

Prepared to Serve 2017



"I Planted, Others Watered, but God Gives the Growth."

February 25, 2017

Pembroke Academy, Pembroke, NH

Sponsored by the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ

140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, New Hampshire 03275-3711

P: 603.225.6647 | Toll Free: 1.888.642.8229 | www.nhcucc.org

2017 Prepared to Serve Agenda

Registration (Refreshments)	8:00 am - 8:45 am
Welcome and Worship	9:00 am - 9:40 am
Workshop Block A	10:00 am - 11:15 am
Workshop Block B	11:35 am - 12:35 pm
Workshop Block C	12:55 pm - 1:55 pm
Workshop Block D	2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

Registration

Register online by following the registration link at www.nhcucc.org. All major credit cards and personal checks will be accepted.

***If you do not have access to the internet, or if you are doing a mass registration and do not have an email address for each registrant,** please contact Cynthia Bradley at 603-225-6647 x1100 to register over the phone.

Online Registration

Individuals registering online **before February 15, 2017 at 11:59 pm** will pay a **reduced fee of \$40/person**. This fee will cover the cost of resources, breakfast, refreshments, and lunch.

Day-of Registrations

Individuals registering after the closure of online registration (February 15th) will need to wait until the day of the event to register. The "Day-Of" registration fee is **\$50/person**.

Exhibitors

The Exhibit Area will be open throughout the day and participants are encouraged to visit with the representatives of these local, state and national organizations.



Remember

**BRING THIS BOOKLET
WITH YOU TO THE EVENT!**

Worship

The day begins with worship, promptly at 9:00 am.

Offering

An offering will be received at the opening worship service, and will go to the support of the many ministries of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. Your support makes events like *Prepared to Serve* possible. Along with your offering, please plan to bring your church's 2017 OCWM Pledge Form.

Refreshments & Lunch

The registration fee includes a morning continental breakfast, refreshments, and a full buffet lunch or optional boxed lunch. Because the food service department doesn't have a registered dietician available, we are unable to honor special requests.

Accessibility

Pembroke Academy is an accessible facility with designated parking at the main entrance. If you require additional accommodation in order to fully participate in this event, we ask that you make your own arrangements. The NH Conference will reimburse you for 50% of the cost, up to a maximum of \$200. Please submit a request for reimbursement to events@nhcucc.org with either a written estimate or receipt two weeks in advance.

Workshop Block A

10:00am – 11:15am

A1 A Bible Study Resource Progressives Can Love

Room 1003

(Also offered Block D) What Bible study is being used by Unitarians, Baptists, Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, the UCC, and many others—often together with Jews, Muslims and atheists? *Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series*. Acclaimed by both scholars and faith leaders, this series of Bible studies for small groups is easy to lead, inexpensive to purchase, and both fun and empowering for all levels of biblical expertise. Come; get a free set of course materials to jump-start Bible study in your church.

Presented by **Rev. Anne Robertson** (Executive Director, Massachusetts Bible Society)

A2 Reshaping Climate Change Strategies Post Election

Room 1004

(Also offered Block D) As people of faith who care about God's earth, we recognize the threat of global climate change that is already happening. In these days after the presidential election, what strategies and collaborative actions will help us move forward on behalf of the planet? This struggle needs us all! How will we respond?

Presented by **Rev. Dr. Mury Westfall** (Pastor, Community Church of Durham) and Paul Levy (Member, Environmental Stewardship Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

A3 Harvesting Awe in Creation: The Power of Outdoor Ministry

Room 1012

(Also offered Block D) Learn about the many ways outdoor ministry can be used to plant, water, and grow with the help of your community and God. This workshop will introduce the ways to integrate outdoor ministry into your church and how members of all ages can engage in the nourishing ministry of Horton Center.

Presented by **Members of the Outdoor Mission Group** (NH Conference, UCC)

A4 Constructive Responses to the Islamic State

Room 1013

(Also offered Block D) So far, violence has proven an ineffective means of confronting the growing threat of the Islamic State in Syria. This presentation hopes to help provide a degree of comfort in discussing the potential for alternative responses. Looking at the military theory being applied to the situation, we approach this workshop seeking to learn what can be done to turn back the tide of violent extremism.

Presented by Will Hopkins (Executive Director, NH Peace Action)

A5 Cultivating Healthy Endowments

Room 1014

Learn about common pitfalls to avoid, endowment classification, seven steps to a healthy endowment, the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) law governing endowments, best practices for investment committees, and UCC investment options.

Presented by Charlie Kuchenbrod (Executive Associate Conference Minister, Connecticut Conference, UCC)

A6 Toward a Theology of Giving

Room 1017

We participate in God's abundance through our generosity. How do we come to so deeply believe this that it overcomes our church's financial anxiety and transforms our members' giving? This workshop offers ways to embrace a theology undergirding our giving.

Presented by Rev. David Keller (Pastor, South Newbury Union Church and NH Conference UCC Liaison to the Stewardship Office in the National setting of the UCC)

A7 Celebrate Earth

Room 1018

(Also offered Block D) This session celebrates and explores the most intimate and revelatory source of the closeness of God – experiences in nature. Learn how this intimacy has been diminished by our Western cultural history and way of life, and also traditional pre-critical interpretation of scripture. Draw insights from the session concerning the source of our motivation to work to protect the environment as well as the source of a laissez faire view. Leave the session with senses opened to the fresh beauty of life, and better able to celebrate and care for creation. Come willing to share several personal experiences in nature.

Presented by Eric Chamberlain (Environmental Stewardship Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

A8 In the Shelter of Each Other: Creating Sanctuary for Undocumented Immigrants

Room 1o21

In this workshop we will explore what congregations can do to protect immigrants from detention and deportation. We will consider the history of faith communities who sheltered 500,000 Central American refugees in the 1980's, and hear the voices of those who both offered and received sanctuary during that time. And we will examine the current need, opportunity and requirements for becoming truly safe places for undocumented immigrants in New England.

Presented by **Maggie Fogarty** (Co-Director of the NH Program, American Friends Service Committee)

A9 The Suffering of the Healer

Room 1o22

As a child psychiatric nurse and nurse educator I have experienced, studied, and published on the phenomenon of the suffering of the healer. This occurs when the distressing events that healing professionals encounter threaten the healer's intactness or sense of self as a healer. This workshop will present the phenomenon, describe how professionals cope with it, how students can be prepared to face it, and encourage a discussion of how it might apply to those in the various ministries of the church.

Presented by **John Rowe** (First Congregational Church, Manchester)

A10 Best Financial Practices for Churches – 2017

Room 1o26

(Also offered Block D) This workshop covers financial issues of interest to church treasurers, trustees, financial employees, and clergy. Topics include government reporting requirements, minister compensation, charitable contributions, church financial controls, investment issues and document retention.

