



## Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

### July 2018 News & Updates

This month's newsletter lifts up Confirmation not as a "graduation", but as the beginning of a new chapter on a lifelong faith journey. The *Parents and Mentors Guide* from St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Madrid, IA, opens with the words, "Confirmation is not an event, it's a process...leading young people to embrace a life of Christian discipleship."

Below are resources to help our Confirmands prepare to affirm their faith and discover how God has gifted them to fully participate in the life of the church now and in the future.

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### Featured Curriculum Resources

#### Making Disciples - 2018 Edition Released in June

*Making Disciples*, by author William H. Willimon, 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.

Check out the Coordinator's Guide, Mentor Guide and Confirmand's Journal at: <http://www.abingdonpress.com/>

#### Confirm not Conform UCC

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.

Visit <http://www.confirmnotconform.com/cnc-youth-ucc> to see the complete table of contents and/or download a sample session.

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### Spiritual Gifts Assessment

Every Christian is gifted for ministry. Helping our Confirmands to discover how God has gifted them to serve will reinforce the concept that Confirmation is not the end. Encourage them to use these newly discovered gifts to serve in the local church and community.

The following tools can assist in discerning gifts:

- [Spiritual Gifts Analysis survey from teensundayschool.com](https://www.teensundayschool.com/spiritual-gifts-analysis-survey)
- [Spiritual Gifts Inventory from freechurchforms.com](https://www.freechurchforms.com/spiritual-gifts-inventory)
- [Discover Your God-Given Gifts by Don & Katie Fortune](https://www.donandkatiefortune.com/discover-your-god-given-gifts)  
(includes a full youth questionnaire)

*(Note: it is often helpful to have the Confirmand complete a survey about themselves; to have a mentor and/or parent complete a survey about the Confirmand; and to compare the results. Sometimes others recognize gifts we don't see in ourselves.)*

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## General Resources

Learn more about Confirmation curriculum options, best practices, field trips, community service sites, and supplemental resources in the [Confirmation document](#) on the [New Hampshire Conference Christian Education and Formation Ministry webpage](#).

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## Upcoming Events

# “UCC: Is That for Me?”

## Confirmation Retreat

September 28 to 30, 2018

Horton Center

Pine Mountain, Gorham, NH

**Gather for Music, Worship, Discussion,  
Good Food, Games and a  
Low Ropes Course Challenge as we  
explore what it means to be part of the  
United Church of Christ (UCC).**

**Sponsored by the Christian Formation Ministry  
New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ**

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 New England Confirmation classes will gather for worship, music, discussion, good food and games. [Download the retreat brochure](#) to learn more. **Registration Opens August 1st!!**

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Join [The Confirmation Project](#) in Princeton this October where they will be sharing their research, celebrating a book launch, and working with those who attend to faithfully think through confirmation and equivalent ministries. [Click here](#) for up-to-date information on registration for this event.

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### 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
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### Employment Opportunities

**Local:** 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.

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### The Word of God

"So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are equally citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the

foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in Christ; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God." Ephesians 2:19-22

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