



Vibrant Faith Institute

*A vision of Christian faith formation for the 21st century
Faith formation practices and approaches for all ages and generations
Online training with real-life, practical application to your congregation
Become more confident as a leader in Christian faith formation*

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.

Vibrant Faith Institute courses are designed for leaders who care about the future of faith formation in their churches —whether they are full time, part time, or volunteer leaders. Pastors, faith formation directors and coordinators of children, youth, adult or family ministries can all benefit from our Vibrant Faith Institute courses.

Vibrant Faith Institute courses. . .

- Provide **practical knowledge and skills** for developing faith formation for all age and generations today!
- Are offered **online** and include two live sessions with the instructor and two self-paced study sessions (You will need access to high-speed internet and a computer, laptop, or tablet with audio and a video camera for the Live Sessions).
- Are designed to **fit into your busy schedule**. Each course is **four weeks** in length and follows a similar format:
 - Week 1: **Live Presentation** by the course instructor to present the principles and practices of the course topic (90 minutes on the Zoom video conference platform)
 - Week 2: **Self-Paced Online Study** and interaction with course participants
 - Week 3: **Self-Paced Online Study** and interaction with course participants
 - Week 4: **Live Discussion** to apply your learning from the course to your church or ministry setting (60 minutes on the Zoom video conference platform)
- Are taught by **national leaders in Christian faith formation** who are experienced educators, authors, consultants, and program designers.

Vibrant Faith Institute Courses

Faith Formation Foundational Courses

- Foundations of Lifelong Faith Formation
- Developing Lifelong Faith Formation
- Leadership for Lifelong Faith Formation

Faith Formation Practices Courses

- Family Faith Formation Practices and Approaches
- Intergenerational Faith Formation Practices and Approaches

- Children’s Faith Formation Practices and Approaches
- Adolescent Faith Formation Practices and Approaches
- Adult Faith Formation Practices and Approaches

Faith Formation Topical Courses

- Faith Formation in a Digital Age
- Milestones Faith Formation
- Pathways to Faith Maturity
- Using Visual Faith in Your Ministry
- Working with Teams as a Leader

Certificate in Lifelong Faith Formation

You can receive a *Certificate in Lifelong Faith Formation* from Vibrant Faith by completing:

- All of the **Foundational Courses**: *Foundations of Lifelong Faith Formation, Developing Lifelong Faith Formation, and Leadership for Lifelong Faith Formation*)
- Three of the **Practice and Design Courses**: *Family Faith Formation, Intergenerational Faith Formation, and one of the life stage courses - Children or Adolescent or Adult Faith Formation*
- Participation in the Live Presentation and Live Application Discussion for each course.
- Online interaction with the participants and instructor during each course.
- The required reading for each course (one book per course)
- The required project for each course (a practical project design that applies the course to your church)

Continuing Education Units

Vibrant Faith awards **one CEU** (continuing education unit) to signify successful completion of **each** course which includes participation in the Live Presentation and Live Application Discussion, the required reading (one book), online interaction, and the course project (a practical project design that applies the course to your church).

The Continuing Education Unit (CEU) is a unit that certifies participation in non-credit continuing education courses and programs. The primary purpose of the CEU is to provide a permanent record of educational accomplishments of an individual who has completed one or more significant educational experiences.

Vibrant Faith follows the International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET) guidelines for the recording of Continuing Education Units (CEUs). One CEU is 10 hours of participation in an organized continuing education experience.

Tuition

The tuition is \$150 per course. (Books are additional.) There is a \$100 discount for registering for all three **Foundational** courses at the same time. The reduced tuition is \$350 (rather than \$450).

Questions

If you have questions or need more information, please contact John Roberto, Vibrant Faith Institute Coordinator at jroberto@lifelongfaith.com.

