



## 48th Annual NEAUCE Conference

April 30 - May 2, 2019

Pilgrim Pines, 220 West Shore Drive,  
Swansey, NH

*Apollos and I are merely servants who helped you to have faith. It was the Lord who made it all happen. I planted the seeds, Apollos watered them, but God made them sprout and grow. What matters isn't those who planted or watered, but God who made the plants grow. The one who plants is just as important as the one who waters. And each one will be paid for what they do. Apollos and I work together for God, and you are God's garden and God's building. 1 COR 3:5-9 CEV*

### Keynote Speakers:

#### Rev. Traci Smith

Rev. Traci Smith loves helping families find ways to practice faith at home through creative ideas that encourage new spiritual practices. She is an ordained minister and mother of three. Rev. Traci has a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and Bachelors of Arts (Spanish) and Social Work from Calvin College. Author of 2 books focusing on creating sacred moments at home, Rev. Traci has a wealth of knowledge that engages christian educators, pastors and parents to nurture the souls of children. Rev. Traci recently moved from Texas to Chicago and is pastor of Elmhurst Presbyterian Church. Rev. Traci shares a spectrum of relevant topics in keynote and workshop formats addressing the urgency of Faith Formation in a busy, broken and chaotic world. In addition to focusing on faith at home, Rev. Traci explores a variety of themes: church school and intergenerational models, teaching and mentoring styles, stages of faith and the many aspects of worship. Rev. Traci also has a website and offers a weekly email called "Treasure Box Tuesdays" that offers focused resources and links for the season.



**All Attendees will receive a copy of Traci Smith's book, *Faithful Families, Creating Sacred Moments at Home***

#### Rev. Trayce Potter

A major part of Rev. Trayce's life has been working with children and youth. In May of 2018, she was called as the Minister for Youth and Young Adult Engagement at the national office of the United Church of Christ, where she oversees programs dedicated to those between the ages of 12 and mid-30s. She also holds partnership standing as an ordained minister within the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Trayce is fully engaged in the preparation of the youth programs at General Synod 2019 and the National Youth Event 2020. Rev. Trayce is the proud mother of Micah J.A. Potter who is becoming an avid traveler thanks to the United Church of Christ which warmly welcomes him wherever his mom preaches.



# Worship/Music Leaders:

## Rev. Abigail A. Henrich

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Rev. Abigail A. Henrich is the pastor and chief evangelist at Grace Community Boston, an emergent church started in 2010. Grace has no denominational connections, and instead was started by a small group with a vision to create a relevant christian community in the 21st century that "walked the walk." Abby is also the pastor of a neighborhood progressive christian church in West Roxbury, MA.



Abby is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and Colgate University. She was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 2001 and has served in a number of denominational settings. She is married to a very handsome theologian who travels to India regularly and thinks deep thoughts much too often, is the mother of three, and spends a great deal of time doing dishes and sorting lunch boxes. She is a collector of stories, a baker, and a terrible knitter.

Mostly Abby is just a fellow traveler wondering how to live faithfully and follow Jesus in the 21st century. She loves God, has been claimed by a guy named Jesus even though she tried to resist, and is passionate about the emergent progressive christian church.

## David Leach

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David is a pianist, composer, poet, and educator. The son, grandson, and great-great grandson of presbyterian ministers, David grew up in the church, where he developed a deep appreciation for the power of music to energize people and transform lives, in or outside of a worship service. David has broad musical interests, having studied and performed jazz, rock, hip-hop, folk, blues and classical music, to name just to a few.



A Roslindale, MA native, David graduated with a B.A. in Creative Writing and a B.M. in Jazz Piano Performance from Oberlin College and Conservatory in Oberlin, OH. In 2017 he received an MFA in poetry from Boston University. He currently lives in Roslindale with his wife and frequent musical collaborator, violinist Julia Connor.

