



PRESBYTERIANS ORGANIZED IN
Nurture & Teaching



Context varies in faith communities.

Consider the needs of all ages and stages.

Choose curricula and tools for context.

Network

Summer 2014 *News*

Considering Context

Factors to consider when choosing curriculum and planning educational ministries vary from congregation to congregation. Local, regional, and cultural influences affect the needs of faith communities. Your contextual impact list may include—but is not limited to—area schools on flexible schedules, extracurricular activities 24/7, youth and adults seeking relationships not religion, invisible parents before or after a child’s baptism, isolated or disenfranchised senior adults, and a weak or strong economic environment. Planning sustainable educational ministries, and selecting the curricula and tools to support your vision, requires churches to consider context.

What educational plans and tools are helpful when school is year-round, with breaks every six to eight weeks, instead of only the summer months?

- Offer mini-courses, short-term book studies, and thematic approaches for youth and adult faith formation. Tools to consider: *Faith Questions*, *Being Reformed*, *Engage*, *Body & Soul*, Lent or Advent devotional books and studies
- Develop a unit or seasonal approach for elementary children, with optional special content presented and repeated during school breaks.

Tools to consider: *We Believe*, *Feasting on the Word Curriculum*, *Awesome Adventures*, *We Believe Workshop*, and *BeTween*

- Include multigenerational education, worship, and celebrations throughout the year.

Tools to consider: *Mission Stories*, *I Know My Bible* in units with all ages, *Gifts of God: The Sacraments* video and other tools for sacrament education, *Glory to God* hymnfest

continued on page 2



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Considering Context</i>	1
<i>Letter from the Coordinator</i>	1
<i>Stay in Touch</i>	2
<i>Coming Events</i>	3
<i>Resource News</i>	4

Letter from the Coordinator

What does a church after the flames of Pentecost look and feel like? Can we describe our faith communities as fully alive, warm and welcoming, bursting forth, and filled with renewed energy and hope? Do we classify them as dull, limp, and almost done? Let us celebrate when our congregations are fully alive in Christ. If we are not experiencing the evidence, it is time to turn the Holy Spirit loose. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Candace C. Hill, coordinator, Educational Ministries



Considering Context

continued from page 1

How do you plan for individuals and families involved in extracurricular activities 24/7?

- Send *We Believe* “For the Home” and the link to extra, interactive activities online or “Tools for Ordinary Time: Prayer” by e-mail.
- Use *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* components *Conversations on the Feast* and *Joining the Feast* to help households make connections between education, worship, and mission anytime and anywhere.
- Introduce youth, adults, and volunteers to Opening Doors to Discipleship, online leader and discipleship courses.

When, where, and how will your congregation address cultural and generational needs, such as youth and adults seeking relationships not religion, invisible parents before or after a child’s baptism, isolated or disenfranchised senior adults, and a weak or strong economic environment?

- Create a culture that nurtures relationships of respect, love, and support through mutual, lifelong partners and mentors of children, youth, and adults beginning long before confirmation—from birth, after first visits or joining the community, and throughout life’s milestones.

- Consider *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* to provide a common biblical text and lens for relational faith sharing.
- Find ways to meet the needs of individuals on their terms at a popular coffee shop they frequent, through a devotion time during children’s choir practice, at a Zumba class after Bible study, with a service project that offers a place to contribute, and through the lows and highs of life.

What cultural influences affect your faith community? How can you plan for the variety of needs? What tools will you need to create a sustainable educational ministry? Consider your context.