Vibrant Faith Courses 2020

February 2020

Foundations of Lifelong Faith Formation (Instructor: Leif Kehrwald)

Adult Faith Formation Practices and Approaches (Instructor: Janet Schaeffler, OP)

Faith Formation in a Digital Age (Instructor: Rev. Kyle Oliver)

March 2020

Developing Lifelong Faith Formation (Instructor: John Roberto)

Intergenerational Faith Formation Practices and Approaches (Instructor: Dr. Kathie Amidei)

Milestones Faith Formation (Debbie Streicher)

April 2020

Children's Faith Formation Practices and Approaches (Instructor: Rev. Dr. Tanya Campen)

Adolescent Faith Formation Practices and Approaches (Instructor: Michael Droege)

May 2020

Leadership for Lifelong Faith Formation (Instructor: Rev. Dr. Von Clemans)

Family Faith Formation Practices and Approaches (Instructor: Leif Kehrwald)

Pathways to Faith Maturity (Rev. Kathy Pittenger)

June 2020

Working with Teams as a Leader (Instructor: Jim Merhaut)

Using Visual Faith in Your Ministry (Instructor: Dr. Nancy Going)

August 2020

Foundations of Lifelong Faith Formation (Instructor: Leif Kehrwald)

Children's Faith Formation Practices and Approaches (Instructor: Rev. Dr. Tanya Campen)

Adolescent Faith Formation Practices and Approaches (Instructor: Michael Droege)

October 2020

Developing Lifelong Faith Formation (Instructor: John Roberto)

Intergenerational Faith Formation Practices and Approaches (Instructor: Dr. Kathie Amidei)

Faith Formation in a Digital Age (Instructor: Rev. Kyle Oliver)

November 2020

Leadership for Lifelong Faith Formation (Instructor: Rev. Dr. Von Clemans)

Family Faith Formation Practices and Approaches (Instructor: Leif Kehrwald)

Adult Faith Formation Practices and Approaches (Instructor: Janet Schaeffler, OP)

February 2020

Foundations of Lifelong Faith Formation

Instructor: Leif Kehrwald

Foundations of Lifelong Faith Formation is designed to provide you (and your leadership team) with a vision for developing a culture of lifelong faith formation in your church. The future of faith formation in congregations will, in large part, be determined by how well churches provide holistic lifelong faith formation that is inclusive of all ages and generations and responsive to the diverse life situations, and spiritual and religious needs of people. This course presents 10 principles and practices that can inform your congregation as you create, sustain, and expand lifelong faith formation. The course guides you in interpreting your current approach to lifelong faith formation, building a model for lifelong faith formation, and strengthening the culture of lifelong faith formation in your church.

Topics

- Exploring the Principles and Practices of Lifelong Faith Formation in the 21st Century
- Analyzing Lifelong Faith Formation in the Congregation
- Developing a Model of Lifelong Faith Formation

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Thursday, February 6 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of February 10

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of February 17

Week #4: Live Discussion: Thursday, February 27 at 12 noon or 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Leif Kehrwald has worked in family ministry and faith formation on the local, regional, and national levels for more than forty years. Currently he serves as Parish Pastoral Administrator for St. Charles Catholic Church in Portland, OR. Prior to this he served on the staff of Vibrant Faith and the Center for Ministry Development. Leif has published several books and numerous articles on family life, family ministry, marriage, and youth ministry. He served as General Editor of *The Catholic Faith and Family Bible* (HarperOne, 2010). Leif has taught courses on family ministry, parish partnership and family spirituality at Dominican University (Chicago), Loyola University (Chicago), University of Dayton, and Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon.

Faith Formation in a Digital Age

Instructor: Rev. Kyle Oliver

Faith Formation in a Digital Age presents the opportunities for using digital approaches in faith formation by exploring models and methods of digital and hybrid (virtual and physical) faith formation and experiencing digital tools and media to use in faith forming experiences and activities. The course provides an overview of digital platforms and tools (website, social media, video, and audio creation tools) to use in your church. The course engages you in applying the methods and tools through a mini-project in faith formation.

Topics

- The Digital Transformation of Faith Formation
- Models of Digital and Hybrid Learning and Faith Formation
- Digital Platforms for Faith Formation

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Wednesday February 5, 2020 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of February 10

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of February 17

Week #4: Live Discussion: Thursday, February 27 at 12 noon or 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Rev. Kyle Oliver is an Episcopal priest and a doctoral student in Communications, Media, and Learning Technologies Design at Teachers College, Columbia University. He is a Research Associate and Adjunct Instructor at Virginia Theological Seminary and a Fellow of the Episcopal Church Foundation. His teaching and research focuses on how digital media tools and spaces are changing ministry leadership and faith practices. He uses media and technology to improve learning and build community in churches, seminaries, and other communities.