## NEAUCE Information

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The New England Association of United Church Educators (NEAUCE) is a regional chapter of the national Association of United Church Educators (AUCE). NEAUCE is endorsed by the Lay Development Ministry Council.  
[www.auce-ucc.org](http://www.auce-ucc.org)



# Workshops

## Wednesday Workshops

### Wednesday Morning Workshops

#### **W-1: Raising Prophets: Forming Youth in Justice and Advocacy Work, Jessica Moore**

Children and youth are naturally inclined toward justice. How many of us have heard a young person say "That's not fair!!"? And, while they may ask that question in a personal way; how can we help youth channel this energy out into the world? How can we encourage them to lean on their faith as they navigate the tumultuous world of social action? Join us in the discussion and sharing of ways to form inspiring and involved youth in the world now!

#### **W-2: Terrariums, Plant & Pray, Kristin Putney**

In this workshop, experience meditation and pray as each participant builds a spiritual terrarium filled with meaning and purpose. All materials will be provided. Plant. Pray. Now. Maximum of 15 participants

#### **W-3: Special Needs Students Invited in the Neurotypical Classroom, What now?, Roxanne French**

A whole group interactive participation of real tools that can be used instead of traditional curriculum. This workshop will include meditation, Godly Play lesson with response in Play Doh and watercolors, Praying in Color, and a discussion around the possibility of inclusive Confirmation and what lessons would look like. No artistic talent required, no judgment.

#### **W-4: Choosing and Adapting Curriculum & Resources, Debbie Gline Allen**

Do the curriculum materials used in your Faith Formation programs tend to fall short of your expectations? That's because the publisher does not know your congregation like you do. This workshop will provide guidance in evaluating, selecting, and adapting Faith Formation curriculum materials to meet the needs of your particular congregation.

#### **W-5: Nurturing Safe Ministry Environments- Your Call to Lead, Karen Ziel**

Actively engaged in mission and ministries of all types, we must model the highest standards of practice possible in order to establish and maintain safe and hospitable communities. This workshop will train leaders in practices designed to maintain safe spaces in most aspects of congregational life. Content will include how to create a training, healthy relationships with vulnerable populations, safer communications standards, making safe accommodations to policy standards, resources.

#### **W-6: Household Huddle: A New Way to Experience Faith Together, Kelly Thibeault**

Are you finding it difficult to get enough teachers? Are you aggravated by inconsistent Sunday School attendance? Do you wish there was a way to teach families to experience real faith together? Household Huddle is a new Faith Formation model that the First Congregational Church in North Attleboro has been using for the past year. Household Huddle offers a simple guideline to help individuals and groups alike to experience their faith in new ways.

#### **W-6: Household Huddle: A New Way to Experience Faith Together, Kelly Thibeault (Cont.)**

Household Huddle can be experienced with a church family on Sunday mornings, and by individual families in the car, around the dinner table or at bed time during the week. It encourages the practice of faith as not just a Sunday morning thing, but a real way of living. It encourages all ages and stages to work together, everyone becomes a teacher and a learner at the same time.

### Wednesday Afternoon Training Session

#### **DIY Faith: Ministry Leader Edition, Traci Smith**

Learn how to help families practice faith at home: DIY style! By the end of this breakout session you will have created a 90 minute workshop to present to families that is loaded with easy to implement, meaningful practices. Come prepared to share your ideas and learn a lot! (All Participants will receive a copy of "Faithful Families" to be a guide during this workshop)

### Wednesday Afternoon Flex-Time Workshops

#### **WA-1: Christ Walk: A Spiritual Fitness Practice, Dawne Quinn**

There is a reason God gave us feet! We have feet to walk, run, jump and skip through our lives. Join us for a brisk walk around Swanzey Lake. Come and learn about this 40-day spiritual fitness program based on the book, Christ Walk by Anna Fitch Courie. We'll begin and end our walk with a Bible verse related to reflective pieces on healthy living. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

#### **WA-2: Create Your Own Nurturing Vessel, Stacy Inman**

Find your creative side and join me to embellish your own watering can! Using various techniques such as decoupage, stenciling and stamping, create a unique watering can to use in nurturing your plants this spring. No prior decorating skills needed! (This workshop carries an additional fee of \$10.00 to be collected at workshop)

#### **WA-3: Walk the Labyrinth, Self Guided**

As a meditation tool consisting of a walkable single line path, a labyrinth can be a source of solace and can quiet a distracted or overactive mind. When troubled by disturbing emotions or unfortunate events in your life, walking a labyrinth can help resolve your inner discomfort and still your mind enough for you to get clarity of what is going on. As a spiritual tool, both the calming and quieting effect and the metaphorical symbolism of the labyrinth as a pathway on a journey or a spiritual track can help you to ponder life's greater mysteries.



