

## Transition Plans for AUCE's Structure & Focus



**AUCE Coordinating Committee:**

Back Row: Sara Weatherman, Wally Hoeger, Anne Hodgman, Becky Johnston, John-Forrest Douglas

Front Row: Debbie Gline Allen, Janet Quinn, Carolyn Keilig, Lisa Hart

Missing from photo: K. Ray Hill, Carol Wilson

In 2012, Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, UCC Minister for Christian Faith Formation Research at that time, was tasked with creating and implementing a study of the current state of Christian education and faith formation. The resulting report, [“Foundations, Findings, and Futures: Christian Faith Formation and Education in the United Church of Christ.”](#) (click on this title to be linked to the actual report) included recommendations for the denomination as well as for AUCE. AUCE is encouraged to “continue building a network of educators, pastors, faith formation curators, families and children’s ministers, youth and young adult leaders, and outdoor ministries coordinators (114-115).” It follows that this network should be supported with up to date information about the highest quality resources and training opportunities, offering best practices for providing faith formation within the United Church of Christ.

In response to this recommendation, AUCE Coordinating Committee members conversed with individuals and small groups of AUCE members, with national UCC staff, and with regional AUCE event attendees. Then a proposal for **a renewed and streamlined focus was created for AUCE: the networking and equipping of faith formation practitioners.**

### AUCE's New Streamlined Focus

Three focal points follow this focus as AUCE moves further into the digital age:

- Serve as the curation network for training and equipping faith formation practitioners and local churches in Christian education and faith formation ministries.
- Work with the AUCE membership and constituency to move its current structure seamlessly into the digital age.
- Work in collaboration with the national setting of the United Church of Christ in a spirit of mutual accountability.

### Plans for Moving Forward

What follows are the plans for efficiently and effectively transitioning into this renewed focus:

- The AUCE website will be updated to feature the curation of training and continuing education opportunities, both online and face to face, for faith formation practitioners throughout the United Church of Christ.

- A Digital Missioner will be hired to administer AUCE’s online networking, social media, databases, digital communications, and electronic knowledge base.
- AUCE’s regional events will continue to feature high quality training and education, and AUCE will work with its regions that do not currently hold faith formation events to assist them in providing networking, resourcing, and /or training as appropriate for their constituencies.
- AUCE’s Articles of Organization have been amended to reflect the following changes:
  - ➔ The AUCE Coordinating Committee will change its name to the AUCE Board of Directors.
  - ➔ The position of Vice Chairperson will be added to the AUCE Board of Directors. This person will be elected by the AUCE membership and commit to serving one two-year term followed by a two-year term as AUCE Chairperson.
  - ➔ The position of Interdenominational Representative will be eliminated.
- AUCE’s new National Staff Liaison will be Ivy Beckwith (pictured below, bottom left).

## Transitioning Into AUCE’s New Structure

In May, AUCE members will receive an e-mail ballot for voting to affirm these amendments. A complete document outlining the changes in the Articles of Organization has been sent to the AUCE membership for review (see the Spring 2014 AUCE E-News).

In late June, an e-mail ballot will be sent to the AUCE membership to elect a Vice Chairperson (who will move into the Chairperson position after two years). Keeping in mind AUCE’s Articles of Organization (found on the “About Us” page of the AUCE website: [www.auce-ucc.org](http://www.auce-ucc.org)), line 98 states, “The Coordinating Committee may amend these articles at its yearly meeting, and may put any changes into practice.” Thus, during this time of transition, the AUCE Coordinating Committee recommends that Wally Hoeger (pictured below, top right) assist current Chairperson, Debbie Gline Allen (pictured below, top left), for the next several months and then run unopposed in June to serve as the AUCE Chairperson for the next two years of this new leadership model.

The AUCE Coordinating Committee will continue to keep you informed of our work and of our progress on locating and publicizing the most recent and best educational opportunities throughout the United Church of Christ, as well as ecumenically. Please don’t hesitate to [contact us](#) with your questions and comments, as AUCE’s main purpose and mission is to serve those in faith formation ministries throughout the United Church of Christ.

**To equip saints for the work of ministry, building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.**

*Ephesians 4:12-13*

