

A top-down view of a wooden desk. In the upper right, a silver laptop is partially visible. In the upper center, a white cup of coffee sits on a matching saucer. Below the coffee, a pair of black-rimmed glasses rests on the desk. To the left, a stack of books is visible, with the word 'SODAS' partially legible on the spine of the top book. In the center, a hand is writing in a notebook with a pen. To the right of the notebook, several small, square photographs are scattered. A white, hand-drawn rectangular border with slightly wavy edges frames the central text area.

Faith Formation Roundtable

August 26, 2020

Opportunities this Fall

- Discover Online Course
- Education for Ministry
- Online Cohort for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany
- Fall Quest [add dates]
- Becoming Beloved Community with Catherine Meeks
- LGBTQIA Welcoming and Inclusion Event

Faith Formation Best Practices

- Ask
 - How do we cultivate and nurture our connections with God and one another?
 - How do we invite deepening conversations?
 - How does experience inform your mission and ministry?
 - Why are we doing this?
- Listen
 - What are people yearning for?
 - What are they hoping for?
- Invite
 - Communicate offerings in multiple ways
 - Consider newcomers
 - What might people bring a friend or neighbor to?
- Try new things!
 - Try it, reflect on it, see what you've learned
 - Our trials inform the way forward

More is not better.

Faith Formation Best Practices

- Create an environment that builds community and allows people to go deeper
 - Know how you will invite participation
 - E.g., mutual invitation (invite, welcome, include)
 - Consider the needs of both introverts and extroverts
 - Help people cross the threshold into online space
 - Offer tips for enhancing physical space
 - Welcome and connect each time you gather
 - Open in prayer
 - Train, practice, rehearse: minimize technological problems
 - Take time to onboard participants with the technology/media you plan to use
 - Incorporate activities away from screens that enhance experiences
- Have each group create a covenant
 - What are the expectations for the group?
 - What will happen when someone is missing?
 - How will participants let people know they will be late or absent?

Ways to Encourage and Equip People for Faith Formation in the Home

- Create a sacred space
- Invite intention-setting
 - When will you worship?
 - What is your daily prayer practice?
 - How are you engaging with your faith community?
 - How are you reaching out/serving?
- Incorporate faith practices (not more to-dos) into daily life
 - Add one practice at a time to achieve success
- For families with children: Learn together as a family
 - Try one Bible story a month.
- Consider allowing materials to be checked out from the church

Roundtable Covenant

- Invite each person to share
- Listen reflectively and receive the gifts that each person offers
 - Connect afterwards to explore further
- Be open to new ideas
- Be mindful of the time

In this Time of COVID-19...

- What has surprised you?
- What has frustrated you?
- What have you discovered about your faith and community that you hadn't realized before COVID?
- What have we learned over the past five months that can inform an inspired way forward?
- How will our learnings and experiences inform our formation planning for this fall and beyond?