Presented by **William E. Haysraut, CPA, MBA** (Retired Finance Officer, NH Conference, UCC and Stewardship Ministry Member, Brookside Congregational Church)

A11 Using Technology as a Worship Tool: The Reason Why

Auditorium

(Companion Session offered Block B) In this session we will explore the various ways that technology can be used to enhance worship. We will discuss barriers to adoption and other hurdles to overcome. Real world examples of how the Deerfield Community Church overcame these obstacles, and the overall result of more immersive worship that has been achieved.

Presented by **Timothy Griffin** (Director of Worship Technology, Deerfield Community Church, UCC)

A12 Understanding our Immigrant & Refugee Neighbors

Room 1027

(Also offered Block D) As our state becomes increasingly diverse, people want to know more about our neighbors who have come here from different cultures, ethnicities and religions. In this session three speakers will share their expertise about immigrants resettling in the Granite State. Photographer Becky Field will show images of the lives of immigrants and refugees. Amy Marchildon, from the resettlement agency Ascentria Care Alliance, will talk about the path that refugees can take to become residents of the Granite State. Eva Castillo will share her personal experiences being an immigrant in New Hampshire.

Presented by **Becky Field** (Photographer, FieldWork Photos, and Member, South Congregational Church, Concord), **Eva Castillo** (NH Alliance for Immigrants & Refugees), and **Amy Marchildon** (Director of Services for New Americans, Ascentria Care Alliance)

A13 Alpha & the Workings of the Holy Spirit

Room 1030

(Also offered Block D) Alpha is a series of interactive sessions facilitating discussion of the Christian faith in an informational, fun and friendly environment. The program consists of breaking bread together (usually through a pot luck), followed by a talk on film, and a small group discussion of the film lead by a facilitator in the group - who initiates questions found in the small handbook that each participant receives.

Presented by **Marilyn Allen and John Allen** (Members, Newmarket Community Church)

A14 Celebrating 20 Years of Ukama/Partnership with Zimbabwe

Room 2002

Learn about the joys and challenges of the Ukama/Partnership with a UCCZ church in Zimbabwe. We will talk about present conditions in Zimbabwe, how to become a partner church, and ways to strengthen the relationship through communication, worship, prayer, and shared projects. Bring your curiosity, questions, and ideas to share.

*Presented by **Kathy Blair** (Ukama Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC) and **Rev. Sara Marean** (Pastor, First Congregational Church of Wilmot)*

A15 Capital Campaigns / Fertilizer for Faith

Room 2003

Undertaking a “Capital Campaign” is like bringing “Spiritual Fertilizer” into the life of your congregation! God gives the growth for sure and raising funds for capital needs gives the sparkle of the Spirit and new energy to your church’s mission and ministry!

*Presented by **Rev. David C. Williams & Patricia Williams** (Partners, Campaign Associates)*

A16 Modern Gospel Magic

Room 2011

Magic and illusion combined with storytelling can be a surprising and eye opening way to convey faith messages. In this workshop, former professional magician Rev. Bob Fellows will show you how to link magic and illusions that you can do with lectionary readings. You will learn how to make your own props and how to advance your skills as a “gospel magician”. This is a repeat of last year’s sold-out workshop—with some new material.

*Presented by **Rev. Robert Fellows** (Pastor, Community Congregational Church, Greenland)*

A17 “Three Minutes to Midnight”: Responding to the Growing Dangers of Great Power Conflict

Room 2016

(Also offered Block D) This workshop will provide historical and background information about the dangers of nuclear war, growing U.S./NATO versus Russian and U.S.-Chinese tensions, and how U.S. people and others are working for peace and common security alternatives. An important element will be models and discussion about what people in religious congregations and local communities can do for peace.

*Presented by **John Raby** (Member, Nuclear Weapons Working Group of New Hampshire)*

A18 The Bible's Big Story!

Room 2017

(Also offered Block D) This is a great resource and method for lay leaders, pastors, Sunday school teachers, Youth Group leaders, WNA discussion leaders as well as participants, Confirmation Mentors and simply **EVERYONE** whose faith life and church involvement could benefit from a clear, energizing, and **BIG-PICTURE** view of the meaning and message of Scripture! After a basic run-through, we'll talk about how to tailor it to your own life, ministry, and community setting!

Presented by **Rev. Barry Jacobson** (Pastor, Franconia Community Church of Christ)

A19 Advocate for the Rights of Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation

Room 2020

(Also offered Block D) A proposed resolution to be acted on at General Synod 31, June 2017, calls for the United Church of Christ to advocate for the human rights of the children of Palestine. Israel is the only country that systematically prosecutes children in military courts. The resolution outlines the ill-treatment of Palestinian children and lists specific calls to action. Explore with us how a local church can advocate for the human rights of children in Palestine.

Presented by **Revs. John & Faye Buttrick** (Peace with Justice Advocates Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

A20 What I Love About Islam

Room 2021

The tension and misunderstandings between Muslims and non-Muslims are dangerous, costly and unnecessary. This talk is an effort to bridge the gap of misunderstanding. What may be intriguing and beautiful about Islam for people of other faiths? Join us for an opportunity to open our hearts and minds to what valuable life lessons we can gain from this powerful religious tradition.

Presented by **Rev. Dr. Maureen Kennedy** (Founder & Director, Peace and Unity Bridge, dedicated to fostering friendships among Muslim and non-Muslims; Unitarian Universalist and Sufi Minister)

A21 Earth Stewardship, Green Congregations, and Justice Issues

Room 2013

We will discuss Earth Stewardship and how to create a Ministry in your church. There will be resources to help you get started. We will also learn how creating this Ministry in your church will help your congregation become a “Green Congregation” in the NHCUCC. We will conclude with a discussion of current issues of Eco-Justice, such as Standing Rock Reservation in ND, where fracking threatens to pollute the source of drinking water of Native Americans.

*Presented by **Sue Moore** (Environmental Stewardship Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)*

Workshop Block B

11:35am – 12:35pm

B1 You Already have a Facebook Page, Now What?

Room 1003

(Also offered Block C) So your church already has a Facebook page, and now you want to step back and figure out how to interact with your members and the community to generate a greater response to all of your posts. This class will teach you how to: expand your audience, create engaging posts, advertise your events, and use Page Insights.

Presented by **Kristen Diamond** (Marketing Volunteer, Clerk, Member of Pastoral Search Committee, Atkinson Congregational Church)

B2 Pastoral Relations Committees (PRCs): Where Boundaries Meet in Conversation

Room 1004

The shared ministry of a pastor and a congregation is often challenged by keeping good and appropriate boundaries. This workshop will explore ways the PRC can be in ongoing conversation that supports the pastor AND the congregation in maintaining healthy boundaries for each covenantal party.

