

Faith Formation Summit 2

World Café Question:

What must our ministries do to nurture discipleship?

(Live the love and justice of Jesus)

- ✓ Make it relevant
- ✓ Provide service opportunities
- ✓ Identify, identity
- ✓ Ditch the “shoulds”
- ✓ All are equal
- ✓ Practice
- ✓ Ask for input/ideas
- ✓ Give the call to act
- ✓ Look up and look around
- ✓ Encourage enthusiasm
- ✓ Letting other people (new) try things
- ✓ Be welcoming and inclusive
- ✓ Jesus loves you, address justice in your community first, give children words for this
- ✓ Define discipleship
- ✓ Caring, loving children – create space to fall in love with Jesus
- ✓ Leadership requires integrity
- ✓ All are valued
- ✓ Vocational discernment for ALL
- ✓ Think of all we do as nurturing discipleship
- ✓ Think broadly and globally
- ✓ Orthodoxy<orthopraxy
- ✓ Set an example
- ✓ Give permission to make mistakes
- ✓ Engage
- ✓ Integrate technology
- ✓ Corporate confession, societal confession, things are as they are because some benefit from injustice
- ✓ Be forgiving with / of each other
- ✓ Stop doing what you are “supposed” to do and focus on the meaning
- ✓ Teach good followship by example, good followers can be good leaders.
- ✓ Get all ages to consider what the texts mean today
- ✓ Apply scripture lessons to today’s situations
- ✓ Build common purpose / mission
- ✓ Leave fear at the door!

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World Café Question:

What are signs of hope you currently see for faith formation ministries?

- ☆ Back to the basics of love!
- ☆ Noisy offering
- ☆ Gaps make space for kids to step into worship leadership
- ☆ Networking with colleagues
- ☆ Experiencing joy, youth leadership
- ☆ Hunger for the texts, bible literacy
- ☆ Greater playfulness and experimentation
- ☆ Faith is contagious!
- ☆ Youth forming bonds
- ☆ More men participating
- ☆ Youth and children leading Sunday morning worship
- ☆ Lay led offerings
- ☆ Youth statements of faith, articulating the what and why of their beliefs, practices
- ☆ Willingness to change, patience, trust, honoring children
- ☆ ONA generation
- ☆ Exciting music
- ☆ Ability to push the envelope, tackle the tough topics.
- ☆ Kids bringing friends
- ☆ #Youth4Youth
- ☆ Watching children grow up in church
- ☆ Children increasing their comfort level at church
- ☆ Events like this! Intentionality. Recognition of paradigm shifts
- ☆ Deepening of youth activities, incorporating the core values of the Christian faith
- ☆ VBS
- ☆ Youth present because of desire, not require

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World Café Question:

What can we do to deepen Intergenerational relationships that cultivate faith formation?

- * Worship resources for all ages (mandalas, fidgets, etc.)
- * Involve everyone in daily/regular activities (church clean up, etc.)
- * Going deeper- hand out for sponsors and Confirmands
- * Have youth make announcements
- * Clear invitation and claim it as their own
- * Intergenerational drum circle
- * Provide opportunities:
- * Bring a grandchild Sunday
- * Youth service days/trips
- * IG Birthday parties
- * Dinners, summer suppers
- * Telling stories with one another
- * Lifelong journey for spirituality
- * Milestones ministry
- * Include all ages formally, bylaws and constitution
- * Current relevance, generational experiences
- * Power sharing, look to other contexts where this happens, for example, community theater, etc.
- * Communion, age appropriate servers
- * Invite older members to attend children's events
- * Highlight the WHY- NOW!, all on board, all able to articulate, not "so they can do x instead"
- * Classic dinner party- invite seniors of the church to dinner prepped and served by youth
- * Service project(s) during coffee hour
- * Intentional pairing of child/adult
- * Do away with the "kids table" at coffee hour
- * Competitive challenges, bake-off etc.
- * Confirmation small groups in church member homes
- * Involve children in worship: acolytes, bell ringers, baking bread, call to worship, offering, etc.
- * Intergenerational pageant(s)
- * Children's message- A message for all ages
- * Homeless dinner in preparation for a night without a home for the youth group
- * Create a Playground.

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World Café Question:

What ideas (or strategies) for new collaboration with new (or familiar) partners can you imagine?

(These suggest new partnerships within and outside the church)

- Ecumenical youth ministry groups or / and Confirmation journey experiences
- Interfaith connections with nested congregations (for example, a Jewish community which meets in a church where a Rabbi preaches the sermon several times a year, etc.)
- Soup kitchen partnerships, Food pantry ministry, local farmers enable gleaning fields for pantry or free farm market experiences, etc. Chocolates contributed to add sweetness to the pantry.
- Community labyrinth opportunities with the creation of “temporary”, outdoor labyrinth. (rope lights, mason jar luminaria etc.)
- Unite stakeholders with a common goal to meet an unmet community need.
- Diversity of art programs and engagement-drum circles, sacred images scavenger hunts, photography to capture the beauty of creation, etc.
- Intentional stewardship and generosity development with children and families- giving envelopes, suggested practices for children’s giving.
- Community service among ‘sister’ congregations such as homeless awareness sleep-outs, etc.
- Serving Sunday experiences connect congregation members of all ages with community partners
- Senior center gardening, garden cart offers available produce from a community garden to those in need, etc.
- Ecumenical worship on “low-attendance” Sundays (Sunday after New Year, Memorial Day weekend, etc.) with special themes such as “bike” Sunday.
- Repurpose an unused parsonage for Young Adult Service Community (YASC) rather than rental
- Dinner with our Muslim brothers and sisters, at church, at a mosque.
- Response to community crisis- anticipated or unanticipated where resources within the church are mobilized for community needs.
- Ecumenical choir
- Temporary housing or no freeze shelter within the church
- Daily, weekly, or monthly community lunches that transition to different houses of worship monthly

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World Café Question:

What contributes to a culture of creativity or spirit of innovation in faith formation?

- Why? (What is the why?)
- Let uninhibited children lead.
- Don't be afraid to fail.
- It's ok to have fun.
- Open hearts.
- Affirmation and encouragement.
- Visuals. Multiple intelligences.
- Open ideas without limited focus.
- Going outside the book.
- Open-ended questions.
- Don't be afraid to let some things go.
- Music and drawing.
- Living through the arts- incorporating the arts.
- Agenda free (and vice-versa) time. Conversely, creating time limits to create intentional design sprints.
- Nurturing the seeds that sprout.
- Adapt.
- Creating opportunities for connections.
- Imagination.
- Inviting all.
- Walk in their shoes.
- Space for individual expression of Christ.
- Let Spirit guide spirits.
- Stay open to change.
- Pre-recording activities for all.
- Find ways to incorporate technology / multimedia.
- Assets to do and boundaries to inhibit/work around.
- Gratitude.
- Listen to the kids.
- Praygrounds.
- Set aside judgement.
- Find ways to grieve loss, tradition is powerful. Manage nostalgia.
- Space for all voices to be heard.
- "That's good, what could be better?"

