



# Core Areas of Knowledge for Local Church Educators

## with Bibliography

At the AUCE Coordinating Committee annual meeting in the fall of 2005, five core areas of training were identified as the basis and grounding for anyone who leads Christian education in a local church. With assistance from Ken Ostermiller, Marian Plant, Karen Tye, Karen-Marie Yust, and the members of the UCC Lay Ministry Education Network, we offer a bibliography here to supplement each of these areas.

### ❖ **Basic Bible (Interpretation)**

- Understanding the Old Testament* by Bernhard Anderson (ISBN: 0139359257)  
*An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination* by Walter Brueggemann (ISBN: 0664224121)  
*New Oxford Annotated Bible, NRSV with Apocrypha, Third Edition* [Articles in the back, pages 453-536] (ISBN: 019528478X)  
*An Introduction to the New Testament* by Raymond Brown (ISBN 0385247672)  
*The New Testament: A Student's Introduction* by Stephen L. Harris (ISBN: 0767420314)  
*Gospel Parallels* by Burton Throckmorton (ISBN: 0840774842)  
*Bible for Vital Congregations* by Barbara J. Essex (ISBN 13: 978-0-8298-1732-4)

### ❖ **Christian Education Program Administration (Including coordinating volunteers)**

- The Nuts & Bolts of Christian Education* by Delia Halverson (ISBN 068707116X)  
*Group's Volunteer Leadership Series* (Vols. 1-6) by Marlene Wilson, ed. (ISBN 0-7644-2744-X)

### ❖ **Curriculum/Resource Selection and Development**

- Christian Educator's Guide to Evaluating and Developing Curriculum* by Nancy Ferguson (ISBN-13: 978-0-8170-1523-7)  
*Teaching Today's Teachers To Teach* by Donald L. Griggs (ISBN: 0-687-04954-7)  
*Postmodern Children's Ministry: Ministry to Children in the 21st Century* by Ivy Beckwith (ISBN-13: 978-0-310-25754-7)  
*The Godbearing Life* by Kenda Creasy Dean and Ron Foster (ISBN: 0835808580)  
*Growing in the Life of Faith: Education and Christian Practices* by Craig Dykstra (ISBN: 0664227589)  
*In the Midst of Chaos: Caring for Children as Spiritual Practice* by Bonnie Miller-McLemore (ISBN: 0787976768)  
*Leaving Home with Faith: Nurturing the Spiritual Life of Our Youth* by Elizabeth Caldwell (ISBN: 082981504X)  
*Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens* by Don Richter & Dorothy Bass (ISBN: 0835809757)  
*Soul Tending* by Kenda Creasy Dean, ed. (ISBN: 068703079X)  
*Starting Right* by Kenda Creasy Dean et al. (ISBN: 0310234069)  
*Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People* by Dorothy Bass, ed. (ISBN: 0787938831)  
*Soul Shaper* by Tony Jones (ISBN: 031025101X)  
*Taught By God: Teaching and Spiritual Formation* by Karen-Marie Yust and E. Byron Anderson (ISBN: 0827236492)

### ❖ **Education 101 (Theory; Human & Faith Development; Models; Multiple Intelligences)**

- The Craft of Christian Teaching: Essentials for Becoming a Very Good Teacher* by Israel Galindo (ISBN: 0-8170-1280-X)  
*Educating Congregations: The Future of Christian Education* by Charles Foster (ISBN: 0-687-00245-1)  
*Basics of Christian Education* by Karen Tye (ISBN: 0827202296)  
*Faith Formation In Vital Congregations* by Marian Plant (ISBN 13: 978-0-8298-1813-0)  
*In Search of Wisdom: Faith Formation in the Black Church* by Anne E. Streaty Wimberly and Evelyn Parker (ISBN: 0687067006)  
*Soul Stories, Revised Edition: African American Christian Education* by Anne Wimberly (ISBN: 068749432X)  
*Nurturing Faith and Hope: Black Worship as a Model for Christian Education* by Anne E. Streaty Wimberly (ISBN: 0829815686)  
*Come Unto To Me: Rethinking the Sacraments for Children* by Elizabeth Caldwell (ISBN: 0829811192)  
*Mapping Christian Education: Approaches to Congregational Learning* by Jack Seymour (ISBN: 0687008123)  
*Will Our Children Have Faith?* (Revised Edition) by John H. Westerhoff III (ISBN: 0819218367)

*Fashion Me A People: Curriculum in the Church* by Maria Harris (ISBN: 0664240526)  
*The Teaching Ministry of Congregations* by Richard Osmer (ISBN: 0664225470)  
*Making A Home for Faith: Nurturing the Spiritual Life of Your Children* by Elizabeth Caldwell (ISBN: 0829813705)  
*Real Kids, Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives* by Karen-Marie Yust (ISBN: 0787964077)  
*Human Development and Faith: Life-Cycle Stages of Body, Mind, and Soul* by Felicity Kelcourse, ed. (ISBN: 0827214421)  
*Theories of Development*, 5th edition by William Crain (ISBN 0-13-184991-3)  
*Stages of Faith: The Psychology of Human Development and the Quest for Meaning* by James Fowler (ISBN 0-06-062866-9)  
*The Handbook of Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence* by Eugene Roehlkepartain, ed. (ISBN: 0761930787)  
*Workshop Rotation: A Model for Sunday School* by Melissa Armstrong-Hansche and Neil MacQueen (ISBN: 0-664-50110-9)  
*Teaching Godly Play* by Jerome W. Berryman (ISBN: 0-687-08651-5)  
*Intelligence Reframed: Multiple Intelligences for the 21st Century* by Howard Gardner (ISBN: 0465026117)

❖ **UCC Identity/ History/ Polity/ Theology**

*The Shaping of the United Church of Christ* by Louis H. Gunnemann (ISBN: 0829813454)  
*Confessing Our Faith: An Interpretation of the Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ* by Roger L. Shinn (ISBN: 0829808663)  
*Theology and Identity: Traditions, Movements, and Polity in the United Church of Christ* by Daniel L. Johnson and Charles Hambrick-Stowe (ISBN: 0829808078)  
*United Church of Christ History and Program* from United Church of Christ Resources  
*What's Theology Got To Do With It? -- Convictions, Vitality, and the Church* by Anthony B. Robinson (ISBN-13: 978-1-56699-320-3)  
*Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ* from United Church of Christ Resources  
*The New Century Hymnal* from United Church of Christ Resources  
*Manual on the Ministry* from United Church of Christ Resources  
<http://www.ucc.org/about-us/short-course> – Short Course in the History of the United Church of Christ  
[www.stillspeaking.com](http://www.stillspeaking.com)

**Addendum**

An excellent youth ministry bibliography may be found at <http://www.ucc.org/education/bibliographies>  
Other helpful bibliographies that are found on that site:

- ▶ Adults
- ▶ Older Adults
- ▶ Ending Racism
- ▶ Disabilities Ministries
- ▶ Children and Communion