Presented by **Rev. Timothy Wildman** (Retired Pastoral Psychotherapist, and Jazz Pastor, First Church, Concord)

B3 Finding Abundance with Sabbath Practices

Room 1012

(Also offered Block C) Sabbath practices are an ancient part of our faith tradition. Yet they are also some of the best tools for combatting the screeching demands of our always-on, always-connected, never-enough modern culture. Focused on helping you develop a sustainable Sabbath practice, this workshop will help you change a big Ten Commandment from an occasional Eat-Your-Lima-Beans obligation to a weekly Brownie-Sundae-With-Whipped-Cream refreshment.

Presented by **Rev. Catherine A. Merrill** (Pastor, Brookline Community Church)

B4 Critical Insurance Issues for Church Leaders

Room 1013

An overview of the important insurance issues facing churches today along with a review of the critical coverages every church should have. The workshop will include a discussion of recent claim trends and risk management practices to reduce the church's exposure to losses.

Presented by **Jeff McDonnell** (UCC Insurance Board)

B5 Widen Your Mission: Go 5 for 5!

Room 1014

(Also offered Block C) Being a 5 for 5 Church provides many opportunities to widen your Mission. We will explore ways that your Church can support the Wider Church, promote intentional giving, tap into the passion that your members have for different types of Mission, and help your Church feel more united with the Wider Church.

Presented by **Dan Tinkham** (Member, Finance Ministry, NH Conference, UCC)

B6 Are You Welcoming? Or Not?

Room 1017

(Also offered Block C) When someone new comes into your church, do you welcome them? Not just greet them, but welcome them? Do you see someone new sitting in a pew and ask yourself or your neighbor, who is that person? Do you make a snap judgement by what they are wearing? What if two men or women come in and sit down? Do you assume they are gay or lesbian? We will explore our own biases in this session. How can we really welcome people when we might have social biases? Come and share your experiences and talk about ways we can overcome our biases and become more welcoming.

Presented by **Gerri Cannon** (ONA Concerns Mission Group & First Parish UCC, Somersworth)

B7 Making the Economy Work for All of Us: Public Policies that Move Us toward Fairness

Room 1018

(Also offered Block C) In the U.S. today, millions are jobless, wages stagnate, the rich get richer while the middle class shrinks, and at least one-third of us have incomes too low for even a minimally adequate standard of living. And all this is happening in an extremely wealthy country. What can we do? This workshop, led by Edie Rasell, UCC Minister for Economic Justice, will review the economic trends of recent decades and examine various public policy options that Congress and the Trump Administration will consider in 2017 including raising the minimum wage, creating jobs (how could this be done?), and the role of international trade.

Presented by **Edith Rasell, Ph.D.** (Minister for Economic Justice, United Church of Christ)

**B8 Protecting the Human Rights of Immigrants:
Speaking Out to Oppose Anti-Immigrant Policies
at the State and Federal Level**

Room 1021

Participants will receive a briefing on the current immigration policy proposals being considered in the U.S. Congress and at the NH State House, as well as talking points for effective advocacy on these issues. We will consider together how to take action in these turbulent times to call for humane immigration policies and to remind our lawmakers that immigrant rights are human rights.

Presented by Maggie Fogarty (Co-Director of the NH Program, American Friends Service Committee)

B9 Women Rights in Islam

Room 1022

In this question and answer (Q & A) session, learn about women, men, and children's rights in Islam and the Islamic view of genders, and their roles in society.

Presented by Munise Ulker, MBA (Volunteer/Member, Turkish Cultural Center)

B10 Human Resources: Challenges & Solutions

Room 1026

(Also offered Block C) This presentation will cover the various challenges that face church leaders will regard to part-time employees, volunteers, and other staffing related issues. Suggestions will be provided for dealing with these challenges (attendance, performance, recruiting, etc.).

Presented by Marie Davis, CEBS

**B11 Using Technology as a Worship Tool:
A Hands-on Tour**

Auditorium

(Companion Session offered Block A) In this session we will spend time working with some of the tools that can be used to enhance worship. We will focus on the use of PowerPoint and other software packages to show how visual and audio media can enrich your congregation. Resources for technology integration and a hands on approach will be the focus.

Presented by Timothy Griffin (Director of Worship Technology, Deerfield Community Church, UCC)

B12 Short Term Mission Trips

Room 1027

In this seminar we will discuss short term mission trips.

- How to plan and organize and lead
- Why the opportunity can expand your ministry

Presented by **Rev. Patty Marsden** (Pastor, Newmarket Community Church)

B13 The Opioid Crisis: How Churches Can Respond

Room 1030

(Also offered Block C) New Hampshire is third among US states in per capita opioid overdose deaths. Many churches include parishioners who are affected. Often their stories are hidden; they don't feel safe to share the problem with the pastor or ask for the prayers of the church because they fear they will be judged rather than helped. So the church fails to offer the love that comforts and heals. How can we support our members and neighbors? How might our response deepen our faith and strengthen our common life? In this workshop we will explore these questions and begin to break the silence around addiction that makes it hard for us to help and heal.

Presented by **Rev. Susan Grant Rosen** (Recently retired as pastor of the Charlestown Congregational Church after serving interim pastorates in three other churches; former Counselor, Agency Administrator, Consultant and Community Organizer in Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Community Mental Health, Family Service and Elder Care Agencies)

B14 Growing Faith with Facebook

Room 2003

(Also offered Block C) This will be a practical workshop for beginners. We will cover how to set up a Facebook page for your church or faith-based organization. We will discuss ideas about what to share, and more.

Presented by **Jenn George** (Facebook Administrator & Youth Group Co-Leader, Deerfield Community Church, UCC)

**Cancelled - See B1
as an Alternative**

B15 Bystanders and Barb Throwers: How to Recognize and Address Hate

Room 2011

Racial slurs and ethnic jokes were once an integral part of everyday white working class American language. “Banter”, not unlike today’s bird dogging, was used for a variety of purposes. Hear the stories of two white neighbors who were publicly humiliated for failing to fully understand the multiple meanings. This workshop seeks to examine intentions so that would be allies can recognize each other and grow into their purpose together. We’ll start by learning to recognize the signs when someone in danger and how to intervene in potentially dangerous racial or ethnic based bullying.

Presented by Sarah Jane Knoy (Granite State Organizing Project)

B16 Standing Rock: Race and Climate

Room 2013

Standing Rock Vigil's brought to the forefront the crucial issues of race and climate disruption. Will we confront the evils of the Doctrine of Discovery and begin to see the spirituality of Indigenous Peoples that connects us integrally to soil, air, and water and its purity as that that shall enable survival of all life?

Presented by Rev. Roger Burkhart (Environmental Stewardship Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

B17 Youth Groups Still Relevant

Room 2016

(Also offered Block C) Any church looking to start a Youth Group asks, “Will we succeed in today’s “Digital World’?” Are Youth Groups still relevant? Yes they are. Join us to discuss the five foundational pillars to grow a successful Youth Group for Middle School and High School Youth.