Adult Faith Formation Practices and Approaches

Instructor: Janet Schaeffler

The **Adult Faith Formation** course presents effective practices and approaches for faith formation with each season of adulthood - young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, and older adults – and the skills to design faith formation to address their unique life stages. The course guides you in designing a faith formation plan for one or more seasons of adulthood using a variety of strategies, programs, and activities, including methods and tools for utilizing digitally-enabled strategies in adult faith formation.

Topics

- The Seasons of Adulthood
- Practices and Approaches for the Seasons of Adulthood
- Methods and Strategies for Adult Faith Formation Today
- Designing Adult Faith Formation Programming

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Tuesday, February 4 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of February 10

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of February 17

Week #4: Live Discussion: Tuesday, February 25 at 12 noon or 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Sister Janet Schaeffler is an Adrian Dominican Sister who has worked in parish and archdiocesan ministry in faith formation. She is currently ministering as an adult faith formation consultant and presenter. The author of hundreds of articles and several publications in catechetical and parish ministry, her articles can be found in *Today's Parish* and *Religion Teacher's Journal* as well as several other parish ministerial publications. She teaches online courses through Boston College and the University of Dayton. One of her most recent books is *Deepening Faith: Adult Faith Formation in the Parish* (Liturgical Press, 2016). Janet created and publishes GEMS - a monthly newsletter flowing from an ongoing international adult faith formation best practices study (www.janetschaeffler.com).

March 2020

Developing Lifelong Faith Formation

Instructor: John Roberto

Developing Lifelong Faith Formation will guide you (and your leadership team) through a process for creating and implementing a lifelong faith formation plan with intergenerational, family, and children-youth-adult faith forming programming, guided by the ten principles and practices of lifelong faith formation (developed by John Roberto). A lifelong plan is both a vision for the future and a practical guide with lots of ideas and strategies that can guide faith formation with all ages and generations in your church. The course provides resources, strategies, and programming to implement a lifelong faith formation plan.

Topics

- Guided Application: Creating and Implementing a Lifelong Faith Formation Plan
- “Best Practice” Examples of Lifelong Faith Formation in Churches
- Development of an Infrastructure to Support Lifelong Faith Formation

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Tuesday, March 3 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of March 9

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of March 16

Week #4: Live Discussion: Thursday, March 26 at 12 noon and 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

John Roberto is on the leadership team of Vibrant Faith Ministries where he serves as the coordinator of training services. He works as a consultant to churches and national organizations, teaches courses and conducts workshops in faith formation, and has authored books and program manuals in faith formation. His latest publications include *Faith Formation with a New Generation* (2018), *Families at the Center of Faith Formation* (2016), *Seasons of Adult Faith Formation* (2015), *Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century* (2015), *Generations Together* (2014), and *Faith Formation 2020* (2010). He is the founder of LifelongFaith Associates (2006) and the Center for Ministry Development (1978).

Intergenerational Faith Formation Practices and Approaches

Instructor: Dr. Kathie Amidei

Intergenerational Faith Formation explores the role of the intergenerational faith community in developing vibrant faith in people of all ages and generations. The course presents the theory and practices for becoming an intentional intergenerational faith community. The course provides strategies and resources 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 Topics

- The Importance of Intergenerational Faith Forming
- Theory and Practices for Intergenerational Faith Formation
- Designing Intergenerational Strategies and Programming

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Wednesday March 4 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of March 9

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of March 16

Week #4: Live Discussion: Wednesday, March 25 at 12 noon or 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Dr. Kathie Amidei serves as Pastoral Associate at St. Anthony on the Lake Parish in Wisconsin. She was formerly the Associate Director for Catechesis and Child Ministry for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. She has served in a number of parishes as a teacher and a director of religious education. She has a Doctorate in Education and Leadership from Cardinal Stritch University. Kathie is a national speaker and writer for Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum Division. She is the co-author of, *The Journey: A Guide for Persons, Partners and Parents*, and *Learning Together: Forming Faith in Families, An Intergenerational Resource*, and a contributing author to *Generations Together: Caring, Praying, Learning, Celebrating and Serving Faithfully*.

Milestones Faith Formation

Instructor: Debbie Streicher

Milestones Faith Formation explores how the meaningful, memorable moments in our lives (milestones) can become pivotal times when all ages can embrace an opportunity to be together and recognize God in that moment. The course will guide you in designing experiences that encourage all ages to be immersed in faith talk by recognizing and creating meaningful milestones. The course presents a variety of ways to create milestone moments in both age-appropriate and intergenerational settings that can take place at church, at home, in small groups and/or in the larger community.

