



Specialized Faith Formation Courses

*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** 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, dynamic 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 **Specialized Faith Formation Courses** focus on one element of lifelong faith formation—intergenerational, family, children and youth, adult, missional, and digital—and will help leaders develop in-depth knowledge, practices, and skills for designing faith formation for the whole congregation. Leaders will design strategies, programs, and activities to implement in their congregations.

- ◆ Adult Faith Formation
- ◆ Children and Adolescent Faith Formation
- ◆ Digitally Enabled Faith Formation
- ◆ Family Faith Formation
- ◆ Intergenerational Faith Formation
- ◆ Missional Faith Formation

Specialized Courses comprise 4 sessions—2 online live presentations and 2 self-paced learning sessions—offered monthly except for July and August. There is one book for each course and additional articles and practical tools. Each course includes a participant project that applies the learning from the course to the leader’s church.

Tuition is \$150 per course (books additional). Register at www.vibrantfaith.org/vfi.

Specialized Courses are taught by national leaders in faith formation who are experienced educators, authors, consultants, and program designers. Each is a specialist in the course they teach.

Contact Us for More Information

Contact John Roberto, Institute Coordinator: jroberto@lifelongfaith.com.

Visit Vibrant Faith at www.vibrantfaith.org.

Courses

Faith Formation for the Seasons of Adulthood: Adult Faith Formation

Description: *Faith Formation for the Seasons of Adulthood* explores the unique life stages, life situations, and spiritual-religious journeys of four seasons of adulthood— young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, and older adults; guides the application of effective practices and approaches for faith formation with each season of adulthood; facilitates the design of a faith formation plan for the seasons of adulthood with a variety of strategies, programs, and activities; and provides methods and tools for utilizing digitally-enabled strategies in adult faith formation.

Course Sessions

1. Live Presentation: Practices and Approaches for Adult Faith Formation
2. Application: Exploring Approaches for Adult Faith Formation (online session)
3. Live Presentation: Developing Adult Faith Formation
4. Application: Designing Adult Faith Formation Programming (online session)

Reading: *The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation*. Dorothy Linthicum, Jim Merhaut, Kyle Oliver, Janet Schaeffler, and John Roberto. Cheshire, CT: Lifelong Faith Associates, 2015.
(www.LifelongFaith.com)

Faith Formation for a New Generation: Children’s Faith Formation

Description: *Faith Formation for a New Generation* explores the unique life tasks, needs, interests, and spiritual journeys of children and young adolescents; guides the application of effective practices and approaches for faith formation with children and young adolescents; facilitates the design of a faith formation plan with programs, activities, and strategies; and presents digitally enabled methods, practices, and approaches for faith formation.

Course Sessions

1. Live Presentation: Practices and Approaches for Children’s Faith Formation
2. Application: Exploring Approaches for Children’s Faith Formation (online session)
3. Live Presentation: Developing Children’s Faith Formation
4. Application: Designing Children’s Faith Formation Programming (online session)

Reading: *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.
(www.LifelongFaith.com)

Families at the Center of Faith Formation: Family Faith Formation

Description: *Families at the Center of Faith Formation* explores how parents and the family are the single most important influence on religious transmission and faith practice; and presents eight foundational strategies for family faith formation: 1) discovering God in everyday life, 2) forming faith at home through the life cycle, 3) forming faith through milestones, 4) celebrating seasonal events through the year, 5) encountering God in the Bible through the year, 6) connecting families intergenerationally, 7) developing a strong family life, and 8) empowering parents and grandparents as faith formers. Leaders will design one or more strategies to create new or enhanced programming that engages families at church, at home, and in the community.

Course Sessions

1. Live Presentation: Practices and Approaches for Family Faith Formation
2. Application: Exploring Approaches for Family Faith Formation (online session)
3. Live Presentation: Developing Family Faith Formation
4. Application: Designing Family Faith Formation Programming (online session)

Reading: *Families at the Center of Faith Formation*. Leif Kehrwald, John Roberto, Gene Roehlkepartain, and Jolene Roehlkepartain. Cheshire, CT: Lifelong Faith Associates, 2016.
(www.LifelongFaith.com)

Generations Together: Intergenerational Faith Formation

Description: *Generations Together* explores the role of the intergenerational faith community in developing vibrant faith in people of all generations by presenting the theory, research, and principles of intergenerational faith formation; guiding the application of practices and models for becoming an intentionally intergenerational faith community; and presenting approaches and strategies for 1) utilizing intergenerational events and experiences, such as Sunday worship, to form faith in all ages, 2) connecting the generations, 3) infusing intergenerational relationships and experiences into existing age-group programs, and 4) designing new intergenerational programs and experiences.

Course Sessions

1. Live Presentation: Practices and Approaches for Intergenerational Faith Formation
2. Application: Exploring Approaches for Intergenerational Faith Formation (online session)
3. Live Presentation: Developing Intergenerational Faith Formation
5. Application: Designing Intergenerational Programming (online session)

Reading: *Generations Together: Caring, Celebrating, Learning, Praying, and Service Faithfully*. Kathie Amidei, Jim Merhaut, and John Roberto. Cheshire, CT: Lifelong Faith Associates, 2014. (www.LifelongFaith.com)

Missional Faith Formation

Description: The **Missional Faith Formation** course presents research on the lives and needs of the unaffiliated and uninvolved. Discover models and examples of missional faith formation—outreach, relationship building, and faith experiences—that you can use in your congregation and community. Learn how to design projects and initiatives to connect with the unaffiliated and uninvolved. Discover models and examples of missional pathways for people to consider or reconsider the Christian faith, to encounter Jesus and the Good News, and to live as disciples in a faith community. Learn how to design missional pathways for the people in your community.

Course Sessions

1. Live Presentation #1: Exploring the Lives of the Spiritual but not Religious and the Unaffiliated, and Introducing Missional Faith Formation
2. Application: Exploring Missional Outreach and Faith Formation
3. Live Presentation #2: Developing Missional Faith Formation: Practices and Models of Outreach and Discipleship Formation
4. Application: Designing a Plan for Missional Faith Formation

Reading: *The Digital Cathedral: Networked Ministry in a Wireless World*. Keith Anderson. New York: Church Publishing, 2015.