Presented by Rev. Bill Ferguson (Pastor, First Congregational Church of Pelham)

B18 What Do You See? – The Art of Visual Liturgics

Room 2017

(Also offered Block C) We are embodied creatures with God-given senses with which to experience the depth and breadth of creation. Yet, since the Reformation, Protestants have had an inconsistent and sometimes uncomfortable relationship with visual arts or visual elements in worship. How does what we see in worship affect our worship experience? How can churches open their doors to new ways in welcome by becoming attentive to the visual context of worship? This workshop is for all who love worship and would like to think more deeply about the worship experience.

Presented by **Rev. Dr. Bob Marrone** (Pastor, Union Congregational Church, Peterborough)

B19 Staying Awake: 39 Questions for White People

Room 2020

Participants will share reflections in small groups in response to Naima Lowe's interactive art exhibit, "39 Questions for White People." Lowe's questions are provocative, and designed to promote exploration of personal experiences and complex feelings related to white privilege and identity. Join us for an hour of listening to and learning from each other.

Presented by **Janet Zeller** (South Congregational Church, Concord)

Workshop Block C 12:55pm – 1:55pm

C1 You Already have a Facebook Page, Now What?

Room 1003

(Also offered Block B) So your church already has a Facebook page, and now you want to step back and figure out how to interact with your members and the community to generate a greater response to all of your posts. This class will teach you how to: expand your audience, create engaging posts, advertise your events, and use Page Insights.

Presented by **Kristen Diamond** (Marketing Volunteer, Clerk, Member of Pastoral Search Committee, Atkinson Congregational Church)

C2 Standing with Standing Rock

Room 1004

Art Desmarais and Jehann El-Bisi made two trips to Standing Rock during the fall of 2016 to stand with and support the Indigenous people of that area who are struggling to protect their land and the water of the Missouri River. As the people at Standing Rock shared their experience with Art and Jehann, the issue became personal for them. They found they were not just supporting people in their struggle for justice but that these people had now become their friends. Discussion and conversation invited.

Presented by **Arthur Desmarais** and **Dr. Jehann El-Bisi, Ed. D**

C3 Finding Abundance with Sabbath Practices

Room 1012

(Also offered Block B) Sabbath practices are an ancient part of our faith tradition. Yet they are also some of the best tools for combatting the screeching demands of our always-on, always-connected, never-enough modern culture. Focused on helping you develop a sustainable Sabbath practice, this workshop will help you change a big Ten Commandment from an occasional Eat-Your-Lima-Beans obligation to a weekly Brownie-Sundae-With-Whipped-Cream refreshment.

Presented by **Rev. Catherine A. Merrill** (Pastor, Brookline Community Church)

C4 “Behold, I am Making All Things New!”

Room 1013

The Spirit is profoundly at work transforming the church. This workshop will explore and connect two movements that are at the leading edge of the progressive re-imagining of faith and practice: Convergent Christianity (Brian McLaren, Cameron Trimble, Wild Goose Festival, et.al.) and Divine Mercy (Pope Francis, Fr. Michael Gaitley, et.al.). Special attention will be given to implications of these movements for our NH churches.

Presented by **Rev. Jim Howard** (Founding Member, A New Thing Task Force Mission Group and Parishioner, First Congregational Church of Hopkinton)

C5 Widen Your Mission: Go 5 for 5!

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(Also offered Block B) Being a 5 for 5 Church provides many opportunities to widen your Mission. We will explore ways that your Church can support the Wider Church, promote intentional giving, tap into the passion that your members have for different types of Mission, and help your Church feel more united with the Wider Church.

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C7 Making the Economy Work for All of Us: Public Policies that Move Us toward Fairness

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Presented by **Edith Rasell, Ph.D.** (Minister for Economic Justice, United Church of Christ)

C8 NH Voices of Faith in the Public Square: Our Witness Matters

Room 1021

We in the United Church of Christ have long been called to bear witness – for peace, for justice, and for fair play and dignity for all God’s children. This is why our national setting includes “Justice and Witness Ministry” as a foundational component of our denomination and why we in the NH UCC do likewise. In this workshop, learn how the NH UCC, partnering with the American Friends Service Committee, has taken the lead in convening multiple Voices of Faith at the NH State House to remind policy-makers that fairness and compassion matter and that the NH budget and other pieces of legislation ultimately are moral documents reflecting what we choose to value and devalue as a state. And learn how you too can join us in declaring to legislators that *whatsoever you do or do not do for the least of these, you do also to us*; and therefore people of faith are watching and witnessing, and we’re advocating for the common good.

Presented by **Gail Kinney** (Labor Minister, Meriden Congregational Church, UCC) **Members** (Economic Justice Mission Group, NH Conference UCC) and **Maggie Fogarty** (Co-Director of the NH Program, American Friends Service Committee)

C9 The Sacred Art of Storytelling

Room 2021

As religious professional and lay leaders, it’s our responsibility and privilege to preach, inspire, teach, help, challenge and heal. We can do this especially effectively through storytelling. We’ll explore the human propensity for stories, the role of stories in the religious traditions and some fundamentals of engaging storytelling, as well as the current resurgence of storytelling.

Presented by **Rev. Dr. M’ellen Kenney** (Founder and Teacher, Preaching by Heart, Unitarian Universalist and Sufi Minister)

C10 Human Resources: Challenges & Solutions

Room 1026

(Also offered Block B) This presentation will cover the various challenges that face church leaders will regard to part-time employees, volunteers, and other staffing related issues. Suggestions will be provided for dealing with these challenges (attendance, performance, recruiting, etc.).

Presented by Marie Davis, CEBS

C11 Grabbing Hold of the “Great” Requires Letting Go of the “Good”

Room 2012

It is not news that the landscape of the church is changing. One of the places that has been a “canary in a cage” for this change is Christian Education, specifically Sunday school. Join Rev. Emilia Halstead and Ann Desrochers in a presentation and discussion about how to “let go” of the way Christian Education and Sunday school have been done for the past 100 years, so that your church can engage in Faith Formation in a way that is authentic to your church setting in the 21st century. We will provide resources for laying your current Christian Education to rest (complete with a memorial service liturgy) as well as resources of HOPE for the future and ways to build a new model of doing Faith Formation.

Presented by Rev. Emilia Halstead (Pastor, First Congregational Church, UCC, Concord) and Ann Desrochers (CE Resource Consultant, NH Conference)

C12 Different Roots, Common Dreams: New Hampshire's Cultural Diversity

Room 1027

Becky Field has been photographing NH's immigrant and refugee communities since 2012. She has been invited to sacred ceremonies and welcomed into the homes by families from over 50 countries of origin. She has photographed children, senior citizens, people at work and children at play. She will share her images and her experiences in meeting the people and learning about our state's rich cultural diversity.