Topics

- Milestones throughout Life
- Designing Milestone Experiences
- Resources for Milestones Faith Formation

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Wednesday, March 4 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of March 9

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of March 16

Week #4: Live Discussion: Wednesday, March 25 at 12 noon or 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Debbie Streicher is Co-Director at [Milestones Ministry](#) and serves as Past President of the Christian Education Network of the ELCA. She has coached and helped congregations across the country and in Australia develop faith formation programs for all ages for almost 30 years. Her background is in teaching language. Coupled with her passion for family ministry, she uses her knowledge and experience learned from teaching foreign languages to help parents, grandparents, and other adults understand the importance of daily immersion in the language of faith. Her vision is to involve all ages in faith formation, strengthen family relationships through spiritual growth, and empower God-given gifts to do ministry.

April 2020

Children's Faith Formation Practices and Approaches

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Tanya Eustace Campen

Children's Faith Formation explores the unique life tasks, needs, interests, and spiritual journeys of children today (first decade of life). The course presents a holistic approach to faith formation with children by incorporating intergenerational, family, and age group experiences. The course guides you in developing a faith formation plan for your church with programs, activities, and strategies for children and their families.

Topics

- Children Today
- Practices and Approaches for Children's Faith Formation
- Developing a Holistic Plan for Children's Faith Formation
- Designing Faith Formation Programming for Children and Families

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Monday, March 30 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Holy Week

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of April 13

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of April 20

Week #4: Live Discussion: Monday April 27 at 12 noon or 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Rev. Dr. Tanya Marie Eustace Campen is an ordained deacon in the Rio Texas Conference and currently serves as Director of Intergenerational Discipleship for the Rio Texas Conference Office. She has a Masters of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and a Doctorate in Christian education and congregational studies from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. Her research focus is children's spirituality. She has more than 20 years of experience as a Christian educator, youth director, and minister to children and families in the local church. She regularly teaches faith formation courses, webinars, and workshops for ministry leaders.

Adolescent Faith Formation Practices and Approaches

Instructor: Michael Droege

Adolescent Faith Formation explores the unique life tasks, needs, interests, and spiritual journeys of adolescents today (second decade of life). The course presents a holistic approach to faith formation with adolescents by incorporating intergenerational, family, and age group experiences. The course guides you in developing an adolescent faith formation plan for your church with programs, activities, and strategies, including ways to incorporate digital methods and media into adolescent faith formation.

Topics

- Adolescents Today
- Practices and Approaches for Adolescent Faith Formation
- Developing a Holistic Plan for Adolescent Faith Formation
- Designing Faith Formation Programming for Adolescents and Families

Schedule**Week #1: Live Presentation: Wednesday, April 1 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)****Holy Week****Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of April 13****Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of April 20****Week #4: Live Discussion: Wednesday, April 29 at 12 noon or 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)**

Michael Droege serves as the Youth and Family Ministries Director at Wilson Memorial Church in Watchung, NJ and is a frequent workshop and conference speaker with two decades of experience training and coaching leaders. He is a pastor with the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC), and has been in youth and family ministry for nearly 30 years. Michael has worked in both urban and suburban environments bringing a unique ability to listen to cultures and help churches draw out their best in their unique context. Michael is completing a doctoral program at the University of Pretoria (South Africa) studying systems of passing along faith.

May 2020

Leadership for Lifelong Faith Formation

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Von Clemans

Leadership for Lifelong Faith Formation helps you to reimagine what effective leadership looks like in a rapidly changing world and church. The course presents an understanding of adaptive leadership and how it applies to leadership in the church and faith formation. The course equips you with the practices, skills, and tools to become an effective and adaptive leader in today's church; and guides you in creating a personal leadership plan to apply the practices, skills, and tools in your ministry setting.

