

You can't fish for people without **BAIT**

www.uccny.org/CastingYourNets/ Summer 2010

Welcome to your newly reformatted Casting Your Nets support guide. Four times each year, your CYN Steering Committee offers direction to help you grow CYN in your church. Written and edited by Rev. Lex Liberatore stpaulunited@verizon.net.

The CYN Event of the Year!

October CYN Annual Meeting brings it all together

There have been days this year where I've had to check to see which of the 50 states I'm actually in. It's not that I travel a lot. In fact, I hardly ever leave the state. Working to rejuvenate churches through Casting Your Nets On The Other Side (CYN), I'd swear sometimes I was in Missouri and not New York State. Missouri is called "The Show Me State," and many prospective congregations refuse to put down one dime or one ounce of effort towards CYN, until I "show them" (prove to them) that CYN will grow their church..

Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe... Go, your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him... (John 4:48, 50) If your church requires signs and wonders, how about all the new churches in the Conference **Southeast Region** putting their faith in CYN this fall. Better yet, look at the host congregation for the fall CYN Annual Meeting, **Emmanuel Friedens, UCC**, Schenectady, <http://emmanuelfriedens.org/>.

How about my congregation (<http://stpaulsuccattica.org>) for hints of new life coming from the Word. Then there's the excitement and energy the mere thought of CYN has brought to **Arcade Congregational, Faith UCC** in Williamsville and **Kenilworth UCC** in Kenmore.

CYN isn't like Miracle Grow®. You can't just open a box sprinkle it on your church and then go right along doing and being the same as you always have been and expect a different result. And as Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us, "Grace isn't cheap." If it were, it wouldn't be Grace. Our stubborn and stiff-necked ways are exactly what holds us back from becoming vital witnesses of Christ alive among and within us. I understand church budgets are tight; all the more reason to invest your limited resources prudently and faithfully. The NY Conference is so convinced that CYN is a key component to rebuilding our Conference, scarce resources have been invested to make CYN affordable to all our churches.

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Teacher, where do you live?" He said to them, "Come and see." (John 1:38-39a) CYN is about the Gospel, prayer and discernment. This isn't a cookie cutter program. You aren't doing forty days of exercises or reading a book. CYN is change that lasts and this kind of change takes time, commitment and faith. Come and see.

Rev. Dr. Laurie Hafner knows well the value that a Gospel focused and prayerful congregation can make in the vitality of a church community. As Pastor of Coral Gables Congregational Church <http://www.coralgablescongregational.org/> she has helped preside over unprecedented growth. Laurie will help integrate the five CYN focus areas (Mission, Fellowship, Invitation, Generosity and Worship) when she leads us in our CYN Annual Meeting, October 22-24 in Schenectady. This is the key event of the year for the CYN program. If you want to see signs and wonders, then come to the CYN Annual Meeting.



Rev. Dr. Laurie Hafner, keynote speaker and lead trainer at the CYN Annual Meeting, October 22-24 in Schenectady

Past participants at a CYN Annual Meeting have left feeling "Hopeful," "Excited," "Energized," and "Ready to get to work!" Bev Myers, **St. Paul's UCC**, Attica and co-chair of the Back-to-School Community Picnic (a CYN inspired outreach to the neighborhood around the church - a free community picnic with school supplies, back packs, food, games and hair cuts for elementary kids and their families) describes the importance of the CYN Annual Meeting for her, "I came to the CYN Annual Meeting because I felt there was more to being a Christian than attending church on Sunday. I wanted to become involved in doing what God intended for me to do. If you feel like me, then you must attend a CYN Annual Meeting. This is an exciting way to explore, share and create ideas to use in God's work. All you need is a spark to start a fire. CYN was my spark."

The final word comes from Rev. Michael Caine, CYN developer, "In order to grow towards a more abundant life, we need to... risk being touched, even hurt, by life.; to accept we're here because there's work to be done—a mess to be straightened out, and we need to try new ways... Because that real world is always changing. Often confusing. Sometimes mysterious. But it's the only place God has given us to do ministry. And we can only get from here to there one step at a time. And discover in route that we're never alone." See you in Schenectady!

CYN Annual Retreat Set For October 2010

Attention CYN member churches, and any church who wishes to join the NY Conference CYN program. The Casting Your Nets Annual Retreat is set for Friday evening October 22 through Sunday afternoon October 24.

This is the major yearly event for member churches in the NY Conference CYN program. Experience a full weekend of powerful witness and tools to take home and put into practice in order to help your church hear and obey the voice of the Stillspeaking God. Rev. Dr. Laurie Hafner, national church revitalization leader, frequent CYN fishing school contributor and Pastor of Coral Gables Congregational Church will help us integrate the five CYN focus areas (Mission, Fellowship, Invitation, Generosity and Worship).

CYN Annual Retreat

October 22-24, 2010

**Emmanuel-Friedens UCC
Schenectady**

Visit <http://uccmetrosuffolk.org/contact/registration-casting-9-17-2010.htm> to register or clip and send in form below

Registration Deadline: September 17

DON'T MISS THE CYN MEMBER EVENT OF THE YEAR!

October 22 – 24, 2010 Casting Your Nets Statewide Annual Meeting

Led by Laurie Hafner, Pastor, Coral Gables Congregational Church, & featuring NY Conference Staff and CYN Statewide Leaders

Name _____

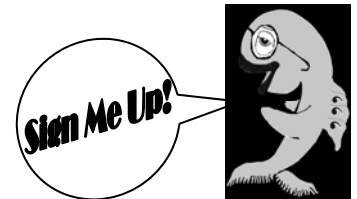
Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Phone Number (With Area Code) _____

Church _____



Host Church: **Emmanuel Friedens UCC, 218 Nott Terrace, Schenectady.** Accommodations: **Holiday Inn, 100 Nott Terrace.**

Plan to arrive any time after 5 PM on **Friday, October 22.** We'll depart after worship and lunch on **Sunday, October 24.**

For those registering by **Friday, September 17,** cost for the full weekend (double occupancy at the hotel), including meals is:

FREE, *if* your church is registered as a full CYN member church:

- ⇒\$300 for churches under 100 members
- ⇒\$500 for churches 100 – 250 members
- ⇒\$750 for churches of 250 or more

Checks payable and send with registration: **NY Conference UCC, 5575 Thompson Rd, Dewitt, NY 13214, Attn: Patty R.**

What a deal!
All 5 of us
PLUS our
pastor for
\$500!

Not only does your pastor and up to five lay persons get the weekend at no extra charge, you receive one full year of CYN support including: the CYN quarterly resource newsletter, a CYN consultant to help move things along at your church, plus a regional CYN winter meeting and a special session as part of the NY Conference Annual Meeting in June.

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The cost is \$175/person for any one who *is not* part of a CYN Member Church.

Additional fees – including participants from Member Churches:

\$20/person for registration after September 17

\$100/person for a single room

YOUR CYN PLANS HIT A SNAG?

Your consultant is just a phone call or email away!

SOUTHEAST REGION

Bonnie Miller: (914-997-7322)
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WESTERN/GVA/SUSQUEHANNA

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