



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.

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

Cultivating the Faith of Youth

Description: *Cultivating the Faith of Youth* explores the unique life tasks, needs, interests, and spiritual journeys of adolescents; guides the application of effective strategies and approaches for promoting the faith growth of adolescents. The course facilitates the design of an adolescent faith formation plan with programs, activities, and strategies for youth—including ways to incorporate digital methods and media into adolescent faith formation.

Course Sessions

1. Live Presentation: Practices and Approaches for Cultivating the Faith of Adolescents
2. Application: Exploring Approaches for Adolescent Faith Formation (online session)
3. Live Presentation: Applying Strategies for Cultivating the Faith of Adolescents
4. Application: Designing Adolescent Faith Formation Programming (online session)

Reading: *Cultivating the Teen Faith*. Edited by Richard Osmer and Katherine Douglass. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2018.

Faith Formation for a New Generation

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

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)

Faith Formation for the Seasons of Adulthood

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. The course guides the application of effective practices and approaches for faith formation with each season of adulthood; and facilitates the design of a faith formation plan for the seasons of adulthood with a variety of strategies, programs, and activities, including digital methods and media for 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)

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. The course guides the application of practices and models for becoming an intentionally intergenerational faith community; and presents 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)

Personalizing Faith Formation

Description: *Personalizing Faith Formation* provides the theory and practice for guiding individuals and families in discerning their spiritual and religious journeys and taking an active role in shaping their own personal trajectories of faith growth. The course will guide participants in designing (1) *pathways* to help people discern their faith journey and particular spiritual-religious needs and interests; (2) *playlists* of faith forming content and experiences tailored to their specific spiritual-religious needs; and (3) personalized faith growth *plans*. The course will present a variety of ways to integrate personalized faith formation into existing programs.

Course Sessions

1. Live Presentation: The Theory and Practice of Faith Formation Pathways
2. Application: Designing Faith Formation Pathways (online session)
3. Live Presentation: Developing Playlists of Faith Formation Content and Experiences
4. Application: Designing Faith Formation Playlists (online session)

Reading: To be determined

Strategies and Approaches for Family Faith Formation

Description: *Strategies and Approaches for Faith Formation* explores how churches can strengthen the family faith forming environment by focusing on family faith practice at home, family-involving church activities, and parent/grandparent formation. This course presents strategies and approaches for helping parents and grandparents grow in faith and discipleship; teaching parents and grandparents the practices for forming faith at home (celebrating rituals and milestones, praying, serving, learning the Christian faith, reading the Bible); providing faith forming experiences at church—learning, worship, service, and more; and connecting with families at home through online platforms.

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)