July 2019 News & Updates

Faith Formation leaders are often gifted teachers, but they are often called upon to provide organization, oversight, vision and direction to all the tasks that need to be accomplished in order to create a safe, healthy, and inviting learning environment for God’s children of all ages.

Check out the resources below for guidance on handling some of those administrative, planning and leadership responsibilities.

Safety

As a church leader you have a duty to provide a safe place for worship and educational ministry. The Insurance Board provides a variety of resources to help you fulfill that covenant.

Refer to the SafeConduct Workbench section of their website for a variety of tools and training resources, including:

- **Know Your Score!**, a free Self Assessment tool to evaluate your current written policy.
- A policy template for abuse prevention, if you don't already have one (Updated in 2017).
- A number of free courses on preventing bullying.
- A free course on abuse risk management.

The Faith Trust Institute provides resources for working to end sexual and domestic violence and creating healthy boundaries. Boundaries can be especially challenging in this age of pervasive social media. They offer two excellent articles on this topic: *Faith Community Considerations in Social Networking* and *Social Networking and Healthy Boundaries in Ministry*.

Practical Resources for Churches has several webinars with some suggestions for keeping our faith formation environments both welcoming and safe. These free, recorded sessions include:

- Cassandra Negri, a Children's Ministry consultant and a Safe Sanctuaries consultant for the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, helps prepare churches to write a policy which covers children, youth and vulnerable adults. She also provides information on how to train trustees, teachers, parents and pastors on the implementation of that policy in her two webinars: **Writing a Safe Sanctuaries Policy, Session 1** and **Session 2**.
Legal Compliance (Copyright Issues & the Church)

If your programming plans include the use of video clips, DVDs 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. The UCC (national) website provides a list of Frequently Asked Questions on this topic and the respective answers. Learn more >>

Additional information is available in the webinar Copyright: Protection, Compliance, and Best Practices for Local Churches, presented by Heather Kimmel, General Counsel, United Church of Christ.

Fostering a Healthy, Supportive Faith Formation Environment

Adults, youth, and children deserve a formation environment that is created to be welcoming, inclusive, and respectful of where they are on their journey. Below are some thoughts for consideration:

In her article, Faith Formation after 70, Dorothy Linthicum addresses church programming for older adults.

Kyle Oliver shares his perspective on Formation with Young Adults: How Churches Reach the 20s & 30s.

Jeremy Zach summarizes his insight from working with student ministries across the country in 7 Things the Best Student Ministries Are Currently Doing.

Anne Shelton, a contributor on the Building Faith website, shares some tips for classroom management, Sunday school style.

Upcoming Events

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Facilitator Training for Grades 7-12
Aug 23 - 25, 2019
The Walker Center for Ecumenical Exchange
Auburndale, Massachusetts

Our Whole Lives, together with Sexuality and Our Faith, helps participants make
informed and responsible decisions about their relationships, health and behavior in the context of their faith. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. It provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills and understand the social, emotional and spiritual aspects of sexuality.

Click here to visit the registration site and learn more about Facilitator Training.

"UCC: Is That For Me?" 2019 Confirmation Retreat
September 27 - 29, 2019
Horton Center, Pine Mountain, Gorham, NH

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 about the retreat, including how to register!

National Youth Event (NYE) 2020

UNITE FOR THE EARTH!
UNITE FOR JUSTICE!
UNITE IN FAITH!

2020 NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT

UNITE! Purdue University | July 22-25
ucc.org/nye
Youth Art Submissions
The NYE planning team is looking for youth and young adults (age 12-25) to submit original pieces of work to be used in the creation of worship materials for NYE 2020. Poems, prayers, song lyrics, devotions, reflections, drawings, paintings, and other pieces of art are welcome. Deadline for submission of materials is September 15, 2019. For more information email Rev. Trayce Potter, Minister for Youth & Young Adult Engagement, at: pottert@ucc.org.

Learn more about the plans for this four day event at: nye.uccpages.org.

If you or youth from your church are interested in being part of a NH group traveling to NYE 2020, please contact Ann Desrochers via email: adesrochers@nhucc.org.

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

United Church of Christ Seeks Candidates for Council of Youth and Young Adults Ministry

The Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (CYYAM) shall serve to advocate, support programs, and be a resource for youth and young adult ministries throughout the United Church of Christ and shall report to the United Church of Christ Board and to the General Synod on issues, developments, and concerns in youth and young adult ministries in church and society. It shall monitor to ensure that the unique gifts and talents of youth and young adults are present in all aspects of the life of the Church. It shall inform, envision, and shape national youth and young adult ministry priorities across the Church. The Council and its membership will act as a resource regarding youth and young adult ministry opportunities across the Church (including but not limited to internships, mission trips, Regional Youth Events, National Youth Event, and General Synod).

Any youth or young adult interested in applying for a position on the council can learn more by downloading the application packet, visiting https://www.ucc.org/cyyam, or emailing Traci Potter, Minister for Youth and Young Adult Engagement, Faith INFO, UCC, at pottert@ucc.org.

Employment

Local Opportunities

- United Campus Ministry at Plymouth State University (UCM@PSU) and its on-campus initiative, Caring Campus Coalition (C3), is looking for a part-time staff person. The successful candidate will have a strong desire to plan and execute creative and innovative direct programming that serves
the campus community. We are looking for someone who is outgoing, self-motivated, and easily relates to/connects with our student population. The **Program Coordinator** should have a passion for working with young adults, interest in and knowledge of holistic health and wellbeing, and be comfortable discussing spirituality and supporting students in their pursuit of authentic self. For additional information read the complete position posting.

- Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ is seeking a **Part-time Director of Christian Education** (fourth Sundays off) to oversee and provide church school programs for 10-20 children plus some youth group support.
  - Minimum education required: Associates Degree; teaching and/or related experience.
  - Attend monthly staff and committee meetings.
  - Creative, hands-on approach to learning about our Christian faith. PCUCC is a theologically progressive, socially inclusive, Open & Affirming, mission-oriented congregation.
  - Salary commensurate with experience.

Contact: office@uccplymouth.org for more information.

- 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)