



PRESBYTERIANS ORGANIZED IN
Nurture & Teaching



2015 APCE Annual Event
information at apcenet.org

POINT Topic Forum,
Feb. 4, 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

Growing in Grace & Gratitude
workshop at APCE

Network

Fall 2014 *News*

Fear Not!

The Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) invites educators, pastors, volunteers, and students of Christian education to attend the 2015 Annual Event at the Marriott Baltimore Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland, February 4–7. The theme of the event is *Fear Not!*, inspired by the prophet Isaiah’s challenge and promise, “Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one” (Isaiah 44:8).

The 2015 Annual Event co-chairs, Joyce MacKichan Walker and Keith Sundberg, and the Annual Event Ministry Team

have planned four fantastic days of keynote speakers, table conversations, inspiring worship, and opportunities to network with others who are involved in the educational ministries of the church.

Keynote speakers and preachers include Brian Blount, president of Union Presbyterian Seminary, and Carol Howard-Merritt, author of *Tribal Church and Reframing Hope*. Katie Geneva Cannon, the Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics at Union Presbyterian Seminary, will provide an in-depth, pre-event seminar, *Fear Not: Embodying the Wisdom Embedded in African Sacred Rhetoric*. William Heard, director of Friends

of Jesus Ensemble, will coordinate event music. A variety of off-site excursions, certification courses, pre-event gatherings, and workshops will span the entire week. Come early, and stay late!

There are several opportunities for Presbyterians Organized in Nurture & Teaching (POINT) representatives to hone their skills:

- A POINT Topic Forum, Wednesday, February 4, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., prior to the APCE Annual Event opening worship at 3:00 p.m. Watch for your invitation to register at eventbrite.com.

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Letter from the Coordinator

The Presbyterian Planning Calendar includes information to help pastors, educators, and volunteers plan educational opportunities throughout the year. POINT representatives may want to consider highlighting resources for special-emphasis Sundays or for seasons of the liturgical year. Organize a display at presbytery meetings that speak to the “Now Is the Time” or “Look Ahead” sections of the calendar. Use the planning calendar as your guide to help congregations imagine the possibilities.

Candace C. Hill, coordinator, Educational Ministries

Fear Not!

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- Congregational Ministries Publishing (CMP) and Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC) Publishers' Breakfast, Thursday, February 5, 7:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. Register through apcenet.org (Limit: 150)
- A *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* introductory workshop is one of the event options; review the 2015 workshop descriptions and times at apcenet.org
- 2015 APCE Market Place opens on Wednesday, February 4, 9:00 a.m. and includes The Thoughtful Christian Bookstore with book and curriculum displays. CMP staff will be available to assist you with your questions.



Register early before the choice of tours and workshops is no longer available. If you have questions about available scholarships, visit apcenet.org for information.

Educate a Child, Transform the World

The 221st General Assembly (2014) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), meeting in Detroit, Michigan, approved an initiative, *Educate a Child, Transform the World*, to dedicate the next four years to the education of the world's children. The emphasis is one of the ways the denomination hopes to address the root causes of poverty, one of three critical global issues. This education initiative, put forth by the Presbyterian Mission Agency's World Mission and Compassion, Peace, and Justice mission areas, congregations, and partners around the world, invites individuals, churches, and partners—domestically and internationally—to get involved.

The overall goal is to provide safe access to quality education to one million children by:

- Strengthening communities' capacity to provide quality education
- Improving training and resourcing for teachers at all levels
- Creating a safe environment for children, especially girls, to have access to quality education

As noted in a brochure distributed at the assembly, the "Presbyterian Church has a 177-year history of providing educational access for children in the U.S. and around the world. World Mission wants to build on this rich legacy and continue to offer children a future of hope."

The brochure outlined ten ways to become involved in this educational ministry emphasis. Two of the ways may reflect or spur the action of congregations and individuals in your area:

- Host education programs in your church. A pre-school program impacts children during the most important developmental phase of their lives. An after-school program for elementary school children provides tutoring help and a time for safe play. A wonderful model of this program is the STAIR Program (Start the Adventure in Reading) established in New Orleans by the Presbyterian Action Council: stairnola.org. Another program

your congregation may want to examine is Kids Hope USA: kidshopeusa.org.

- Engage with advocacy efforts of PC(USA) World Mission Networks and PC(USA) to urge governments to dedicate a significant share of available revenues to finance primary education. See EFA Policy Paper #8: unesco.org/images/0022/002204/220443E.pdf.

For more information about the *Educate a Child, Transform the World* emphasis or to receive a copy of interpretive materials, contact Frank Dimmock, poverty alleviation catalyst, at (800)728-7228, ext. 5039, or frank.dimmock@pcusa.org. He and others at the Mission Agency are collecting stories and encouraging congregations in their support of education in their own communities and around the world.

