

# Vital Formation Within the Church Setting

A vital church that clearly demonstrates vision, direction & identity in each of these practices contributes greatly to the shaping of faith for all ages.

## Categories:

1. **WORSHIP:** *Anticipates Divine presence & directive; offers hope; intends to please God; invites congregants' expressions of emotion and gifts and talents; informs & enriches faith; is meaningful & engaging for all generations, engages ritual and sacrament.*
2. **CARE and RELATIONSHIPS:**  
[Within the church] *Demonstrates genuine concern for one another's-needs, shut-ins, sickness, losses, etc.; Celebrates & comforts appropriate to situation, recognizes life changes and milestones; Creates a culture for story sharing & careful listening.*  
[Beyond the church] *Discerns & responds to needs of the wider community; inspires relationship building.*
3. **GENEROSITY AND STEWARDSHIP:** *Nurtures abundance mentality, recognizing wealth of God's resources for God's mission; Attends to the aesthetic & functional care of a welcoming place—"church self-esteem;" and provides opportunities for sharing gifts & talents.*
4. **LEADERSHIP:** *Encouraging & equipping for ministry; embraces challenge & experimentation; helps people discern their ministry assets: gifts, talents & resources; is resilient & adaptive to variety of experiences of life together: conflicts, changes, etc.*
5. **DISCIPLESHIP:** *Accepts call to practice hospitality, to affirm discipleship in others, to live in the way of Jesus, understands life-long faith formation & the congregation's call and responsibility to nurture personal faith as a process of individuals becoming the person God created and calls each one to be.*