

ASSOCIATES in CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

“A.C.E.” 2009-2010

****AN ECUMENICAL TRAINING PROGRAM in CHRISTIAN EDUCATION****

Sponsored by Hartford Seminary and The Connecticut Conference of The United Church of Christ

Since 1970, the A.C.E. Program has trained Church Educators, Lay Leaders and Clergy for educational ministries in the Church. A unique aspect of the program is the sponsorship of each participant by a local congregation. Now almost 40 years since its inception, "A.C.E." continues to offer a balanced blend of both the academic and the practical aspects of Christian Education to effectively equip the dedicated Church professional!

CHURCH SPONSORSHIP INCLUDES:

- ♦ **\$1350 in Tuition** *paid by the church* (\$250 as a registration fee, \$550 due during the Fall and Spring semesters).
- ♦ A **Designated Position** in the educational program of the Church.
- ♦ An **A.C.E. Team** including a clergy person, a lay leader and the A.C.E. student. Team responsibilities include: regular meetings to provide coordination and support for the student, planning of the A.C.E. Project, and attendance at two “Team” sessions in September and January (as well as Graduation in May!).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS OF PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE:

- ♦ Commitment to **full time attendance**.
- ♦ Participation in **class discussions** and **activities**.
- ♦ Completion of **all assignments**: *readings, essays, reflection papers, partner observations, and the A.C.E. Project.*

LOCATION:

A.C.E. Classes are scheduled to meet on a series of Tuesdays from October through April, from 9:30am - 3:00pm. at Hartford Seminary, 80 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105.

A.C.E. PROJECT

The major course requirement will be to research, plan, lead and evaluate a local church program where students gain experience in the use of a planning model, leadership skills, theological understandings, and Biblical materials. Projects are submitted in a written report which will then be shelved in the Connecticut Conference's *Ruth Dudley Resource Center* for other church leaders to use.

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

In addition, worship and prayer are integral parts of the program. Students will have opportunities to plan and lead worship at class sessions.

REQUIRED READING

A variety of readings from current journals, textbooks and other writings in the field of Christian Education will be the basis for regular reflection papers.

Enrollment in the 2009-2010 A.C.E. Class will be limited to 14 students. Decisions on acceptance will be determined according to the need of the local church and the order of receipt of applications. Questions concerning the program should be directed to ACE Program Director/Teacher Chuck Ericson at 860-233-5564, voice mailbox 302. Voice mail messages are checked weekly during the registration period.

Partial tuition scholarships are available for qualifying Connecticut Conference UCC local congregations (based on need). You may make your request to the Program Director/Teacher, Chuck Ericson.

Certificates are awarded by the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ to participants who successfully complete the A.C.E. course; **nine Continuing Education Units** (C.E.U.'s) are also granted upon request by Hartford Seminary following successful completion of the A.C.E. Class.

A.C.E. PROGRAM DIRECTOR/TEACHER

The Rev. Charles Ericson *M.Div., Andover Newton Theological School*

Chuck has served as Pastor of the Bolton Congregational Church UCC for over 25 years. During this time he has become trained as a Conflict Consultant for the Connecticut Conference, served as a Field Education Supervisor for Andover Newton Theological School, led workshops at Connecticut and National UCC Youth Events, and been appointed as an Adjunct Instructor in the "Design for Leadership" program at Defiance College. He has also served on the Conference's Department of Christian Education & Youth, chaired its subcommittee on Youth Ministry, and been a Dean of summer conferences at Silver Lake Conference Center. Prior to teaching "ACE," Chuck was a Co-Instructor of the "Building Effective Youth Ministries" (B.E.Y.M.) program for 4 years. Chuck also expresses his faith through songwriting, and his music has been published and used in many UCC conference and national settings.

Additional Resource Persons from conference, national and seminary settings will be invited to join in leading class sessions from time to time.

A.C.E. PROGRAM SCHEDULE -- 2009-2010

A.C.E. Team Orientation: Tuesday, September 22, 5:00pm to 7:30 pm at Hartford Seminary

One-Day Opening Retreat at Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT – Tues., Oct. 6, from 9am to 5pm.

Part I: The Basic Foundations of Christian Education

The first class sessions will center on learning the "basics": introduction to resources available to Christian Educators, overview of the Biblical story, stages of cognitive & faith development, and worship. *Class dates: October 20, November 3 & 24.***

Part II: The Environment of Christian Education

The second set of class sessions will include an overview of models of Church "personalities" and how to minister effectively within a variety of Church settings, denominational resources and relationships, and creative teaching techniques.

Class dates: December 1 & 15, January 5.

A.C.E. Team Mid-Year Review: Tuesday, January 26, 5:00 to 7:00 pm at Hartford Seminary

Part III: Working as a Team in Christian Education

The focus of this part of the ACE experience will focus on staff relationships, working with church boards & committees, teacher recruitment & training, conflict management, styles of leadership, communication skills. *Class dates: January 19, February 9 & 23.*

Part IV: The Tasks of Christian Education

ACE will conclude by examining curriculum selection, youth ministry, confirmation, adult & intergenerational programming, family ministries, and mission projects. *Class dates: March 9 & 23, April 6.*

One-Day Closing Retreat at Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon CT. – Tues., April 27 from 9am to 5pm

Graduation Celebration: Tuesday, May 18, 5:00 to 6:30 pm at Hartford Seminary

*** As of the printing of this brochure, all Tuesday class sessions are scheduled to take place in the ground level of the 80 Sherman Street facility on the campus of Hartford Seminary. Dates and locations are subject to change.*

Comments from ACE course evaluations...

"It has been my desire to strengthen my knowledge in theology, worship planning, and leadership skills, as well as youth ministry, and this class has afforded me this and much more." (Recent ACE Graduate)

"During this program year, our student has grown in both confidence and competence." (Pastor of ACE Student)

"It was a most excellent program to expand my knowledge and experience." (ACE Graduate)

"I feel I have gone way above my initial goal, enjoying every moment." (Recent ACE Graduate)

***"We learn and grow together, and share the Living Word
Our hopes and dreams are realized, by teaching what we've heard!"
(from ACE 25th Anniversary Song)***

APPLICATION FORM

2009-2010 A.C.E. Program

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Numbers: Home: _____ Work (other than Church): _____

Cell Phone: _____

Primary E-Mail Address: _____

Sponsoring Church _____

Church Address _____

Church Phone _____

Your Position in Church _____

This Position is: Paid Volunteer (check one) Full Time Part Time (check one)

Areas of Responsibility _____

A.C.E. Team Members:

Name of Clergy Supervisor _____

Name of Lay Leader _____

\$250 Registration Fee Enclosed

(payable to The Missionary Society of Connecticut, with memo: ACE).

On 1-2 separate sheet(s) of paper, please type or write your history in Christian Education: training, program leadership, teaching, youth ministry, confirmation and other similar experiences, as well as your personal expectations of the A.C.E. program. Add any information about yourself that you would like to share, and return **this application**, the **\$250 registration fee**, and the separate **biographical/expectations sheets** to:

Chuck Ericson, ACE Director/Teacher
United Church Center
125 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT 06105

I have read the 2009-2010 ACE brochure and agree to all the responsibilities required for completion of the course:

(signature of student)