

Faith Formation Leadership Certificate Program Class List

- **Begin the program with any class.**
- **Each class is offered twice, but only needs to be taken once** — choose the best date for you.
- **Certificates of completion** are awarded to students who complete all of the classes listed below.
- **Classes are also offered a la carte** for those who do not need or desire a Certificate.
- **These classes do not fulfill ordination requirements.**

Class Descriptions

Classes are 3 contact hours each.

Select the date for each class that works best for you.

2022-2023

Making Disciples — Theories and Practices for the 21st Century

October 1, 2022 or February 11, 2023 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dr. Joshua Lunde-Whitler

How the grounding principles of education, formation, and living in the ways of Jesus can be developed and used to make disciples of all ages in today's congregations.

Youth Ministry 101 — Practices for a Sustainable Ministry

October 15, 2022 or February 4, 2023 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Rev. Dave and Becky Stambaugh

Explore the nuts and bolts alongside the theological foundations of organizing and implementing youth ministry programs in the local church, recruiting, nurturing, and supporting volunteers, leadership skills, and working on a church staff.

**This class is optional for those seeking certification who do not have youth ministry in their job description.*

Faith Formation 101 — Practices for a Sustainable Ministry

October 29, 2022 or March 4, 2023 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Laraine Wilson, M.Ed.

Explore the nuts and bolts of organizing and implementing faith formation programs in the local church; recruiting, nurturing, and supporting volunteers; leadership skills, and working on a church staff.

**This class is optional for those seeking certification who only have youth ministry in their job description.*

Creating Safe Environments — Policies and Procedures

November 5, 2022 or April 1, 2023 (half class — 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.)

Debby Kirk

Explore why congregations need a safe church policy and how to create one for the specific needs of the congregation.

Adaptive and Innovative Leadership

November 5, 2022 or April 1, 2023 (half class — 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

Rev. Susan Page Townsley

Engage in creative thinking that inspires slant approaches to faith formational ministries in a post-pandemic world.

Developing Faith — Ages and Stages

November 19, 2022 or January 28, 2023 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Ted E. Huffman

An overview of human development based on the work of Piaget, Erikson, and Gardner; and faith development based on the work of Fowler and Westerhoff.

Living Into the Mystery — Worship and Sacraments in the United Church of Christ

January 7, 2023 or March 25, 2023 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Rev. Jenn Macy

An overview of the worship tradition of the United Church of Christ, tracing its history back to early Christian practices, particularly Baptism and Communion.

Racial Justice for Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Leaders

January 14, 2023 or April 29, 2023 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Rev. James Ross

Create a common language around racism, to unmask racism in our lives, and to encourage long-term engagement in racial justice ministry as a spiritual issue.

2023-2024

Engaging Our Sacred Scripture's Story

An overview of the formation, contents, structure, and flow of the Bible.

Exploring the United Church of Christ — Our History, Our Beliefs, Our identity

An overview of the birth, development, structure, beliefs, values, and ethos of the United Church of Christ.

***Does not meet UCC Member In Discernment requirements.*

Serving Together — Mission for All Ages

Explore the differences between charity and justice from biblical and developmental perspectives in light of offering mission and service opportunities for children, youth, families, and the congregation.

Boundary Awareness for Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Leaders

Developed by the historic Massachusetts Conference, this introductory course will equip faith formation and youth ministry leaders with the basics of healthy boundaries. This class will explore specifically the joys and challenges of ministering to and with children and youth while serving on a local church staff. Through reading,

conversation, and case studies, participants will create their own guiding principles for ethical behavior in ministry.

***Does not fulfill the Boundary Awareness requirement for clergy.*

Exploring Curriculum & Digital Resources

How to evaluate, select, and adapt curriculum materials based on the appropriateness for the congregation's needs and mission. Includes an overview of the United Church of Christ / Unitarian Universalist *Our Whole Lives* sexuality materials as well as a review of current practices for using social media for communications, connections, and spiritual formation.

Racial Justice for Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Leaders

Create a common language around racism, to unmask racism in our lives, and to encourage long-term engagement in racial justice ministry as a spiritual issue.