Presented by Becky Field (Photographer, FieldWork Photos, and Member, South Congregational Church)

C13 The Opioid Crisis: How Churches Can Respond

Room 1030

(Also offered Block B) New Hampshire is third among US states in per capita opioid overdose deaths. Many churches include parishioners who are affected. Often their stories are hidden; they don't feel safe to share the problem with the pastor or ask for the prayers of the church because they fear they will be judged rather than helped. So the church fails to offer the love that comforts and heals. How can we support our members and neighbors? How might our response deepen our faith and strengthen our common life? In this workshop we will explore these questions and begin to break the silence around addiction that makes it hard for us to help and heal.

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C14 Growing Faith with Facebook

Room 2003

(Also offered Block B) This will be a practical workshop for beginners. We will cover how to set up a Facebook page for your church or faith-based organization. We will discuss ideas about what to share and more.

Presented by **Jenni George** (Facebook Administrator & Youth Group Co-Leader, Deerfield Community Church, UCC)

C15 Set, Catch, and Profit: Who, Where, and Why of Immigrant Trapping

Room 2011

This workshop describes the conflicting priorities given to our Immigration and Customs Officers, the conflicting goals of the US taxpayer and for profit prisons, and what types of immigrants are being caught in the resulting traps.

Presented by **Nancy Cape** (Chair, Immigration Mission Group, NH Conference UCC), **TBA** (Member, Immigration Mission Group, NH Conference UCC)

C16 Got Bias?

Room 2013

What is so pervasive that everyone possesses it without realizing it? What is so hardwired into our brains that it can affect our understanding, actions, and decisions without us even being aware? We all got it, even very nice church people like us – Implicit Bias! Through media clips, stories of people of color, and small group discussion, this workshop will explore what implicit bias is; how it unconsciously reinforces structural racism, and learn de-biasing techniques that help rewire our brains and interrupt implicit bias.

Presented by Rev. Dr. Dawn Berry (Member, Racial Justice Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

C17 Youth Groups Still Relevant

Room 2016

(Also offered Block B) Any church looking to start a Youth Group asks, “Will we succeed in today’s “Digital World’?” Are Youth Groups still relevant? Yes they are. Join us to discuss the five foundational pillars to grow a successful Youth Group for Middle School and High School Youth.

Presented by Rev. Bill Ferguson (Pastor, First Congregational Church of Pelham)

C18 What Do You See? – The Art of Visual Liturgics

Room 2017

(Also offered Block B) We are embodied creatures with God-given senses with which to experience the depth and breadth of creation. Yet, since the Reformation, Protestants have had an inconsistent and sometimes uncomfortable relationship with visual arts or visual elements in worship. How does what we see in worship affect our worship experience? How can churches open their doors even wider in welcome by becoming attentive to the visual context of worship? This workshop is for all who love worship and would like to think more deeply about the worship experience.

Presented by Rev. Dr. Bob Marrone (Pastor, Union Congregational Church, Peterborough)

C19 The Crisis in Syria – How to Make a Difference

Room 2020

This workshop will provide a brief overview of the war, the humanitarian crisis, the direct impact on the Syrian people, and how the US and other countries are responding politically. Learn how you and your community can make a difference in the lives of Syrian civilians, especially displaced mothers and children. Hear about advocacy work with local churches, as well as the story of NH-based NuDay Syria, its focus on mothers and children in need, and building actual bridges of hope and change.

*Presented by **Michael Kane** (Valley Syrian Relief Committee) and **Nadia Alawa** (Founder and CEO of NuDay Syria)*

Workshop Block D

2:15pm – 3:30pm

D1 A Bible Study Resource Progressives Can Love

Room 1003

(Also offered Block A) What Bible study is being used by Unitarians, Baptists, Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, the UCC, and many others-often together with Jews, Muslims and atheists? *Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series*. Acclaimed by both scholars and faith leaders, this series of Bible studies for small groups is easy to lead, inexpensive to purchase, and both fun and empowering for all levels of biblical expertise. Come; get a free set of course materials to jump-start Bible study in your church.

Presented by **Rev. Anne Robertson** (Executive Director, Massachusetts Bible Society)

D2 Reshaping Climate Change Strategies Post Election

Room 1004

(Also offered Block A) As people of faith who care about God's earth, we recognize the threat of global climate change that is already happening. In these days after the presidential election, what strategies and collaborative actions will help us move forward on behalf of the planet? This struggle needs us all! How will we respond?

Presented by **Rev. Dr. Mary Westfall** (Pastor, Community Church of Durham) and Paul Levy (Member, Environmental Stewardship Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

D3 Harvesting Awe in Creation: The Power of Outdoor Ministry

Room 1012

(Also offered Block A) Learn about the many ways outdoor ministry can be used to plant, water, and grow with the help of your community and God. This workshop will introduce the ways to integrate outdoor ministry into your church and how members of all ages can engage in the nourishing ministry of Horton Center.

Presented by **Members of the Outdoor Mission Group** (NH Conference, UCC)

D4 Constructive Responses to the Islamic State

Room 1013

(Also offered Block A) So far, violence has proven an ineffective means of confronting the growing threat of the Islamic State in Syria. This presentation hopes to help provide a degree of comfort in discussing the potential for alternative responses. Looking at the military theory being applied to the situation, we approach this workshop seeking to learn what can be done to turn back the tide of violent extremism.

Presented by **Will Hopkins** (Executive Director, NH Peace Action)

D5 Seeds Need Good Soil: Enhancing Stewardship Programs

Room 1014

This workshop will cover the theological and spiritual foundations for fundraising, changing congregational culture around financial issues, dividing responsibilities between clergy and lay leaders, and understanding why people give. Only seeds that fall on good soil produce a good harvest.

Presented by **Charlie Kuchebrod** (Executive Associate Conference Minister, Connecticut Conference, UCC)

D6 Soul Shop: The Crucial Role of Church in Mental Health

Room 1017

With the epidemic of mental health disorders, suicide, and addictions, the church plays a crucial role in promoting wellness, providing pastoral care to people with struggles and referring parishioners to appropriate professionals. Clergy and laypersons will be informed about the current crises, educated on current understandings, receives tools for ministry.

Presented by **Rev. Dr. David B. Reynolds** (Executive Director, Pastoral Counseling Services, and Member, Deerfield Community Church, UCC)

D7 Celebrate Earth

Room 1018

(Also offered Block A) This session celebrates and explores the most intimate and revelatory source of the closeness of God – experiences in nature. Learn how this intimacy has been diminished by our Western cultural history and way of life, and also traditional pre-critical interpretation of scripture. Draw insights from the session concerning the source of our motivation to work to protect the environment as well as the source of a laissez faire view. Leave the session with senses opened to the fresh beauty of life, and better able to celebrate and care for creation. Come willing to share several personal experiences in nature.

Presented by **Eric Chamberlain** (Environmental Stewardship Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

D8 Dismantling Racism is Not a Spectator Sport

Room 2025

This workshop will be an overview of racism “then” and “now”. We will look at what is needed to dismantle racism in NH’s communities. We will explore together as people of faith the work ahead.

