

Marks of Faith Maturity

Eugene Roehlkepartain, *The Teaching Church*, Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.

- Trusting and believing in God
- Experiencing the fruits of faith
- Integrating faith and life
- Seeking spiritual growth
- Nurturing faith in community
- Holding life-affirming values
- Advocating social change
- Acting and serving

From "Effective Christian Education", Search Institute, 1990 - a national US study across 6 mainline denominations - Disciples of Christ, ELCA, PCUSA, UCC, UM.

UCA Assembly Christian Education Reference Committee, 2010

Christian education involves intentional nurture, teaching and learning individually and in community for lifelong Christian discipleship in local and global contexts.

Priority needs in Christian education for our church:

- Learning to live faithfully as Christian disciples in a multi-cultural and multi-faith world.
- Learning how to reflect theologically and act in response to the big issues of the day.
- Understanding core Christian beliefs and practices including those central to the Uniting Church.
- Recruiting and equipping teachers/leaders to nurture children and young people in the Christian faith.
- Creating appropriate learning opportunities, particularly for children and young people, to grow in faith.
- Assisting leaders to develop inclusive learning communities able to share faith stories, insights and challenges on their Christian journey.
- Developing and maintaining a Christian ethos within UCA Schools and Agencies.
- Expanding our understanding of the Bible and our capacity to interpret it for our lives.
- Developing our capacity to articulate our faith with others.
- Fostering leadership for fresh expressions of being church.
- Helping people discern their gifts and be equipped to offer them in service, leadership or ministry.
- Exploring the spiritual dimension of life and ways to enhance our Christian spirituality.