Topics

- Understanding Systems and Adaptive Leadership
- Adaptive Practices: Leading On and Off the Map
- Adaptive Practices: Relationships, Resistance, and Transformation
- Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Wednesday, May 6 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of May 11

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of May 18

Week #4: Live Discussion: Wednesday, May 27 at 12 noon or 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Rev. Dr. Von Clemans is a retired PC(USA) pastor/educator who most recently served 18 years as associate pastor in adult faith formation ministries at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. He currently serves as an instructor in the Vibrant Faith Institute and as a congregational coach for Creating a Culture of Calling, a Lilly Endowment funded initiative by Vibrant Faith Ministries. His recent doctoral studies focused on educational ministry and technology. His passion is helping congregations, educators, and pastors strengthen adult education/faith formation ministries and in helping them make appropriate use of technology in enhancing ministry.

Family Faith Formation Practices and Approaches

Instructor: Leif Kehrwald

Family 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 Topics

- Practices and Approaches for Family Faith Formation
- Developing a Plan for Family Faith Formation
- Designing Family Faith Formation Programming
- Resources for Family Faith Formation

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Thursday, May 7 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of May 11

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of May 18

Week #4: Live Discussion: Thursday, May 28 at 12 noon or 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Leif Kehrwald has worked in family ministry and faith formation on the local, regional, and national levels for more than forty years. Currently he serves as Parish Pastoral Administrator for St. Charles Catholic Church in Portland, OR. Prior to this he served on the staff of Vibrant Faith and the Center for Ministry Development. Leif has published several books and numerous articles on family life, family ministry, marriage, and youth ministry. He served as General Editor of *The Catholic Faith and Family Bible* (HarperOne, 2010). Leif has taught courses on family ministry, parish partnership and family spirituality at Dominican University (Chicago), Loyola University (Chicago), University of Dayton, and Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon.

Pathways to Faith Maturity: Personalizing Faith Formation

Instructor: Rev. Kathy Pittenger

Pathways to Faith Maturity guides you in learning how to personalize faith formation by creating pathways of discipleship and faith growth to help individuals and families discern their religious needs and interests, and chart their future faith growth. The course equips you with the skills to design a pathways tool for a target audience and to create playlists of faith forming content and experiences to accompany the pathways tool. The course presents a variety of examples of churches using pathways and playlists to personalize faith formation around the religious and spiritual journeys of their people.

Topics

- The Theory and Practice of Discipleship and Faith Maturing Pathways
- Designing a Faith Maturing Pathway
- Designing a Playlist of Content and Experiences for Pathways

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Tuesday, May 5 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of May 11

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of March 18

Week #4: Live Discussion: Tuesday, May 26 at 12 noon and 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Rev. Kathy Pittenger is an Ordained Deacon and serves as Children's Initiatives Coordinator for the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church. Previously she served as the Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation for Central United Methodist Church in Waterford, MI. She earned a Masters of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary. Her passion lies in the areas of children's ministry, literacy awareness, discipleship pathways, and walking with people on their spiritual journey. Kathy has been involved with local school partnerships for over six years.

June 2020

Working with Teams: Building & Sustaining Teams for Extraordinary Results

Instructor: Jim Merhaut

Teamwork in churches is hard. Don't fool yourself into thinking there's a magic pill for team success. Teams succeed when the members dedicate themselves to each other and to the mission and purpose of the team, but that dedication has to be built through strong team leadership strategies. There are specific steps team leaders can take to build high levels of commitment among team members and produce extraordinary results in their work. This course will explore the theory and practice of team building and teamwork from the recruitment phase to the celebrating-results phase. We'll also explore how to handle those inevitable bumps in the road that happen when two or more people work together.

Topics

- Defining a Team: More than just a Workgroup
- Calling a Team and Recruiting Members
- Forming a Team with a Strong Foundation
- Practical Tools for Sustaining a Team through Challenges and Uncertainties
- Getting Results that Make a Difference

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Thursday, June 4th, 12 noon Eastern time 90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of June 8

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of June 15

Week #4: Live Discussion: Monday, June 22 at 12 noon or Wednesday June 24 at 7 pm Eastern time (60 min.)

Jim Merhaut is an award-winning author, national motivational speaker, internationally-known leadership training and an International Coaching Federated Certified Coach. He holds a Master of Science degree in Education from Duquesne University with an emphasis in adult formation. Jim has authored and co-authored several books and published dozens of academic and popular articles and essays on leadership and relationships.

