

Soul Purpose

Re-Imagining Faith Formation



Faith Formation circa 1325

Faith Formation Today...

*What Challenges
Do You Face?*



What is Faith Formation?...

“The church’s educational mission is to **provide an environment** that cultivates an intimacy with God through **one’s mind as well as one’s heart** that continues through the **lifespan.**”

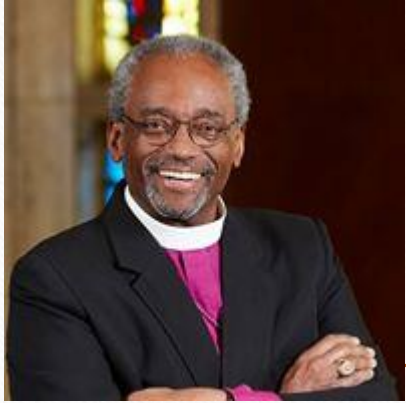
Sharon Ely Pearson, The Christian Educator’s Handbook

What is Faith Formation?...



“Churches that practice intentional faith development know that it is always about **content and relationships**. Ideas change people, and people change people. **Transformation** comes through **learning in community**.”

Robert Schnase, Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations



What is Faith Formation?...

Through The Episcopal Church, God Transforms All People...

- ...By **developing** new learning experiences, **equipping** disciples for life in a world of secular challenges and carefully **listening** for the words of modern sages who embody the teachings of Christ.
- ...By seeking out diverse ways to **empower** action, evangelism, advocacy and collaboration in our **contemporary** global context.

The Charter for Life-Long Christian Formation, The Episcopal Church

What is Faith Formation?...



“The really inconvenient thing about being Christian is the fact that **God is revealed in other people**, and other people are annoying...But I think the experience of **bumping up against other people has changed me** in ways that I never could have been changed if I was just reading books and practicing meditation.”

Nadia Bolz-Weber, [Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People](#)

Finding the Balance



Ideas

Information

Content

Mind

People

Experience

Relationship

Heart



Goal?



Transformation

Transformation



Transformation involves a deep, structural shift in thought, feelings, and actions.

It is a shift in understanding that dramatically and irreversibly alters our way of being in the world.

Faith Formation Check-List

Inside the Box...

- Bible Study
- Book Discussions
- Speakers on a Theme
- Workshop Series
- Pop-Up Topics – e.g. transitions or immigration
- Music Offering/Concerts
- Church as Art Gallery



See hand-out for complete list & instructions for use.

Faith Formation Check-List

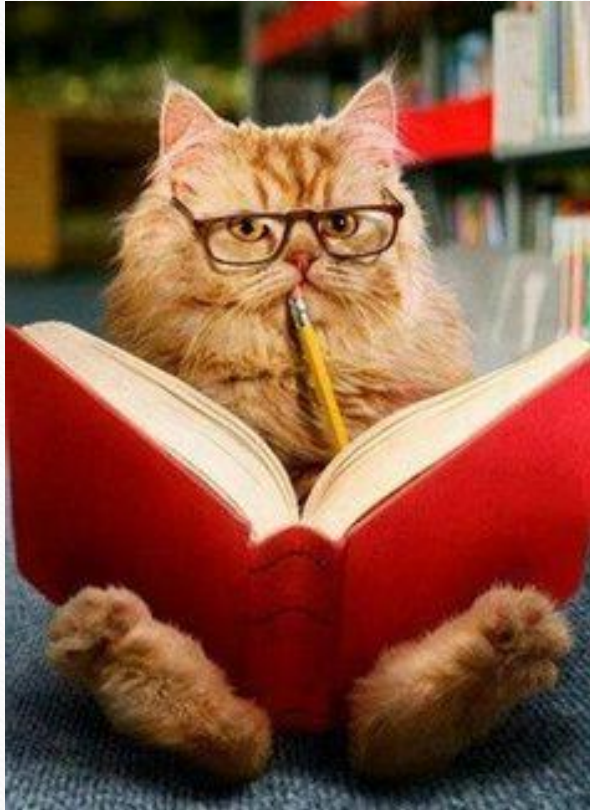
Outside of the Box...

- Agricultural Ministries/Community Garden
- Digital e.g. Blog, Daily Devotional, etc.
- Community Service/Outreach Opportunities
- Creation Care
- Soup Kitchen/Feeding Program
- Labyrinth Practice
- Retreats



See hand-out for complete list & instructions for use.

Let's Get Meta



Every Time We Gather...

- Warm welcome/Getting-to-Know-You Time
Community Building/Loving Atmosphere
 - Content/Ideas/Activity
- Time for Personal Reflection/Debrief
 - Group Sharing Opportunities
- Next steps (More opportunities for growth/connection)



But Wait!... There's More

- ❑ **Faith Formation E-newsletter** – go to www.ecww.org – scroll down to the bottom of the home page and subscribe
- ❑ **Children & Families** – Children's Commission
Soon: children@ecww.org but for now: Valerie vreinke@ecww.org
- ❑ **Youth** – Denise dbrumbaugh@ecww.org
- ❑ **Young Adults & Campus Ministry** – Valerie vreinke@ecww.org
 - ❑ **Adults** – Sue Tait, Diocesan Resource Librarian & Maureen Crawford, Iona School resource@ecww.org
 - ❑ **Leadership Conference** - Today's Notes & Hand-outs
www.ecww.org – click on Conference banner, scroll down