## Thursday Workshops

### TH-1: How to Grow a Youth Group, Sheri Anderson

These are challenging times for those engaged in Youth Ministry but youth groups, alongside other forms of ministry, are still helpful and relevant to today's youth. Learn some practical ways to recruit, engage and empower youth in youth group settings. This workshop focuses on time tested principles not trendy gimmicks. Lots of program ideas and resources will be shared.

### TH-2: Encounter with Scriptures: Lectio Divina, Marilyn Kendrix

Lectio divina is an ancient practice of praying the scriptures. During lectio divina, we listen to the text of the Bible with the "ear of the heart," as if in conversation with God, and God is suggesting the topics for discussion. The method of lectio divina includes reading (lectio), reflecting on (meditation), responding to (oratio) and resting in (contemplation) the scriptures with the aim of nourishing and deepening one's relationship with the Divine. Experience scripture in a different way using this ancient practice.

### TH-3: Mental Health: Replacing Myths with Facts that Nurture and Empower our Youth, Peggy Matteson

1 in 5 teens and young adults live with a mental health condition – half develop the condition by age 14. Experiencing signs of mental illness can be scary and confusing. Many youth first reveal their concerns to a trusted church leader. The basic signs of common brain diseases and how to respond most effectively to individuals will be discussed. Stories of programming activities that increase understanding about mental health issues and a variety of resources will be shared to assist you and your colleagues.

### TH-4: UCC 101, Debi Mastroni-Kenyon and Rev. Nick Davis

Have you ever wanted to learn about the exciting history of the United Church of Christ, but don't want to have to take a formal class to do so? Then this workshop is for you. We will explore the rich history of the UCC and many of its social justice works. We will also discuss the current Purpose, Vision, and Mission of the UCC – better known as "The 3 Great Loves".

### TH-5: Faith Formation Leadership: Challenges and Innovations, Rev. Traci Smith

What challenge are you facing right now in ministry? Whether it's recruiting (or retaining) volunteers, dealing with unsupportive leadership, or a personal challenge of a different kind, this workshop is for you. We'll take some time talking about our various challenges and finding solutions together. We'll talk about what it means to be an innovative leader in a changing landscape for Faith Formation.

### TH-6: Singing the Bible in Worship and Faith Formation, Ruth Shaver

Most of us probably know at least a few Bible stories and memory verses because of children's songs learned from teachers, parents, and grandparents. Our hymnody and contemporary music teach Biblical stories and themes, as well. In this workshop, we will look at favorite hymns and other worship songs, Biblical stories, and Biblical themes for deepening our understanding of our faith.

## 2019 NEAUCE Coordinating Committee

**Chair:** Rev. Nick Davis, [ndavis9940@roadrunner.com](mailto:ndavis9940@roadrunner.com)

**Registrar:** Dawne Quinn, [dawne.quinn@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:dawne.quinn@whfirstchurch.org)

**Treasurer:** Debi Mastroni-Kenyon, [debi@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:debi@mcc-ucc.org)

**Conference Rep (RI):** Kristin Putney, [mitchmoon12@hotmail.com](mailto:mitchmoon12@hotmail.com)

### State Representatives:

**Connecticut:** Rev. Sara Krhla, [pastorsara.goshenchurch@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsara.goshenchurch@gmail.com)

