Christian Education & Formation Newsletter  
August 2021

Labor Day weekend is right around the corner and so many Faith Formation leaders are in the midst of ramping up for the year ahead. They are called upon to share their gift of administration when it comes to providing organization, oversight, vision and direction to all the tasks that need to be accomplished in order to get the job done. Check out the resources below for some last minute assistance with those administrative responsibilities.

Featured Resources

Self-Care

First and foremost, remember that you need to take care of yourself before you can be fully present to care for others.

“Self-care is never a selfish act—it is simply good stewardship of the only gift I have, the gift I was put on earth to offer to others.” - Parker Palmer

Safety

As a church leader you have a duty to provide a safe place for worship and educational ministries. Partnering with Praesidium, the Insurance Board offers a variety of resources to help you fulfill your covenant:

- **SafeConduct™ Workbench**, a comprehensive toolkit designed to assist churches in developing a strong abuse prevention program through proper policies, background checks and screening
- **Praesidium Academy**, free online training service,
- (new) **C.A.S.E.**, state of the art training on Creating a Safe Environment

Legal Compliance
If your church plans to continue to offer online or hybrid programming for this year and that programming includes the use of video clips or music to enhance the delivery of your message, please stop to consider if you are actually breaking the law by sharing these resources without permission.

For more information on this topic:
- Refer to Heather Kimmel's blog, Copyright Compliance Basics for Churches, published June 10, 2021. Heather is General Counsel to the UCC.
- Read the Insurance Board article, Copyright Stories that Could Affect Your Church.
- Check out the Copyright Section on the Practical Resources for Churches website.

Recruiting and Training Volunteers

- Sign up for the Practical Resources for Churches webinar, Getting and Keeping Talented and Engaged Volunteers, to be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2021 from 2:00 - 3:00 pm.
- Read the article, 5 Steps to Calling Volunteers, by Sharon Ely Pearson.
- Read the blog, The Only 5 Church Volunteer Recruitment Ideas You'll Ever Need

Planning and Budgeting

- If you missed this article, Planning for the 2021-2022 Program Year, posted on the Building Faith website back in April, it is worth reading just for the reminder that current times call for an adaptive planning process.
- Wondering how to gain budget approval for your faith formation ministry? This blog post, by Kathryn Watson, Sunday school director at Plymouth Congregational Church UCC in Fort Wayne, Indiana, offers tips on steps to take in your budget process.

Learn more >>

Events

**Confirmation Retreat**

Do you ever wonder what the United Church of Christ (UCC) has to do with your life or your church? Do you ever wonder if your beliefs and your dreams fit the UCC? and What does the phrase “God is still speaking” mean anyway? Join us for the Confirmation retreat so that we can talk about questions like these!

Download the brochure.

Please note: space is limited due to
Covid protocols, and is filling fast! Please contact Ann Desrochers for more information.

Employment

New Local Opportunities

- The Brookline Community Church is looking for a part-time Children’s Ministry Coordinator to provide overall leadership and welcome in the Christian Faith Formation of children, including guidance and resources for all aspects of the Children’s Ministry program. Learn more >>

- There is an opening for a part-time Christian Education Director, to be responsible for the development and coordination of faith formation for children, youth, and families in accordance with the mission and ministry of the Stratham Community Church, United Church of Christ. Learn more >>

- Smith Memorial Church in Hillsboro, NH is looking for a Youth Group Leader for their Middle School youth group, and to serve as Administrator for both the Middle and High School youth groups. This is a part-time, stipend position. Learn more >>

- The Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC, is seeking a part-time Director of Faith Formation. The Director will be responsible for the church school program nursery through 7th grade. Job responsibilities include: coordinating and overseeing the church school program, working with other church staff, and administrative duties. Learn more >>

- For more local opportunities visit the Classifieds/Help Wanted section of the NH Conference UCC website.

National Opportunities

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 God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms
of leadership, various kinds of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:28 (NRSV)