Visual Faith for Families

Instructor: Dr. Nancy Going

Help your families to see **Visual Faith** as an easy and fun practice to start faith conversations, engage scripture and do those things at a whole new level. Learn the "science" behind why pairing images with faith conversations and bible reading makes such a big difference for people. Then you'll gather tools and ideas to share with the families at your church that will make Visual Faith an accessible and do-able practice in lots of different settings for people of all ages.

Topics

- Practicing Visual Faith—a Taste and See.
- The Science of the Visual Faith Practice—why images matter so much.
- Tools and Methods for Visual Faith
- Teaching the Visual Faith Practice to Families.

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Tuesday, June 2 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of June 8

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of June 15

Week #4: Live Discussion: Tuesday, June 30 at 12 noon and 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Dr. Nancy Going is Executive Director of Vibrant Faith. She has a doctorate from Luther Seminary. She has spent her career in ministry leadership with youth. Nancy came on board the Vibrant Faith team as Executive Director in 2014 after teaching and providing leadership at Luther Seminary in the Children Youth and Family Ministry Master's Degree Distributed Learning Program. She has authored articles, curriculum, and contributed to books.

August 2020

Foundations of Lifelong Faith Formation

Instructor: Leif Kehrwald

Foundations of Lifelong Faith Formation is designed to provide you (and your leadership team) with a vision for developing a culture of lifelong faith formation in your church. The future of faith formation in congregations will, in large part, be determined by how well churches provide holistic lifelong faith formation that is inclusive of all ages and generations and responsive to the diverse life situations, and spiritual and religious needs of people. This course presents 10 principles and practices that can inform your congregation as you create, sustain, and expand lifelong faith formation. The course guides you in interpreting your current approach to lifelong faith formation, building a model for lifelong faith formation, and strengthening the culture of lifelong faith formation in your church.

Topics

- Exploring the Principles and Practices of Lifelong Faith Formation in the 21st Century
- Analyzing Lifelong Faith Formation in the Congregation
- Developing a Model of Lifelong Faith Formation

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Thursday, August 6 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of August 10

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of August 17

Week #4: Live Discussion: Thursday, August 27 at 12 noon or 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Leif Kehrwald has worked in family ministry and faith formation on the local, regional, and national levels for more than forty years. Currently he serves as Parish Pastoral Administrator for St. Charles Catholic Church in Portland, OR. Prior to this he served on the staff of Vibrant Faith and the Center for Ministry Development. Leif has published several books and numerous articles on family life, family ministry, marriage, and youth ministry. He served as General Editor of *The Catholic Faith and Family Bible* (HarperOne, 2010). Leif has taught courses on family ministry, parish partnership and family spirituality at Dominican University (Chicago), Loyola University (Chicago), University of Dayton, and Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon.

Children's Faith Formation Practices and Approaches

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Tanya Eustace Campen

Children's Faith Formation explores the unique life tasks, needs, interests, and spiritual journeys of children today (first decade of life). The course presents a holistic approach to faith formation with children by incorporating intergenerational, family, and age group experiences. The course guides you in developing a faith formation plan for your church with programs, activities, and strategies for children and their families.

Topics

- Children Today
- Practices and Approaches for Children's Faith Formation
- Developing a Holistic Plan for Children's Faith Formation
- Designing Faith Formation Programming for Children and Families

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Monday, August 3 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of August 10

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of August 17

Week #4: Live Discussion: Monday August 24 at 12 noon or 7 pm Eastern time

Rev. Dr. Tanya Marie Eustace Campen is an ordained deacon in the Rio Texas Conference and currently serves as Director of Intergenerational Discipleship for the Rio Texas Conference Office. She has a Masters of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and a Doctorate in Christian education and congregational studies from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. Her research focus is children's spirituality. She has more than 20 years of experience as a Christian educator, youth director, and minister to children and families in the local church. She regularly teaches faith formation courses, webinars, and workshops for ministry leaders.

Adolescent Faith Formation Practices and Approaches

Instructor: Michael Droege

Adolescent Faith Formation explores the unique life tasks, needs, interests, and spiritual journeys of adolescents today (second decade of life). The course presents a holistic approach to faith formation with adolescents by incorporating intergenerational, family, and age group experiences. The course guides you in developing an adolescent faith formation plan for your church with programs, activities, and strategies, including ways to incorporate digital methods and media into adolescent faith formation.