**Maine:** Jessica Moore, [jreginamoore@hotmail.com](mailto:jreginamoore@hotmail.com)

**Massachusetts:** Sally Tomasetti, [sallyt@hillschurch.org](mailto:sallyt@hillschurch.org)

**New Hampshire:** Diane Tinkham, [tinkhams@metrocast.net](mailto:tinkhams@metrocast.net)

**Rhode Island:** Stacy Inman, [StacyAnn7@comcast.net](mailto:StacyAnn7@comcast.net)

**Vermont:** Sandra Brodeur, [sbrodeur@madriver.com](mailto:sbrodeur@madriver.com)

## Workshop Presenters

**Sheri Anderson** is the Sr. High Youth Group Coordinator at Covenant Congregational Church, N. Easton, MA. She has served UCC congregations as an Associate Pastor and Youth Minister and the MACUCC as an Associate for Outdoor and Youth Ministry. Now, after 25 years as a professional youth minister, she finds herself being a volunteer youth leader (by choice) in the same church that her family attends with her own teenage daughter in the Youth Group. This is new territory for her, frustrating at times, and an incredible and humbling learning experience. Through it all, she has learned that God keeps showing up.

## Workshop Presenters

**Peggy Matteson** is an authorized Minister of Congregational Health who has led Ministries of Health and Healing while serving on church staffs since 1996. She is American Nurses Association Board Certified as a Faith Community Nurse and a Member of the UCC Faith Community Nurse Leadership Team. She is currently serving as the Health Ministry Consultant for the UCC RI Conference, collaborating with the staffs of our churches for the benefit of their congregations and the communities they serve.

**Jessica Moore** is a Member in Discernment with the UCC. She worked for many years as Christian Education Coordinator for State Street Church in Portland, Maine. She is currently a Co-Pastor for Grace-Street Ministry, an outreach ministry to the marginalized and homeless in Portland, Maine. She lives in Portland with her husband, cat, and dog.

**Kristin Putney** is a mural artist and is staff of the RI Conference UCC doing Christian Education and Youth Ministry. She is also the director of CE at her local church and has been doing Faith Formation for over 30 years. Kristin combines creativity in all that she does while working with children, youth and families. She enjoys immersing spirituality and meaning in many art mediums including, beads, ribbons, paint, clay, plants and more.

**Rev. Nick Davis** is a retired UCC pastor living in Ellsworth, ME having served churches in ME, MA and CT. He has been active in NEAUCE since 2000 and is on the Resource Team for the Maine School of Ministry.

**Roxanne French** is a graduate of Bangor Theological Seminary. Roxanne has 5 children and 5 grandchildren. She has participated in all aspects of Christian Education for 35 years and has been a Special Needs parent for 40 years in CT, NH, and ME.

**Debbie Gline Allen** has served as the Minister of Christian Formation at five congregations in NH and MA and also on their conference staffs, is a life-long member of AUCE, has written for three UCC-based curriculum resources, and lives in Derry, NH with her spouse, two sons, and beloved cat.

**Stacy Inman** is a daughter, wife, pharmacist and mother to 3 amazing boys. She joined the Seekonk Congregational Church in 2008 looking for a church family for both herself and her boys. She has been a part of the Christian Education community since 2010, and serving as the Board of Christian Education chairperson since 2014. She enjoys reading, scrapbooking, basketweaving and spending time with family and friends. She can be found at the baseball and soccer fields during the fall and spring watching her boys play.

**Marilyn Kendrix** is a graduate of Yale Divinity School. Marilyn worked for over 15 years as an Organizational Development Consultant principally at AT&T but also in other settings. Marilyn earned her Bachelor's degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, her MBA and an MA in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from the University of New Haven. Marilyn is married to her best friend, Alan and they have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and two dogs, Bear & Paige.

**Debi Mastroni-Kenyon** is the Director of Faith Formation at Monroe Congregational Church in CT. Debi has a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Education from The Defiance College in Defiance, Ohio. She has 25 years of experience in Youth Ministry and 15 years of experience in Faith Formation for all ages. Debi has a true passion and love for Faith Formation and service which reaches across the generations. One of her colleagues has said that she has Faith Formation in her DNA! When Debi is not serving MCC, you can find her serving the people of the Lakota Tribe on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation with Simply Smiles. She has also served the CT Conference in a variety of settings as well as other groups in New England. Debi lives in Milford with her husband, Wayne, and they have one adult daughter. In her spare time she likes to cook, garden, spoil her cat, Holly, volunteer at the Simply Smiles Office, and sing with the New Haven Chorale. Debi is a Member in Discernment for Ordination and is currently studying at the New York School of Ministry and Yale Divinity School.

