending your insight and wisdom to the future direction of this specific curriculum. Key writers, occasional writers, and faith formation practitioners are invited. [Learn more >>](#) Please register to participate in this event by sending an email to Ann Desrochers, adesrochers@nhcucc.org.*

Creating Cross+Gen Community and Worship

- Free Webinar: Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 7:00 - 8:00 PM
Hosted by PRC - Practical Resources for Churches
Join Dr. Rich Melheim as he shares a simple model for what worship and education might look like if they were blended together and designed for the generations coming down the road.
[Click here to register.](#)

NHAUCE has a Facebook Group for Sharing Resources & Ideas

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

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

New England Youth Environmental Justice Summit

(Note: Advanced Registration is required, see link below)

Sponsored by the NH Conference United Church of Christ

Saturday, April 7, 2018

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Brookside Congregational Church, Manchester, NH

Keynote Speakers:

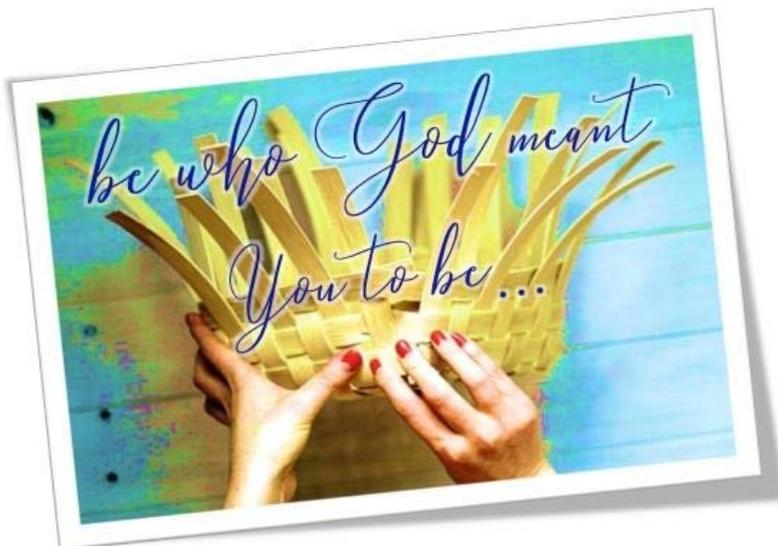
- **Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, Massachusetts Conference Minister, UCC**
- **Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt, UCC Minister for Environmental Justice**

Afternoon Breakout Sessions include:

- Pam Arifian, Director, UCC Northeast Environmental Justice Center
- Marla Marcum, Founder, Climate Disobedience Center
- John Ungerleider, Professor, School of International Training
- Rev. Eric Jackson, Pastor, Brookside Congregational Church, UCC

For more information [download the event flyer](#) or [visit the registration website](#).

Calling All Faith Formation Leaders: Register Now for the 2018 New England Association of United Church Educators (NEAUCE) Conference
May 1- 3 at Pilgrim Pines, Swanzey, NH



Join Christian Educators, Youth Leaders, Clergy, and Lay Leaders for a three day gathering filled with worship, fellowship, music, workshops, fun and relaxation.

Helping us unpack this year's theme of, "Be who God meant you to be...", will

be Dr. Pamela Shellberg, New Testament scholar-in-residence at the BTS Center. She will lead us in a reflection on Paul's conversion in the book of Acts. Helping us "set the world on fire" will be the Rev. Da Vita McCallister, who certainly set us on fire last year!

Leading worship will be the Rev. Emilia Halstead and the jazz ensemble from First Congregational Church here in Concord, N.H.

Learn more by [downloading the event brochure](#) or [visiting the registration website](#).

New Hampshire Scholarship funds are available to attend this event. Please contact [Ann Desrochers](#) for more information on applying for a scholarship.

Horton Center Registration for Summer 2018 is NOW Open.

Want to learn more about Horton Center and Summer Camp?
[Click here to watch a video introduction.](#)

Eastern Regional Youth Event, July 19-22, 2018

California University of Pennsylvania



Join us as we worship, play, pray, learn, serve, sing and dream at the 2018 Eastern Regional Youth Event. Stay up-to-date on event details by visiting: <https://www.eryecc.org/> or [click here to register now!](#)

Note: Early bird rate of \$350 per person (double occupancy) ends today: February 28.

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:

- **First Parish Church, United Church of Christ, (Dover, NH)** is seeking a **Youth Ministry Leader** to develop a new middle school youth group to include 5th through 8th graders. The group will meet weekly during the program year after Sunday worship with periodic outreach events. [Click here](#) to learn more.
- 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.

The Word of God

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. Joel 2:28-29 (NRSV)

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