



Resource Center for Churches

## Resources for the Journey

Contact us: [www.resourcesforthejourney.org](http://www.resourcesforthejourney.org)

Volume 11 Number 2

May 2009

New AccuCut Dies include a 3D Angel and a border/crown template with cross cutouts. To see a complete list go to our website:

[www.resourcesforthejourney.org](http://www.resourcesforthejourney.org)

Click on AccuCut in the left column. The names and stock numbers listed there can be easily searched at [www.accucut.com](http://www.accucut.com) for more information about how they look and how they are sized.

### Summer Closure Dates

**Closing 4:00 p.m.,  
June 26.**

**Reopening 9:30 a.m.,  
August 4th.**

## Special Conference Issue

It is that time of year when things slow down at the Resource Center, which allows me to get out and about. I will be attending the United Methodist Annual Conference in St. Cloud, Tuesday, May 26 through Friday, May 29th. Sally will be here keeping the office open so come on in and get your materials for summer use or preview for fall use. We can schedule a year in advance so when you know your dates, tell us.

Shortly after the UMC Annual Conference, I will be at the United Church of Christ Conference, (Friday, June 5 & Saturday, June 6). Please note that I will be taking the AccuCut machine with me to both conferences so do not plan to use it on those dates. I will not be doing this every year, but as a new service I decided it was worth the extra effort to take it on the road.

As noted in the left column, summer closure dates have been set. We are closing the last Friday in June and opening the first Tuesday in August. This planned hiatus saves us some staff money and gives the building personnel a chance to do some repairs and a small painting project for us.

You may come in and check out items up until our closing date and keep them until we reopen. This used to seem like a great privilege, but reality is research shows that 3 weeks is a bad checkout period for people to remember to return items. Two weeks works great for memories, but would rarely be enough time for the type of materials we circulate. So we are allowing one month for most print and kit materials. Hopefully this will accommodate some of you who have monthly meetings that take you to or near the MN Church Center.

We still have a 10 day limit on previewing materials and video/DVD checkouts based upon dates of probable use. We want to serve your needs, but keep the items coming and going. When it is sitting unused in your office or church, it is not available to the next person who is earnestly seeking a program source.

We sometimes have trouble getting the word out about materials, so I urge you to check our website often and to sign up for direct delivery of this newsletter. We prefer to send it by email, but will still send paper copies as requested.

Our buying power is down a lot this year so we welcome donations of either materials or money. Remember if you donate something to us you have first use and free use for the life of the item.

And no matter what the budget, we do love feedback on where your priorities are in the collection building process.

Feature Article:

1

Search Institute  
Summer Asset  
Training Series

2

Thoughts about lev-  
els of commitment!

3

About us.

4

How to contact us  
and to sign up for  
newsletters..

## Search Institute Summer Asset Training Series

# Nurturing the Spirit of Youth

### A training developed by The Center for Spiritual Development in Childhood & Adolescent Search Institute

#### Goals and Objectives of this Workshop

Based on more than three years of scientific research directly involving young people, and a broad network of scholars, leaders, and practitioners in seventeen countries on six continents, this workshop addresses spiritual development as a core part of human development that occurs for all persons, regardless of their religious or philosophical beliefs or worldview. This highly interactive training will provide participants with the opportunity to explore core elements of spiritual development through the lens of their own personal experience, the experiences of youth throughout the world, and a growing body of research that shows that healthy spiritual development is a key component in the development of healthy and thriving young people. Participants will leave the workshop with practical strategies and effective tools for nurturing the positive outcomes of spiritual development in the lives of youth.

**Who Should Attend:** Parents, educators, trainers, and any youth-serving organization

**Length:** 1 full day (includes lunch and breaks)

**Price:** \$49 per person

**Materials:** Comprehensive fee includes all handouts, lunch, and snacks

Participants will:

- Review Search Institute's international research on spiritual development and its role in the lives of youth across the globe;
- Experience a safe space in which to explore spiritual development through reflecting on their own experiences;
- Examine a framework of spiritual development as a natural and essential part of a comprehensive approach to positive youth development; and
- ◆ Be able to create a supportive environment and conversation in which youth can freely share their own spiritual development regardless of their traditions and/or backgrounds

## Developmental Assets Hosted at Search Institute!

Search Institute **SPEAKING TRAINING** AND **Web:** [www.search-institute.org/training](http://www.search-institute.org/training)

**E-mail:** [vision@fairpoint.net](mailto:vision@fairpoint.net) **Phone:** 800-294-4322 **Mail:** P.O. Box 338, Gorham, ME 04038-0338

You all know about progressive resources like Living the Questions and The Thoughtful Christian, but here's a website you can recommend to churches who are looking for additional help with being a theologically-progressive voice in their community and in their education ministries. [Different Voice](http://www.differentvoice.com) is an ecumenical website for Christian educators which provides a daily email/blog, articles, file sharing, product reviews, and more. All of the content is currently free, with a "set your own membership fee" policy. The site is run by Tim Gossett and Sally Hoelscher, two United Methodist Christian educators in Iowa. Take a look, and if you have a links page on your own website, please link to them at <http://www.differentvoice.com>.