Presented by **Rev. Renee Rouse** (Intentional Interim Pastor, United Church of Warner)

D9 Being the Church in New and Different Ways

Room 1022

The Gospel is constant but as the world changes, we are seeking new ways to be the church, worship God, and understand our faith. In this workshop, we will explore the why, the how, and what the expressions of the church can be in 21st century NH.

Presented by **Rev. Gayle Murphy** (New Start Church) and **Rev. Ruth Gallot** (Pastor, Longmeadow Congregational Church, UCC, Auburn)

D10 Best Financial Practices for Churches - 2017

Room 1026

(Also offered Block A) This workshop covers financial issues of interest to church treasurers, trustees, financial employees, and clergy. Topics include government reporting requirements, minister compensation, charitable contributions, church financial controls, investment issues and document retention.

Presented by **William E. Hoysradt, CPA, MBA** (Retired Finance Officer, NH Conference, UCC and Stewardship Ministry Member, Brookside Congregational Church)

D11 The Lives of Clergy Spouses: How the Other Half Lives

Room 2012

A lot of attention is being paid to renewing “the church of the 1950’s”, but what changes have been happening to clergy families? This workshop brings together several spouses and partners to discuss their experiences on being the “other half” in these changing times. This will interest anyone desiring a better understanding of the pastor’s family, including church leaders, pastoral relations committees, and members of the congregation. Clergy spouses and partners are encouraged to come and join the conversation (and clergy, too!).

*Presented by **Bob James** (Chair, Clergy Spouse & Partner Support Mission Group), **Don Tirabassi** (Deacon, Madbury United Church of Christ), **Liz Greenberg** (Member, First Parish Congregational, UCC, East Derry), and **Dea Brickner-Wood** (Member, Community Church of Durham)*

D12 Understanding our Immigrant & Refugee Neighbors

Room 1027

(Also offered Block A) As our state becomes increasingly diverse, people want to know more about our neighbors who have come here from different cultures, ethnicities and religions. In this session three speakers will share their expertise about immigrants resettling in the Granite State. Photographer Becky Field will show images of the lives of immigrants and refugees. Amy Marchildon, from the resettlement agency Ascentria Care Alliance, will talk about the path that refugees can take to become residents of the Granite State. Eva Castillo will share her personal experiences being an immigrant in New Hampshire.

*Presented by **Becky Field** (Photographer, FieldWork Photos, and Member, South Congregational Church, Concord), **Eva Castillo** (NH Alliance for Immigrants & Refugees), and **Amy Marchildon** (Director of Services for New Americans, Ascentria Care Alliance)*

D13 Alpha & the Workings of the Holy Spirit

Room 1030

(Also offered Block A) Alpha is a series of interactive sessions facilitating discussion of the Christian faith in an informational, fun and friendly environment. The program consists of breaking bread together (usually through a pot luck), followed by a talk on film, and a small group discussion of the film lead by a facilitator in the group - who initiates questions found in the small handbook that each participant receives.

*Presented by **Marilyn Allen** and **John Allen** (Members, Newmarket Community Church)*

D14 We are CALLED to A Moral Revolution of Values

Room 1021

We face turbulent times as the year 2017 unfolds. Denigration of “the other,” is on the rise. Schools are witnessing more bullying of students who are perceived to be “different.” Too many of our Muslim brothers and sisters are experiencing frightening hate speech, and worse. The Ku Klux Klan and white nationalist groups have been emboldened. And on and on. We are also witnessing new public policy proposals that will exacerbate economic inequality and the divisions among us and that will further damage our sense of oneness and beloved community. *People of faith must be among those who say “enough.”* Through this workshop, learn about the urgent invitation from the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II of North Carolina and others to join the front lines of a Prophet-inspired, Jesus-inspired movement of love, compassion and resistance – a Moral Revolution of Values.

Presented by **Gail Kinney** (Labor Minister, Meriden Congregational Church, UCC) **Members** (Economic Justice Mission Group, NH Conference UCC) with support from **Edith Rasell, Ph.D.** (Minister for Economic Justice, United Church of Christ)

D15 Capital Campaigns – Now is the Time

Room 2003

This workshop will cover planning and conducting capital campaigns for church building renovations.

Presented by **David Weatherby** (Chairman of Capital Campaigns, First Congregational Church, Hampton)

D16 A New Model for Confirmation

Room 2011

Community Congregational Church in Greenland and North Hampton UCC are offering a joint Confirmation Class for the third time this year. We have learned a lot about how to plant the Confirmation “seed”, engage families to “water” it, and witness God’s growth taking place in our youth. Rev. Bob Fellows, and others, will present the details of how to plan and execute this Confirmation model-from preparation to keeping youth involved post-Confirmation.

Presented by **Rev. Robert Fellows** (Pastor, Community Congregational Church, Greenland)

Room 2o16

**D17 “Three Minutes to Midnight”:
Responding to the Growing Dangers of Great Power Conflict**

(Also offered Block A) This workshop will provide historical and background information about the dangers of nuclear war, growing U.S./NATO versus Russian and U.S.-Chinese tensions, and how U.S. people and others are working for peace and common security alternatives. An important element will be models and discussion about what people in religious congregations and local communities can do for peace.

Presented by **John Raby** (Member, Nuclear Weapons Working Group of New Hampshire)

Room 2o17

D18 The Bible’s Big Story!

(Also offered Block A) This is a great resource and method for lay leaders, pastors, Sunday school teachers, Youth Group leaders, ONA discussion leaders as well as participants, Confirmation Mentors and simply EVERYONE whose faith life and church involvement could benefit from a clear, energizing, handy, BIG-PICTURE view of the meaning and message of Scripture! After a basic run-through we’ll talk about how to tailor it to your own life, ministry, and community setting!

Presented by **Rev. Barry Jacobson** (Pastor, Franconia Community Church of Christ)

Room 2o2o

**D19 Advocate for the Rights of Children Living Under
Israeli Military Occupation**

(Also offered Block A) A proposed resolution to be acted on at General Synod 31, June 2017, calls for the United Church of Christ to advocate for the human rights of the children of Palestine. Israel is the only country that systematically prosecutes children in military courts. The resolution outlines the ill-treatment of Palestinian children and lists specific calls to action. Explore with us how a local church can advocate for the human rights of children in Palestine.

Presented by **Revs. John & Faye Buttrick** (Peace with Justice Advocates Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

**D Block Canceled
A19 is still Open**

D20 Countering Islamophobia

Room 2o21

Islamophobia is being intentionally propagated seven foundations in the US. We are being dangerously whipped up in fear against Muslims as “other.” The speaker will offer insights, information, and strategies to counter this form of Islamophobia based on her work for seven years with the national grass roots efforts and from her own practice and experience as a Sufi (the mystical tradition of Islam).