Stay in Touch

CANDACE C. HILL
Educational Ministries
candace.hill@pcusa.org
800-728-7228, ext. 5166

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

July 19–26, 2014

The 109th New Wilmington Mission Conference

Westminster College,
New Wilmington, Pennsylvania
What does the Lord require of you: act justly, love mercy, walk humbly.
See complete information about this event for middle-schoolers, high-schoolers, young adults, and adults at: nwmcmmission.org

July 31–August 3, 2014

National Multicultural Church Conference

Historic Hilton, Ft. Worth, Texas
Journeying and Awakening into God's Diverse World
More information and registration available at: pcusa.org/ministries/multicultural/nmcc-2014/

August 8–9, 2014

P.L.A.C.E. (Presbytery Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment), Presbytery of Arkansas

Little Rock, Arkansas
Watch for more information and registration at: presbyteryofarkansas.org

August 11–14, 2014

Evangelism and Church Growth Conference

St. Pete Beach, Florida
Go Disciple Live
Information and registration available at: pcusa.org/ministries/evangelism-church-growth

August 15–16, 2014

Main Event, the Presbyteries of Sheppards and Lapsley and North Alabama

Independent Presbyterian Church,
Birmingham, Alabama
Keynote speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Caldwell
Information is available at: pslpcusa.org/Events.aspx

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

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.

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



PRESBYTERIANS ORGANIZED IN
Nurture & Teaching

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

Being Reformed: The Church and Social Issues

The Reformed and Presbyterian traditions—as expressed by theologians and confessional documents—strongly emphasize the church’s position in promoting social righteousness. This study considers the church’s role of advocating social issues in the public sphere and encourages readers to actively participate in God’s work of transforming the world.

Participant’s Book: 680742 \$4.95
Leader’s Guide: 680741 \$8.95

Being Reformed: The Great Ends of the Church

The six great ends are brought to life in significant and accessible ways in this study! Participants will explore the interconnected unity of the great ends, the challenges they pose, and how to show and tell the gospel of God’s church.

Participant’s Book: 680822 \$4.95
Leader’s Guide: 680821 \$8.95

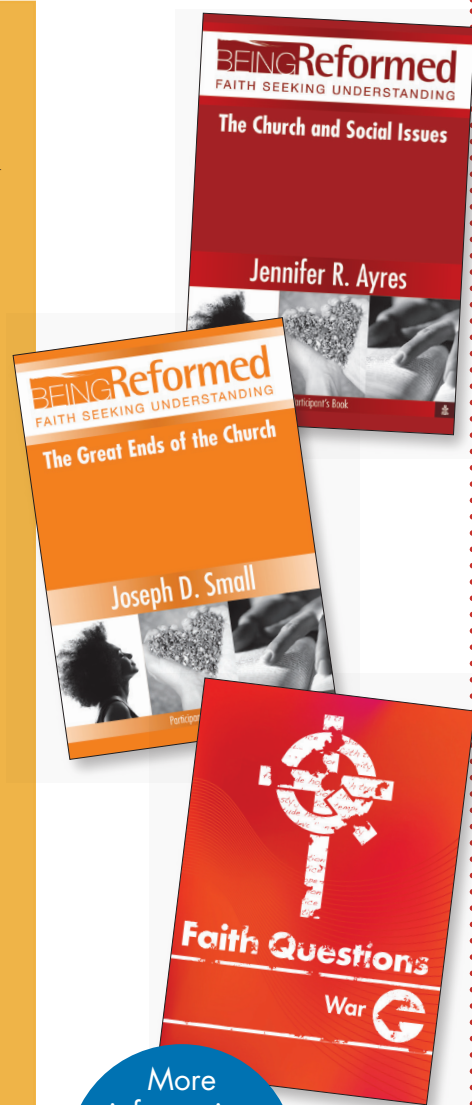
*Find a complete list of *Being Reformed* studies at store.pcusa.org/being-reformed

Faith Questions: War

This four-session youth mini-course explores the questions “Is War a Violation of ‘Thou Shall Not Kill?’,” “Why Is There So Much Killing in the Bible?,” “Is There Ever a Good Reason for War?,” and “We Have a Loving God, So Why Is There Hate?”

Leader’s Guide: 690504 \$15.95

Order resources online at store.pcusa.org or call (800) 524-2612.



More information available at pcusa.org/curriculum

