



*“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

Romans 12:2

**F**or United Methodists, the Christian life is a journey of faith — a process of being transformed by God’s grace into the likeness of God’s son, Jesus the Christ. **Christian education** — including both knowledge of Scripture and tradition and skills in practicing the means of grace and living as accountable disciples — **is essential to this journey of transformation.** Forming a faithful future through Christian education involves increasing our knowledge of God and the Christian faith, allowing God to transform our lives, and helping one another through mutual support and accountability. Faithfulness means participating in the spiritual disciplines and doing acts of service.

**The educational ministries seek to reach out** to all persons in love, relate them to God, nurture their faith and support them in living as disciples each day. Through Christian education, teachers growing in their own faith are identified and equipped to serve as mentors and role models for those they teach. Through Christian education, congregations discover who God is calling them to be and what God is calling them to do.

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**T**he United Methodist Church encourages congregations to celebrate the impact of Christian education. On a Sunday in September, congregations around the world celebrate Christian education ministries. **Celebrate the ways your congregation grows in faith** by recognizing teachers and leaders, dedicating your gifts to the teaching ministries of the church, assessing the health and direction of all your congregation’s education programs, and providing an opportunity for persons to pledge their commitment to continued growth and service. Providing an opportunity for persons to contribute financially in the West Michigan Conference is one way to secure a future for Christian education. **Half of the offering stays in your congregation and half goes to the conference** to be awarded to support first-time Christian education projects or trainings in other congregations or districts.

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*Giving to the Christian Education Sunday offering is one way to secure a future for Christian education.*