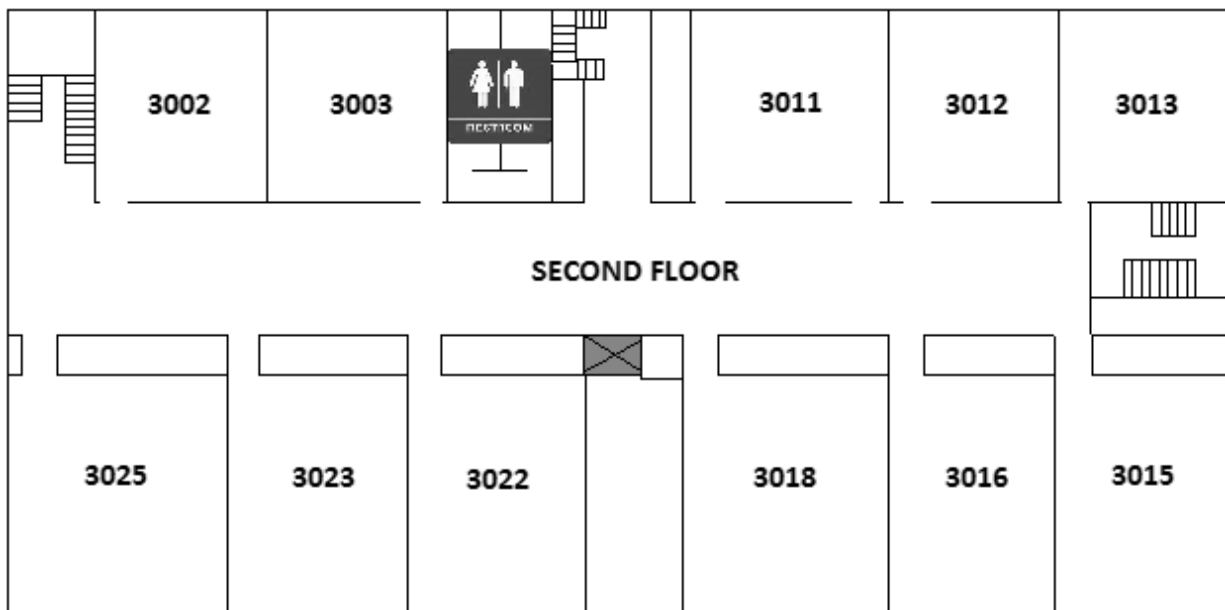
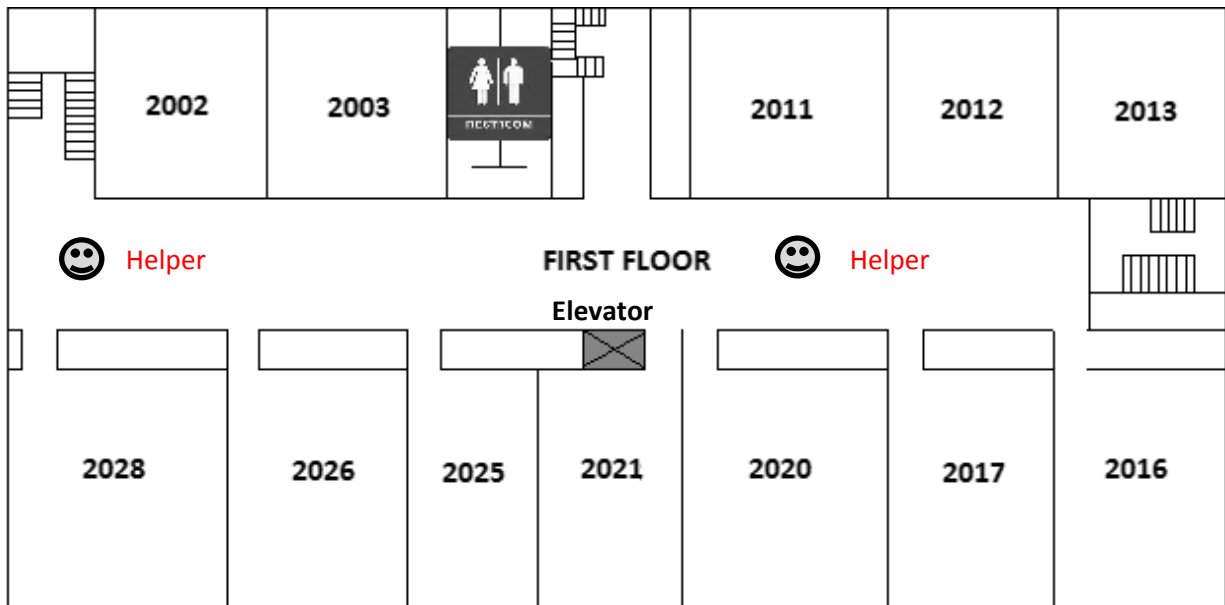
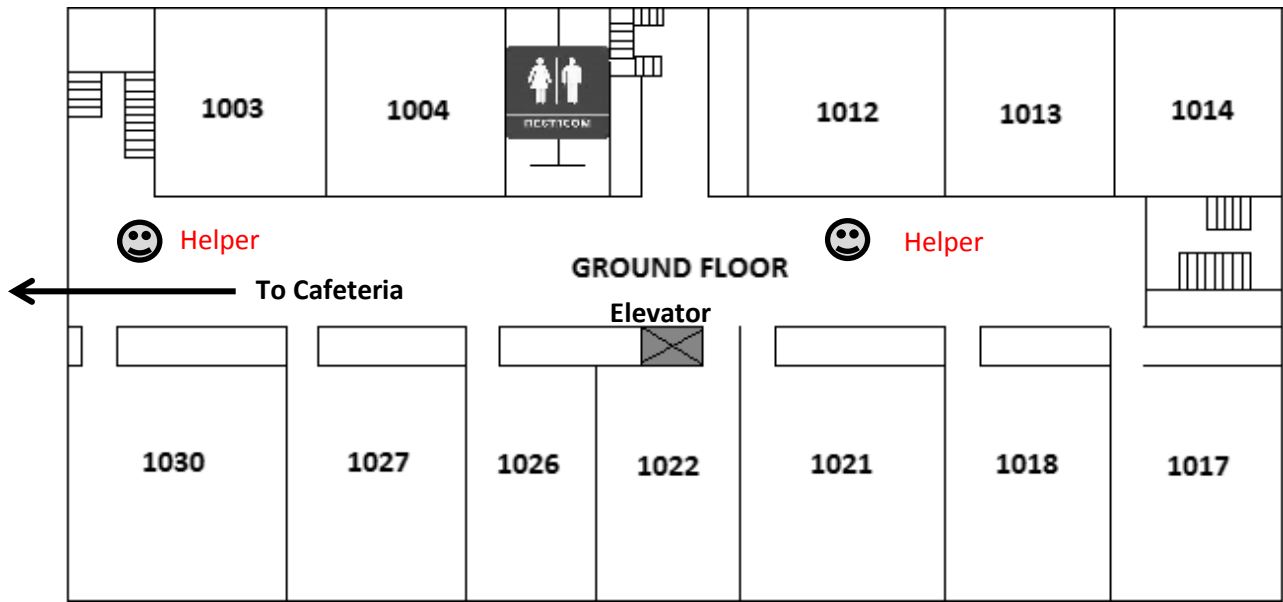
*Presented by **Rev. Dr. M’ellen Kennedy** (Founder & Director, Peace and Unity Bridge, dedicated to fostering friendships among Muslim and non-Muslims; Unitarian Universalist and Sufi Minister)*