In an article entitled "Find Your Mission Strengths and Weaknesses" in [The Daily Voice](#) dated Wednesday, 02.18.09, written by Tim Gossett and sponsored/posted by DifferentVoice.com, I read an interesting article about his observations of four levels of commitment exhibited by supporters of the homeless shelter in his community. The levels range from the drop and go supplying of donations all the way to being invested in the advocacy for justice and are listed in Tim's article as:

1. Drop and Go—activities which stress donations, giving money or items, and little more than that
2. Work and Bond—activities which are hands-on, and which promote the growth of community between those participating
3. See and Learn—activities which stress interacting with a particular group of people, such as homeless persons, immigrants, or working poor, for the purpose of learning and mutual understanding.
4. Advocacy and Justice—activities that stress specific actions to promote social change, political policy, human rights, and other significant movements toward a more just world.

For more details go to the website [DifferentVoice.com](http://DifferentVoice.com) to find the article or email Tim. [tim@differentvoice.com](mailto:tim@differentvoice.com)

- ◆ I recently saw a similar listing of levels of commitment for church members and I suspect this model can be applied to almost any organization to which humans relate. Diane Olson, a local pastor and author, definitely uses similar levels to talk about advocacy for children. Diane Olson and Laura Dean F. Friedrich are the co-authors of [Weaving: A Just Future for Children.. An Advocacy Guide](#), Discipleship Resources, 2008. We have this in the collection and a couple of extra copies for sale. I highly recommend this book for all who care about the future of our children.

— Ginger Stemme

The UCC has used the 4 levels of commitment in their new Green Church program. Your Justice and Witness Team has four new ways your congregation can be recognized for its 'green' efforts. All congregations are encouraged to engage the 'green church / Earthwise' challenge at whatever their level of readiness and resources.

#### **The Earthwise Award Series:**

1. Green Church
2. Earth Church
3. Earthwise Commitment
4. Earthwise Congregation

The series is intended to support, guide, and assist congregations as they move forward with their 'green church' programs. For more information, a guide to this new series, and ideas for becoming an 'Earthwise' congregation, download the packet from the Justice and Witness page of the Conference web site - Earthwise Expectations, Green Ideas, and Green-Earthwise Recognition Series. You may also request information by contacting JW Team member, John Guttermann ([intpasj@me.com](mailto:intpasj@me.com); 651 485-3104).



## Resource Center for Churches

122 W. Franklin Avenue, Room 2  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

612-870-0861 or 888-293-9901 (toll free)

Email: [info@resourcesforthejourney.org](mailto:info@resourcesforthejourney.org)

Website: [www.resourcesforthejourney.org](http://www.resourcesforthejourney.org)

### *Your Partner in Ministry*

*The Resource Center for Churches partners with congregations in ministry by providing print and audio-visual resources, consultation services, training, and networking to facilitate the journey of faith.*

*It is an ecumenical ministry of the: Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota; Minnesota Annual Conference United Methodist Church; Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ; Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area; Synod of Lakes and Prairies (PCUSA).*

### *Staff*

*Ginger Stemme, Director  
Sally Vanderwerf, Resource Assistant*

### *Board*

*Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota: Bronwyn Clark Skov, Joanie Delameter, Minnesota Annual Conference, United Methodist Church: Victoria Rebeck, Gloria Roach Thomas, Diane C. Olson; Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ: Glen Herrington Hall (Secretary), Wade Zick, Trish Greeves; Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area: Jan Snell, Joanne Shingledecker; Synod of Lakes and Prairies (PCUSA): Diana Barber; At-Large: Ron Cottone (President), and Del Spitzer (UCC).*

## **NOTICE TO ALL RECIPIENTS:**

**You are receiving this in electronic copy unless you have specifically requested a paper copy or you are picking this up at a conference display.** We will continue to forward the newsletter electronically to each of the judicatories for distribution or placement upon their websites according to their preference and to individual emails on our dedicated distribution list.

We will post copies of the newsletter on our website:

[www.resourcesforthejourney.org](http://www.resourcesforthejourney.org).

If you want to be on the distribution list, please call 612-870-0861/888-293-9901 or email us at [info@resourcesforthejourney.org](mailto:info@resourcesforthejourney.org) to place your request.

—Ginger Stemme, Director