Topics

- Adolescents Today
- Practices and Approaches for Adolescent Faith Formation
- Developing a Holistic Plan for Adolescent Faith Formation
- Designing Faith Formation Programming for Adolescents and Families

Wednesday

Week #1: Live Presentation: Wednesday, August 5 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of August 10

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of August 17

Week #4: Live Discussion: Wednesday August 26 at 12 noon or 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Michael Droege serves as the Youth and Family Ministries Director at Wilson Memorial Church in Watchung, NJ and is a frequent workshop and conference speaker with two decades of experience training and coaching leaders. He is a pastor with the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC), and has been in youth and family ministry for nearly 30 years. Michael has worked in both urban and suburban environments bringing a unique ability to listen to cultures and help churches draw out their best in their unique context. Michael is completing a doctoral program at the University of Pretoria (South Africa) studying systems of passing along faith.

October 2020

Developing Lifelong Faith Formation

Instructor: John Roberto

Developing Lifelong Faith Formation will guide you (and your leadership team) through a process for creating and implementing a lifelong faith formation plan with intergenerational, family, and children-youth-adult faith forming programming, guided by the ten principles and practices of lifelong faith formation (developed by John Roberto). A lifelong plan is both a vision for the future and a practical guide with lots of ideas and strategies that can guide faith formation with all ages and generations in your church. The course provides resources, strategies, and programming to implement a lifelong faith formation plan.

Topics

- Guided Application: Creating and Implementing a Lifelong Faith Formation Plan
- “Best Practice” Examples of Lifelong Faith Formation in Churches
- Development of an Infrastructure to Support Lifelong Faith Formation

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Thursday, October 8 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of October 12

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of October 19

Week #4: Live Discussions: Thursday October at 29 noon or 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

John Roberto is on the leadership team of Vibrant Faith Ministries where he serves as the coordinator of training services. He works as a consultant to churches and national organizations, teaches courses and conducts workshops in faith formation, and has authored books and program manuals in faith formation. His latest publications include *Faith Formation with a New Generation* (2018), *Families at the Center of Faith Formation* (2016), *Seasons of Adult Faith Formation* (2015), *Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century* (2015), *Generations Together* (2014), and *Faith Formation 2020* (2010). He is the founder of LifelongFaith Associates (2006) and the Center for Ministry Development (1978).

Intergenerational Faith Formation Practices and Approaches

Instructor: Dr. Kathie Amidei

Discover the theory and practice of becoming an intentional intergenerational faith community and how to design models and strategies for intergenerational faith formation.

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 Topics

Live Presentation: Practices and Approaches for Intergenerational Faith Formation
Application: Exploring Approaches for Intergenerational Faith Formation (online session)
Live Presentation: Developing Intergenerational Faith Formation
Application: Designing Intergenerational Programming (online session)

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Tuesday, October 6 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)
Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of October 12
Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of October 19
Week #4: Live Discussions: Tuesday, October 27 at 12 noon EST or 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Dr. Kathie Amidei serves as Pastoral Associate at St. Anthony on the Lake Parish in Wisconsin. She was formerly the Associate Director for Catechesis and Child Ministry for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. She has served in a number of parishes as a teacher and a director of religious education. She has a Doctorate in Education and Leadership from Cardinal Stritch University. Kathie is a national speaker and writer for Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum Division. She is the co-author of, *The Journey: A Guide for Persons, Partners and Parents*, and *Learning Together: Forming Faith in Families, An Intergenerational Resource*, and a contributing author to *Generations Together: Caring, Praying, Learning, Celebrating and Serving Faithfully*.

Faith Formation in a Digital Age

Instructor: Rev. Kyle Oliver

Faith Formation in a Digital Age presents the opportunities for using digital approaches in faith formation by exploring models and methods of digital and hybrid (virtual and physical) faith formation and experiencing digital tools and media to use in faith forming experiences and activities. The course provides an overview of digital platforms and tools (website, social media, video, and audio creation tools) to use in your church. The course engages you in applying the methods and tools through a mini-project in faith formation.

Topics

The Digital Transformation of Faith Formation
Models of Digital and Hybrid Learning and Faith Formation
Digital Platforms for Faith Formation

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Wednesday, October 7 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)
Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of October 12
Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of October 19
Week #4: Live Discussion: Wednesday, October 28 at 12 noon and 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Rev. Kyle Oliver is an Episcopal priest and a doctoral student in Communications, Media, and Learning Technologies Design at Teachers College, Columbia University. He is a Research Associate and Adjunct Instructor at Virginia Theological Seminary and a Fellow of the Episcopal Church Foundation. His teaching and research focuses on how digital media tools and spaces are changing ministry leadership and faith practices. He uses media and technology to improve learning and build community in churches, seminaries, and other communities.

