June 2019 News & Updates

Greetings from Milwaukee!

General Synod 32 provided endless opportunities to participate in worship, fellowship, the business of the church, and to reflect on what it truly means to "be the church" and "live out our discipleship". One of the common themes in our time together in Milwaukee was an emphasis on the importance of relationship - covenantal relationships, partner relationships, nurturing relationships, and resourcing relationships.

As Christian Formation professionals we seek to make those meaningful connections and network with people who share in our passion for this lifelong journey of growing in faith. This edition of the newsletter features several individuals and organizations committed to helping equip us for this journey.

Debbie Gline Allen Receives AUCE Founder's Award
On Saturday, June 22, 2019, at General Synod 32, in Milwaukee, the Association for United Church Educators presented Debbie Gline Allen with the Founders Award. Debbie is a Commissioned Minister, Member in Discernment with the Rockingham Association, church musician and member of First Parish East Derry in New Hampshire. She also currently serves as the Associate for Faith Formation and Youth Ministries for the Massachusetts Conference, UCC. This award honors Debbie’s great achievements in the area of Christian Formation, and as voiced at the celebration, is a testament to the great number of lives that have been touched and nurtured by her ministry.

The Founders Award was instituted in 2007 to recognize a person whose lifelong ministry has been in the advocacy of Christian education and faith formation. The award is named in honor of those, whose vision for the church through the ministry of education and formation, founded the Association of United Church Educators (AUCE) in 1971, and is presented at each General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

Local Church Ministries' Faith Education, Innovation and Formation (Faith INFO) ministry team

Last September (2018) the United Church of Christ realigned their organizational structure creating the new Faith Education, Innovation, and Formation team, or Faith INFO. Rev. Chris Davies, now team leader of Faith INFO, described the new organization this way, “From workshops to webinars, resources to prayerful evenings, Faith INFO is a place for faith formation and education to come to life.”
conversations of encouragement, Faith INFO is a team dedicated to the support of communities of faith, as they have been, as they currently are, and as they vision themselves into the future. Faith INFO is for congregations, and for the people who are seeking a closer connection to the Gospel moving in the world today. Read the original article introducing Faith INFO >>

Learn more about the members of the Faith INFO team in their introduction video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gemyjIlXOx0&app=desktop.

Resources for Educating those Called to Faith Formation Ministry

The exhibit hall at General Synod had an impressive section dedicated to seminaries and other organizations offering educational programs to feed your heart, mind, and soul as you continue to serve in this transformative ministry.

A few highlights include:

- **Faith Formation and Spiritual Practices for Children, Youth and Adults**, a six week online course, offered October 23 - December 10, 2019 by PATHWAYS Theological Education.
- **Eden Theological Seminary** offers Post Degree Opportunities in Specialized Forms of Ministry including Christian Education and Youth Ministry.
- **Lancaster Theological Seminary: Office of Continuing Education / Lifelong Learning** offers theological education and spiritual formation programs for both lay persons and clergy to learn and develop leadership skills that can help transform their own lives and those of the congregations they serve.
- **ILIFF School of Theology** offers a Congregational Practices concentration in their MDiv and MTS programs. This concentration is for students who intend to serve in congregational settings as pastors, youth/young adult ministers, religious educators, spiritual formation, ministries to families, and ministers of discipleship. The concentration provides students an avenue to strengthen their pastoral management, develop their organizational skills, and learn to engage more effectively in the ministries of their churches, faith groups and local communities.
Conference Ministers Promote UCC National Youth Event with a Friendly Competition in the NYE 2020 Booth at General Synod

Click on the photo to see the race between Rev. Gordon Rankin (NH) and Rev. Shari Prestemon (MN).

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.

Upcoming Events

Senior High Youth Canoe Trip
July 26 - Aug 3, 2019
LaVerendrye, Quebec, Canada
South Congregational Church, Newport, NH, invites you to join them on their annual Voyageurs Canoe Trip. Spend a week in Canada with 11 other people, adult leaders and teenagers, like you. Paddle and camp in the wilderness of the Provincial Park, "LaVerendrye". Learn how to work together and be self-sufficient. Have fun! Work Hard! Learn about yourself! Discover what you are REALLY able to do!!

For more information: download the flyer or visit the Canoe Trip website at: http://www.thesouthchurch.org/canoe/.

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!

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**

**Salt and Light**

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:13-16 (NRSV)