Stay in Touch

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YUN KYOUNG YANG
Korean-Language
Curriculum Helpline
800-728-7228, ext. 5478

MARISSA GALVAN-VALLE
Spanish-Language
Curriculum Helpline
800-728-7228, ext. 5768

JERRI SMITH
English-Language
Curriculum Helpline
800-728-7228, ext. 8100

Coming Events

October 13–16, 2014

PNEUMA, The Spirit of Christian Formation (formerly Western Christian Educators' Conference)
 Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center, Lake Tahoe, Nevada
Go and Do Likewise: Living the Way of Jesus in a Pluralistic World
 Find information and registration at: westernceconf.org

October 14–16, 2014

Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators (GLAUCE) and Great Lakes Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (GLAPCE) 2014 Fall Event
 Techny Towers, Techny, Illinois
God in a Digital World with Bruce Reyes-Chow
 Learn more at: apcenet.org

October 19–21, 2014

Oasis, sponsored by Mid-central APCE, Heartland Presbytery, and Synod of Mid-America.
 Embassy Suites, Kansas City International Airport
 More information coming soon at churchresourcecenter.org, or call (816) 923-5486.

February 4–7, 2015

Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) Annual Event
 Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland
Fear Not! with Brian Blount and Carol Howard-Merritt
 Information and registration at: apcenet.org



Growing in Grace & Gratitude workshops

Make plans to attend an introductory workshop in 2015 for the new children's curriculum, *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*. Workshops are planned across the country in partnership with presbyteries, seminaries, congregations, and organizations. Check the pcusa.org/curriculum website often for updates

to the list of dates and locations. For more information, contact Candace Hill at candace.hill@pcusa.org or (800) 728-7228, ext. 5166. Here is a list of confirmed dates and areas:

- January 31:** Presbytery of Genesee Valley, Rochester, New York
- January 31:** Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, Virginia
- February 4–7:** Association of Presbyterian Church Educators Annual Event, Baltimore, Maryland
- February 14:** Parish Resource Center, Long Island West
- February 28:** Presbytery of Charlotte and Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte, North Carolina
- March 14:** Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, St. Louis, Missouri
- March 19:** Presbytery of New Covenant, Houston, Texas
- April 18:** Presbytery of Newton, Randolph, New Jersey

Planning Christian education events in your area? Please tell us.



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Locate your POINT CMP regional representative or view the POINT network list at pcusa.org/point/directory. Contact one of these Christian education representatives for support of your educational ministry, especially for assistance with the interpretation and selection of resources.

Resource News

Faith Questions: Understanding the Bible

This four-session study for youth explores the questions: “Sixty-Six Books. How Can I Read the Bible to Better Understand God’s Word to Me?,” “Four Gospels. Why Do Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John Tell the Story of Jesus in Different Ways?,” “Twenty-One Letters: How Can I Grow in Faith and Discipleship by Reading Other People’s Mail?,” and “One Final Vision. Why Is Revelation So Difficult To Understand?”

Leader’s Guide: 690511 \$15.95

Faith Questions: Relationships

This four-session study for youth explores the questions: “Does God Love Me?,” “I Know We’re Supposed to Love Our Neighbors as Ourselves, But What If I Don’t Love Myself?,” “What Kind of People Does God Want Me to Be Around?,” and “How Can I Honor My Parents When I Don’t Feel Like I Love Them?”

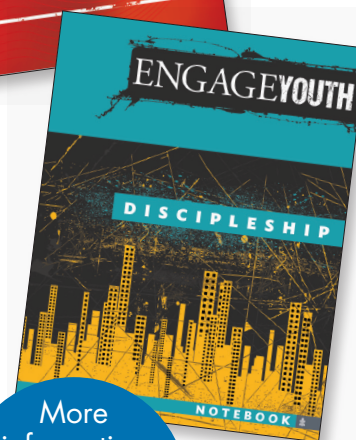
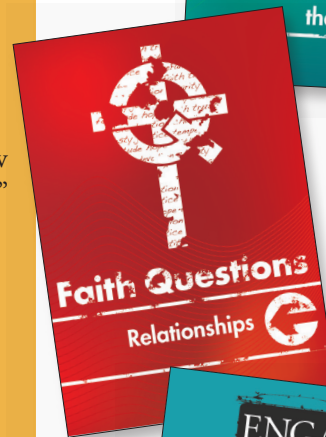
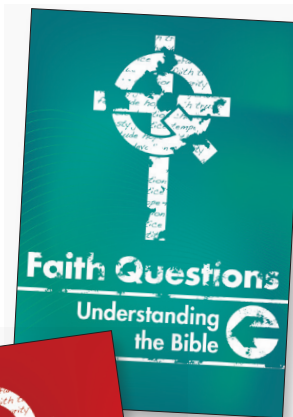
Leader’s Guide: 690507 \$15.95

Engage Youth: Discipleship

Based on *Engage* curriculum for adults, this new six-session resource encourages youth to spread the good news of Jesus Christ! The Leader’s Guide is scripturally based and easily accessible and includes youth-friendly learning activities. The participant’s Notebook serves as a personal journal for teens with opportunities for self-discovery as a disciple of Jesus.

Notebook: 912020 \$4.95
Leader’s Guide: 912019 \$8.95

Order resources online at pcusastore.com, or call (800) 533-4371.



More information available at pcusa.org/curriculum