November 2020

Leadership for Lifelong Faith Formation

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Von Clemans

Leadership for Lifelong Faith Formation helps you to reimagine what effective leadership looks like in a rapidly changing world and church. The course presents an understanding of adaptive leadership and how it applies to leadership in the church and faith formation. The course equips you with the practices, skills, and tools to become an effective and adaptive leader in today's church; and guides you in creating a personal leadership plan to apply the practices, skills, and tools in your ministry setting.

Topics

- Understanding Systems and Adaptive Leadership
- Adaptive Practices: Leading On and Off the Map
- Adaptive Practices: Relationships, Resistance, and Transformation
- Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Wednesday, November 4 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of November 9

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of November 16

Thanksgiving Week

Week #4: Live Discussion: Wednesday, December 2 at 12 noon or 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Rev. Dr. Von Clemans is a retired PC(USA) pastor/educator who most recently served 18 years as associate pastor in adult faith formation ministries at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. He currently serves as an instructor in the Vibrant Faith Institute and as a congregational coach for Creating a Culture of Calling, a Lilly Endowment funded initiative by Vibrant Faith Ministries. His recent doctoral studies focused on educational ministry and technology. His passion is helping congregations, educators, and pastors strengthen adult education/faith formation ministries and in helping them make appropriate use of technology in enhancing ministry.

Family Faith Formation Practices and Approaches

Instructor: Leif Kehrwald

Family 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 Topics

- Practices and Approaches for Family Faith Formation
- Developing a Plan for Family Faith Formation
- Designing Family Faith Formation Programming
- Resources for Family Faith Formation

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Thursday, November 5 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session: Week of November 9

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of November 16

Thanksgiving Week

Week #4: Live Discussion: Thursday, December 3 at 12 noon or 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Leif Kehrwald has worked in family ministry and faith formation on the local, regional, and national levels for more than forty years. Currently he serves as Parish Pastoral Administrator for St. Charles Catholic Church in Portland, OR. Prior to this he served on the staff of Vibrant Faith and the Center for Ministry Development. Leif has published several books and numerous articles on family life, family ministry, marriage, and youth ministry. He served as General Editor of *The Catholic Faith and Family Bible* (HarperOne, 2010). Leif has taught courses on family ministry, parish partnership and family spirituality at Dominican University (Chicago), Loyola University (Chicago), University of Dayton, and Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon.

Adult Faith Formation Practices and Approaches

Instructor: Janet Schaeffler

The **Adult Faith Formation** course presents effective practices and approaches for faith formation with each season of adulthood - young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, and older adults – and the skills to design faith formation to address their unique life stages. The course guides you in designing a faith formation plan for one or more seasons of adulthood using a variety of strategies, programs, and activities, including methods and tools for utilizing digitally-enabled strategies in adult faith formation.

Topics

- The Seasons of Adulthood
- Practices and Approaches for the Seasons of Adulthood
- Methods and Strategies for Adult Faith Formation Today
- Designing Adult Faith Formation Programming

Schedule

Week #1: Live Presentation: Wednesday, November 4 at 12 noon Eastern time (90 minutes)

Week #2: Online Learning Session; Week of November 9

Week #3: Online Learning Session: Week of November 16

Thanksgiving Week

Week #4: Live Discussions: Friday December 4 at 12 noon and 7 pm Eastern time (60 minutes)

Sister Janet Schaeffler is an Adrian Dominican Sister who has worked in parish and archdiocesan ministry in faith formation. She is currently ministering as an adult faith formation consultant and presenter. The author of hundreds of articles and several publications in catechetical and parish ministry, her articles can be found in *Today's Parish* and *Religion Teacher's Journal* as well as several other parish ministerial publications. She teaches online courses through Boston College and the University of Dayton. One of her most recent books is *Deepening Faith: Adult Faith Formation in the Parish* (Liturgical Press, 2016). Janet created and publishes GEMS - a monthly newsletter flowing from an ongoing international adult faith formation best practices study (www.janetschaeffler.com).