**Dawne Quinn** is currently serving as the Education Director of the First Church Academy for Young Children at First Church West Hartford. Previously, she served the church as their Commissioned Minister of Faith Formation. Dawne serves NEAUCE as their registrar and CAUCE as a regional representative. She's the mom of four daughters, two cats, one guinea pig, and a golden doodle. She's passionate about early childhood education, teaching church school, and spending time in the backyard garden.

**Rev. Dr. Ruth Shaver** grew up with church music as a singer and handbell ringer. Making music of all styles and forms as an integral part of worship and Faith Formation is part of her passion in ministry.

**Rev. Traci Smith** is an ordained minister and mother of three. Rev. Traci has a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and Bachelors of Arts (Spanish) and Social Work from Calvin College. She is the author of 2 books focusing on creating sacred moments at home. Rev. Traci is currently the pastor of Elmhurst Presbyterian Church in Chicago. In addition to pastoring her church family, Rev. Traci provides workshops and keynote presentations throughout the year on a spectrum of relevant topics in Faith Formation. Rev. Traci also has a website and offers a weekly email called "Treasure Box Tuesdays".

**Rev. Kelly Thibeault** is the Pastor of the First Congregational Church in North Attleboro, where intergenerational worship happens every week and all ages strive to learn and live out their faith together.

**Karen Ziel** is the Commissioned Minister of Faith Formation and Leadership for the historic Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ, where she has served for 10 years. Karen assists churches to employ and support Christian Educators and youth ministry leaders. She also offers support for curricula and other educational needs. With more than 25 years of experience in the teaching and formational ministries of the church, Karen has worked with children, youth and adults in a variety of settings, from rural to urban, in small and in program-sized congregations.

# Registration Form & Schedule

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

C.E. Role: \_\_\_\_\_

In which state? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended NEAUCE before? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

Accessibility Accommodations \_\_\_\_\_

AUCE Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Enter Full Event cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Costs: AUCE members \$255; non-AUCE members \$290;  
Commuter Rate for AUCE members with meals \$165;  
Commuter Rate for Non- AUCE Members - \$185**

Single room - add **\$55 per night-\$110 for 2 nights** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Monday night lodging—Yes/No- add \$65 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registering after 4/15/19—add \$30 late fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship -Yes/No- Where is scholarship coming from? \_\_\_\_\_

Subtract Scholarship Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total due upon arrival: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Minimum non-refundable deposit required: \$55.00**



Make checks payable to "NEAUCE." Make a copy of your registration form for your records and mail completed registration form and payment to: Dawne Quinn, First Church West Hartford, 12 South Main St, West Hartford, CT 06107

**If you prefer to register online, scan the QR Code or go to <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eg45rw5e590fbeb4&oseq=&c=&ch=>**

**Secure credit card payments can be made online.**

## Workshop Selections:

Wednesday Morning:  
W-\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday Afternoon Flex Time :  
WA-\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday Morning:  
TH-\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

## Tentative Schedule of Events

### Tuesday

1:00 to 3:00 PM Registration  
2:00 PM Guided Site Tours begin  
2:30 PM New to NEAUCE (Orientation)  
4:00 PM Welcome  
4:15 PM Worship  
5:15 PM State Meetings  
6:00 PM Dinner  
7:15 PM Opening Keynote: Rev. Traci Smith  
8:45 PM Hospitality

### Wednesday

8:00 AM Breakfast  
9:00 AM Wednesday Morning Workshops (W)  
10:30 AM Keynote Address: Rev. Traci Smith  
12:30 PM Lunch  
1:30 PM Training Session-DIY Faith, Rev. Traci Smith  
3:30 PM Wednesday Afternoon Flex-Time Workshop (WA)  
6:00 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM Worship with Communion  
7:45 PM Business Meeting and Commissioning  
8:45 PM Hospitality

### Thursday

8:00 AM Breakfast  
8:45 AM Thursday Morning Workshops (TH)  
10:15 AM Keynote Address: Rev. Trayce Potter  
12:00 PM Closing Worship  
12:45 PM Lunch To Go