



## Maine Conference, United Church of Christ

### Maine School of Ministry: Convocation 2018

“Christian anti-Judaism and its impact on present-day Christian-Jewish relations”

**Saturday, June 30, 9:00am-3:00pm at the Maine UCC Conference Center**

One Weston Court, Suite 104, Augusta, ME 04330, Tel. (207) 622-3100 (draft 26May18 final)

**Convocation 2018** of the Maine School of Ministry will address an abiding concern of the Church: Christian anti-Judaism and its impact on present-day Christian-Jewish relations. Open and announced to the entire Maine Conference UCC and to its Denominational partners, the assembly will culminate the School’s 2018 June intensive course “**ChHi-Pb 2** Practicing Torah—Branches of Judaism” instructed by Dr. Deborah Goodwin. Attendees may (or may not) join “Branches of Judaism” students in preparing reading and writing assignments in advance. All may expect to develop their understanding of the Judaic foundation of Christian belief and practice and of the historical interactions between the two faiths, including the impact of Christian anti-Judaism on the Jewish community and on present-day Christian preaching and teaching. The June 30<sup>th</sup> assembly will unfold so:

**Arrival and Greetings** (9:00-9:30am, Maine Conference UCC Center, Augusta)

**Morning Session** (9:30-11:30am): Jews and Christians in Historical Perspective

- **Hour 1: Instructor presentation** (Dr. Goodwin) followed by discussion.
- **Hour 2: Student presentations** followed by discussion. Topic: *Scholars who study the Jewish-Christian encounter agree that Christian anti-Judaism was a necessary but not sufficient factor contributing to the Holocaust. Evaluate that claim in light of what you have read and discuss how it affects your views on Christian teaching and preaching.*
  - **Readings\*\***
    - Boys, “Jews and Christians in Historical Perspective,” pp. 39-74.
    - Salmon, *Preaching without Contempt*, “Introduction,” chs. 1-2.
    - UCC, “The Relationship between the UCC and the Jewish Community,” 1987.
  - **Recommended\*\***
    - Sanders, “Judaism and the Grand ‘Christian’ Abstractions: Love, Mercy, and Grace.”
    - Sandmel, et al., “Speaking Theologically...Together,” “Dabru Emet,” and “Jewish-Christian Relations in Historical Perspective,” in *Irreconcilable Differences?*
  - **Pre-Meeting Writing Assignment:** Based on Boys, the UCC’s 1987 statement, and Sanders, write a 600 word response to the morning session’s discussion topic.

**Luncheon Potluck** (11:30-12:30)

**Afternoon Session** (12:30-2:30): Addressing Latent Anti-Judaism in Our Worship

- **Hour 1: Instructor presentation** (Dr. Goodwin) followed by discussion.
- **Hour 2: Attendee presentations** followed by discussion. Topic: *Given that Jews and Christians have been burdened by “misshapen portraits” of one another, describe steps toward correcting such misconceptions you might take, either as an individual and faith leader.*
  - **Readings\*\***
    - Gospel of Matthew, chapter 15, pp. 1-28, chapter 23 complete.
    - Gospel of John, chapter 8, pp. 31-59.
    - Salmon, *Preaching without Contempt*, chs. 3-5.
  - **Recommended\*\***
    - Clark Williamson, *Has God Abandoned His People?* excerpts.
  - **Pre-Meeting Writing Assignment:** Based on the Matthew and John’s Gospel readings and on the Salmon reading, write a 600 word response to the afternoon session’s discussion topic.

**Farewells and Departure** (2:30-3:00)

\*\*Readings to be made available in advance to attendees who so request; email the Dean @ [roberthross@maineucc.org](mailto:roberthross@maineucc.org).

The Maine School of Ministry is a leadership development program of the Maine Conference UCC established in 2013 as the successor to the Conference’s Academy for Congregational Life and Leadership. The School was formed to respond to the growing need across our Conference, the region’s Conferences, and our denominational Partners for a regionally based, low cost, and sound program of theological education dedicated to preparing leaders for, and to supporting leaders, in our churches. The School aims to provide those who feel so moved from our own and from our Denomination Partner’s congregations the opportunity to explore and to pursue a call to authorized ministry or to spiritual formation per se. Students will thus include *members in discernment* with an Association of the Maine or other UCC Conference or with a Denominational Partner; *seekers after knowledge and understanding* per se; and *clergy and lay leaders* presently serving the church who wish to return to studies (sometimes termed recurrent education). All will experience guided inquiry across the School’s four teaching areas—Biblical studies, Church history, Theology/Ethics, and Practical theology—conducted around a seminar table, real or electronic, led by a master Instructor.