



AUCE IS THE VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR AUCE CHAIRPERSON
DEBBIE GLINE ALLEN, C.M.C.F.

AUCE is the Voice of Christian Formation for the 21st Century. This is the vision that the AUCE Coordinating Committee affirmed at its annual meeting held at the UCC Church House in Cleveland in September. For three days, we met with national UCC staff and made plans for carrying out this vision throughout our regions and through our mission statement:

AUCE's Mission is to

- affirm Christian formation as central to the life and work of the church;
- resource and network for Christian formation throughout the United Church of Christ; and
- advocate for equipping, educating, compensating, calling, and recognizing those called to educational and formational ministries.

AUCE envisions educational and formational ministry as

- a place where we are equipped and empowered to share deeply our own faith and be open to hear the faith stories of others;
- a way of living faithfully; and
- one that honors the thinking and the doing—a bridge from the church that was and is and is to come.

Critical discussions regarding the future of the *Faith Practices* resources were held with Ben Guess, Local Church Ministries Executive Minister; David Schoen, Congregational Vitality & Discipleship Ministry Team Leader;

Aimee Jannsohn, Sales & Marketing Associate; and Rod Mundy, Minister for Web Development. Please visit www.auce-ucc.org and locate “AUCE Is Supporting Faith Practices on Your Behalf” to read further communications and updates regarding *Faith Practices* materials.

We also met with Barbara Blodgett, Minister for Vocation & Formation; and Barbara Essex, Minister for Higher and Theological Education, to make connections around our UCC-related seminaries

Educational and formational ministry is a way of living faithfully, honoring the thinking and the doing.

and colleges, as well as the conference-based lay theological programs. We also acknowledged that through the work done on the Ministry Issues Pronouncement, the issues raised by the 2003 **Resolution on Commissioned Ministry** have been addressed. For instance, commissioned ministers now retain their standing at retirement and the term, “authorized minister” is now to be used for all commissioned, licensed, and ordained ministers who hold standing in an Association.

Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, our Minister for Christian Faith Formation Research, has been working hard on our behalf, gathering critical and pertinent

information about Christian education and faith formation in the United Church of Christ as well as in other complementary areas. Please be sure to complete the survey: **National Listening Campaign on Christian Faith Formation and Education** by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UCCFaithFormation> by December 16th. Your input is needed and valued as we move educational and formational ministries forward in these rapidly changing times.

And speaking of changing times, the Coordinating Committee has found that our **AUCE Articles of Organization** need updating, so watch your e-mail inbox for the list of changes and the opportunity to vote them in.

In closing, I quote Becky Johnston, AUCE's Great Lakes Representative to the Coordinating Committee, who succinctly expresses the critical work of AUCE: “AUCE is your voice to the national UCC offices for what is needed in faith formation in today's church. With your help, we provide a broader base from which to share our voice.”

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