D21 Living Our Vision for the Earth

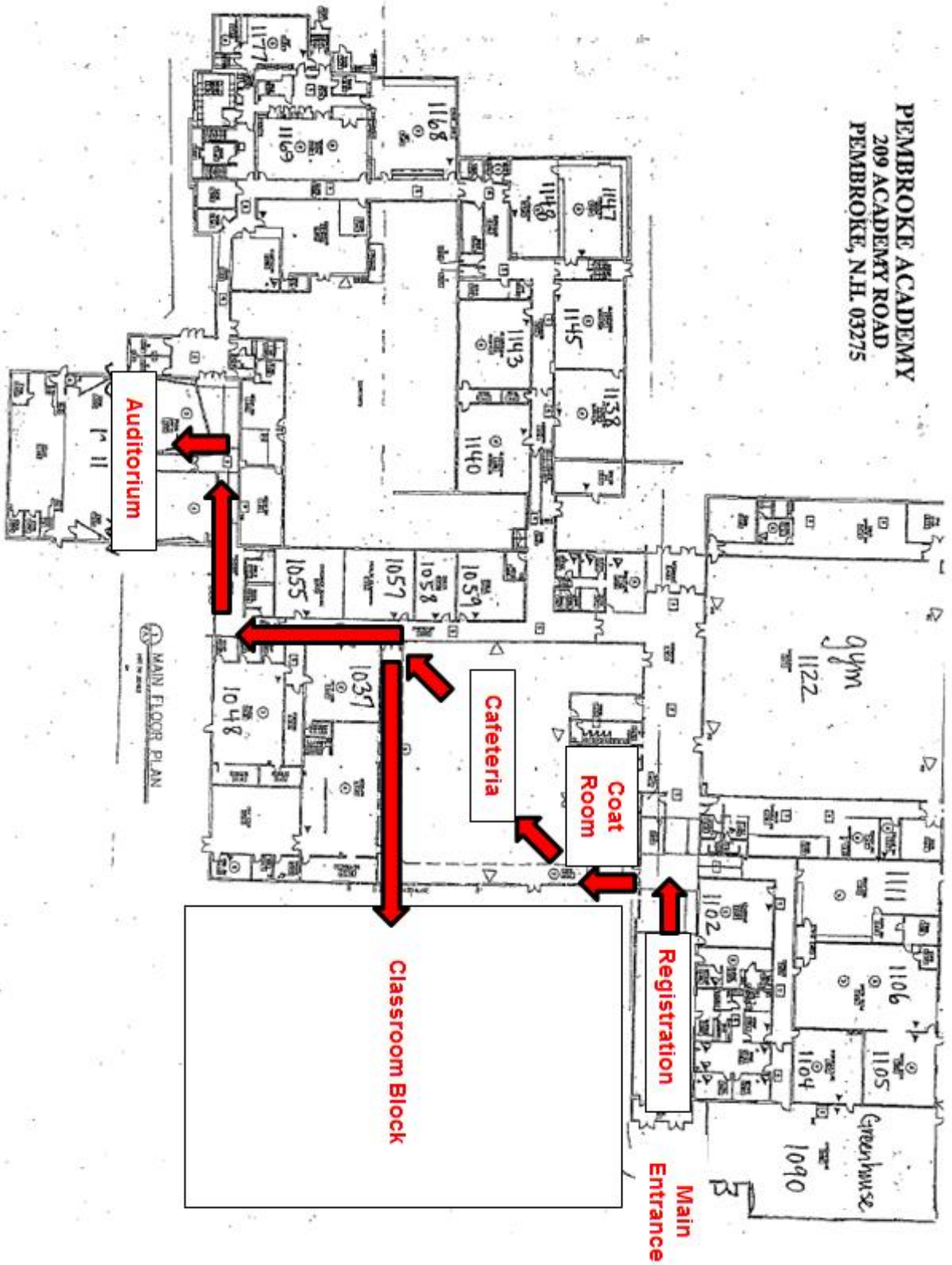
Room 2o13

“When the **Power of Love** overcomes the **Love of Power** the World will Know Peace”. Despite these turbulent times, the call to love prevails. The 2016 United Church of Christ’s purpose statement is taken from the Gospel of Matthew: To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. Through discussion and guided meditation we will clarify what our individual **call to love** is at this time in our lives.

*Presented by **Janet Sanborn** (RN, Faith Community Nurse and Healing Ministry, North Hampton, UCC)*



PEMBROKE ACADEMY
209 ACADEMY ROAD
PEMBROKE, N.H. 03275



DIRECTIONS TO PEMBROKE ACADEMY

**209 Academy Road
Pembroke, NH 03275**

From the SOUTH: Take Route 93 North to Exit 13/Manchester Street in Concord. Turn right off the exit ramp onto Manchester Street/Route 3 South. ***

From the NORTH: Take Route 93 South to Exit 13/Manchester Street in Concord. Turn left off the exit ramp onto Manchester Street/Route 3. ***

From the EAST: Take Route 4 to Route 393 towards Concord. Take Route 93 South toward Manchester. Take Exit 13/Manchester Street. Turn left off the exit ramp onto Manchester Street/Route 3. ***

From the WEST: Take Route 89 to Route 93 North. Travel north on Route 93 to Exit 13/ Manchester Street in Concord. Turn right off the exit ramp onto Manchester Street/Route 3. ***

*** Follow Manchester Street/Route 3 South for approximately 5 miles into Pembroke. You will pass the Pembroke Public Library and the First Congregational Church, Pembroke on your left. At the traffic light take a left onto Academy Road (landmarks at the intersection: Dandy Automotive and Fuels and Pembroke School District Sign). Follow Academy Rd. just a few hundred feet and turn right at the main entrance marked by a sign "Main Entrance – Home of the Spartans." Drive into the parking lot and park your car near the school's greenhouse which is located next to the main entrance to the school. Accessible parking is available opposite the greenhouse. If you are dropping people or materials off at the door, please take a right at the greenhouse and use the circle drop off area directly in front of the main entrance to the school. Driving time from Rt. 93 to Pembroke Academy is approximately 10 minutes.



Remember

**BRING THIS BOOKLET
WITH YOU TO THE EVENT!**