Creating & Leading the 21st Century Church

A New Thing Task Force of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ is sponsoring a two-year leadership development class modeled after the UCC Pension Board's Next Generation Leadership Initiative and the Lutheran Forward Leadership Program. The first year will be curriculum-based, covering the topics listed in the synopsis below. The second year will be a peer-focused cohort approach as the concepts are applied in individual churches. This will include a congregational assessment tool and great teachers.

Cost: $400/church, which includes an $800 church evaluation tool.

Registration: To register please contact Gayle Murphy at: gaylem121@gmail.com.

Registration deadline is June 30, 2018.

Course Synopsis

Embracing Change and Minimizing Fear by Understanding Family Systems
Instructor: Rev. Rebecca Maccini
One lens of looking at congregations and relationships is through family systems theory, a lens that considers evolution, emotional process across generations, the complexity of relationships, responsibility, connection, and the challenge of and responses to change.

What does it look like for church leaders to be responsible to the congregation, mature and flexible in their responses, and clear in themselves? What difference can a leader's functioning make in a congregation? The workshop will look at how understanding our family can impact our anxiety and our ability to be competent leaders.

Managing Conflict
Instructor: Judith Bush
Diverse opinions and conflict are found where ever you find people. This session will focus on techniques to build a trusting and cohesive church body and also move a congregation out of conflict. Gain an understanding of building a foundation that opens channels of trust and appreciation of individual perspectives and gifts.

Discovering and Keeping Deep Vision
Front and Center
Instructor: Kimberly Bergstrand
What is deep vision? Deep vision is knowing who you are as a congregation, why you are here, and how God is calling you to serve. So many times, we get bogged down with “doing” and we lose sight of the “why” we’re doing it. Having this deep vision, a clear sense of mission and purpose is incredibly important as a congregation recognizes the need for adaptive change and experiments with new models and paradigms for worship, education, fellowship and service. Together we will explore different tools and processes designed to help congregations prayerfully discern their own unique place and calling as communities of faith in the world today.

“Let Me Out Of The Box”: Creativity and Innovation
Instructor: Rev. David Jadlocki
There can be no better example of "Doing a New Thing" then the life and resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, many of our churches have gotten stuck in old patterns and tired expressions. Together we will explore ways of drawing upon the creativity of your members to develop innovative experiences and vibrant expressions that return joy and meaning to your local context.
Kimberly Bergstrand
Kimberly Bergstrand is currently serving as Associate to the Bishop for Mission of The New England Synod, ELCA. Her responsibilities include oversight of New Mission Development, facilitation and continued development of the Forward Leadership Community, and Outreach and Evangelism coaching. She is a trained Interpretative Consultant for the Congregational Assessment Tool by HolyCow! Consulting and has also been trained in Mediation and Conflict Management through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Prior to serving as Associate for Mission, Kim served as a Congregational Visioning Coach, Synod Assembly Planning Coordinator, and as Co-Chair of the Synod’s Visioning Team.

Rev. David Jadlocki
Rev. David Jadlocki serves as the Pastor and Teacher of Rindge UCC in Rindge NH. David has a passion for supporting churches on their journey of discovery and renewal. He has provided consultation services for churches seeking revitalization across New Hampshire as well as in Pennsylvania and Iowa. With training in the areas of Adaptive Change, Innovation and Leadership, technology, Diane successfully works with organizations from the private, public and non-profit sectors on large change efforts. A lifelong member of the UCC, Diane has served on the boards of the American Society for Autism Treatment and the Good Shepherd Food Bank, and donated her time to the Dempsey Cancer and Community Center, and the Tri for A Cure and Relay for Life cancer fundraisers. The author of Living, Learning, Healing (Rainbow River Press), she lives on the water with her husband in the Lakes Region of Southern Maine. www.dianedunton.com

Rev. Rebecca Maccini
Rebecca Werner Maccini is an ordained minister and has spent most of her ministry in New Hampshire. She is also on the faculty of Leadership in Ministry, a workshop under the auspices of Columbia Seminary, and she facilitates a Pastoral Leadership Development Group through the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. She is currently the designated pastor of the UCC church in Franklin, NH.

Judith Bush
In her professional life, Judith Bush served the UNH Cooperative Extension, Merrimack County, as a community educator, active partner, supporter and catalyst for the development of coalitions and volunteer groups in Merrimack County which provide educational outreach. She served as a resource to people in the county to obtain research based information in the areas of food safety, food preservation, healthy lifestyles, nutrition, child care, parenting, family relations and other related topics. Judith is also active in the United Church of Christ. She served the Deerfield Community Church as Moderator for 6 years and a Discipling Deacon for 4 years. She is currently on Rockingham Association’s Committee on Church and Ministry and has led three New Hampshire Conference Prepare to Serve offerings on creating new church structures, bringing prayer into your church’s decisions and strategic planning.

Diane L. Dunton
An expert in organizational dynamics, Diane has over three decades of professional experience in organizational development, operations and human resources. Her proven abilities in developing organizational, culture and team effectiveness, leadership training, executive coaching, strategic planning, and facilitation have made her a sought after human resource consultant. A skilled facilitator in visioning, restructure, search conferences and open space technology, Diane successfully works with organizations from the private, public and non-profit sectors on large change efforts. A lifelong member of the UCC, Diane has served on the boards of the American Society for Autism Treatment and the Good Shepherd Food Bank, and donated her time to the Dempsey Cancer and Community Center, and the Tri for A Cure and Relay for Life cancer fundraisers. The author of Living, Learning, Healing (Rainbow River Press), she lives on the water with her husband in the Lakes Region of Southern Maine. www.dianedunton.com