



Foundations in Lifelong Faith Formation Program

*A new vision of faith formation for the 21st century
A new set of faith formation practices and approaches for all ages*

Every church wants vibrant, life-transforming faith formation for all ages and generations that promotes lifelong faith growth and discipleship. Our 21st century world presents congregations and their leaders with significant challenges, but also with new possibilities for creating dynamic faith formation.

The **Vibrant Faith Institute** is designed for leaders who care about the future of faith formation in their churches —whether they are full time, part time, or volunteer leaders. You may be a pastor or faith formation director or coordinator of children, youth, adult, or family ministry.

The **Vibrant Faith Institute** will help leaders embrace a new vision *and* develop a new set of practices for faith formation with all ages in your church. You will learn how to:

- ◆ engage all generations intergenerationally
- ◆ nurture family faith and equip parents to transmit faith to their children
- ◆ promote faith maturing from childhood through older adulthood
- ◆ develop missional outreach to the unaffiliated and uninvolved and invite people into discipleship and participation in the faith community
- ◆ utilize digitally enabled approaches in faith formation with all ages and generations

The **Vibrant Faith Institute** is an online approach to educating leaders that includes the following features:

- ◆ online live presentations conducted by experts in the field of faith formation
- ◆ self-paced online learning sessions with selected readings, videos, and online resources
- ◆ an online learning community
- ◆ practical activities and resources to apply the knowledge, practices, and skills to faith formation in your church

The one-year, three-part **Foundations in Lifelong Faith Formation Program** provides leaders with the essential knowledge, practices, and skills for promoting lifelong faith growth and discipleship in the church community, at home, in age groups, and online. Leaders will design and implement a plan for vital and vibrant faith formation with all ages and generations.

- ◆ Part 1. Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century
- ◆ Part 2. Designing Lifelong Faith Formation
- ◆ Part 3. Leading Faith Formation in the 21st Century

New Foundations Programs begin in January and September. Each part is ten weeks in length which includes three online live presentations. Tuition for the whole program is \$750 (books additional). Register at www.vibrantfaith.org/vfi.

Vibrant Faith Institute courses are taught by national leaders in faith formation who are experienced educators, authors, consultants, and program designers.

Contact Us for More Information

Contact John Roberto, Institute Coordinator: jroberto@lifelongfaith.com.
Visit Vibrant Faith at www.vibrantfaith.org

Curriculum

Course 1. Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century

Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century introduces the five elements of the new faith forming ecology which form the foundation for developing a vibrant, faith forming congregational culture in the 21st century. This ecology is designed to: 1) engage all generations—intergenerationally; 2) nurture family faith and equips parents to transmit faith at home; 3) address the unique needs of age groups—children, youth, and adults; 4) develop missional outreach to the unaffiliated and uninvolved and invite people into discipleship and participation in the faith community; and 5) utilize digitally-enabled strategies for faith formation.

Book

Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century. John Roberto. Cheshire, CT: Lifelong Faith Associates, 2015.

Sessions

1. Live Presentation #1. The New Faith Forming Ecology
2. A Vision of Faith Formation for the 21st Century
3. Faith Forming Ecology: Intergenerational
4. Faith Forming Ecology: Family
5. Faith Forming Ecology: Life Stages
6. Faith Forming Ecology: Missional
7. Live Presentation #2: 21st Century Approaches to Faith Formation
8. Developing a Holistic Lifelong Faith Formation Plan
9. Developing a Holistic Lifelong Faith Formation Plan
10. Live Presentation #3. Integration

Course 2. Designing Faith Formation for the 21st Century

Designing Faith Formation focuses on designing and implementing a lifelong faith formation plan to promote faith maturing from childhood through adulthood. Discover models and practices for becoming intentionally **intergenerational** and learn how to design intergenerational strategies, programs, and activities. Discover approaches and strategies for **family** and **parent** faith formation and learn how to design faith formation for families and parents at home, at church, and online. Discover how to use 21st century approaches and practices for designing faith formation for each **life stage**. Discover how to develop **missional** outreach and relationship building with the unaffiliated and uninvolved, and learn how to design pathways into discipleship and engagement in the faith community.

Book

Faith Formation with a New Generation. John Roberto with Lisa Brown, Tanya Eustace Campen, Lynn Barger Elliott, and Lee Yates. Cheshire, CT: Lifelong Faith Associates, 2018.

The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation. Dorothy Linthicum,, Jim Merhaut, Kyle Oliver, Janet Schaeffler, and John Roberto. Cheshire, CT: Lifelong Faith Associates, 2015.

Sessions

1. Live Presentation #1. Intergenerational and Family Faith Formation
2. Designing Intergenerational Faith Formation – Part 1
3. Designing Intergenerational Faith Formation – Part 2
4. Designing Family Faith Formation – Part 1
5. Designing Family Faith Formation – Part 2
6. Live Presentation #2. Life Stage and Missional Faith Formation
7. Designing Life Stage Faith Formation – Part 1 (Children, Youth, Adults)
8. Designing Life Stage Faith Formation – Part 2 (Children, Youth, Adults)
9. Designing Missional Faith Formation
10. Live Presentation #3. Integration

Course 3. Leading Faith Formation in the 21st Century

Leading Faith Formation in the 21st Century presents an approach to Christian leadership that has two essential elements: internal (heart and soul) and external (practices and skills). Christian leaders cultivate their inner life by developing a spirituality that sustains and guide their leadership—centered in a personal mission that is informed by a living faith in Jesus Christ and his mission and ministry. Christian leaders develop their external life by learning the knowledge and skills for the effective practice of leadership in congregations and in the world. This Leadership course guides leaders in

- strengthening their inner life and spirituality
- applying contemporary leadership thinking and practices to congregational life
- developing the skills for effective leadership
- learning the skills and processes for equipping leaders in the congregation

Books

Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory. Tod Bolsinger. IVP Books, 2016.

Recommended: *The Leadership Challenge: How to Make Extraordinary Things Happen in Organizations* (Sixth Edition). James Kouzes and Barry Posner. (Wiley, 2017)

Sessions

1. Live Presentation #1. Introduction to Systems and Adaptive Leadership
2. Canoeing the Mountains: Leading On the Map
3. Canoeing the Mountains: Leading Off the Map
4. Canoeing the Mountains: Relationships, Resistance, and Transformation
5. Live Presentation #2. Introduction to Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership & the Skills Toolkits
- 6 – 9. Leadership Skills Toolkits (topics selected by participants based on learning needs)
 - Developing Leaders
 - Managing Workflow and Projects
 - Leading Teams
 - Leading Change
10. Live Presentation #3. Integration