

# 2016 Family Symposium

## *What's Your Congregation's Approach to Families?*

Identify your congregation's approach with families using the following questions. (See Chapters 1 and 3 in *Families at the Center of Faith Formation* for background.) For each question, identify your congregation's current practice with parents and/or families using the rating scale:

**1 = not at all                      3 = often                      5 = a lot.**

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. We express care with the families in our congregations and communities, including listening to them, showing interest in their lives, and investing in them.                   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. We challenge growth in families by expecting them to live up to their potential and helping them learn from their mistakes.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. We provide support and advocacy when families really need it.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. We share power with families, treating them as true partners by giving them voice in things that matter to them and collaborating with them to solve problems and reach goals. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. We encourage families to expand possibilities by connecting them with other people, ideas, and opportunities to help them grow.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. We offer regular gatherings of all our families for learning, worship, service, relationship-building, and more throughout the year.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. We engage families together with the whole community for learning, worship, service, relationship-building, and more throughout the year.                                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. We find ways to reach families at home with support, resources, and activities to develop family life and grow in faith.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. We strengthen families by helping them develop the practices and skills for healthy family life.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. We equip parents with the knowledge and skills for effective parenting and forming faith in young people.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. We engage parents as leaders and contributors in the congregation and in the community.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. We design ministries, projects, and activities that complement and reinforce the role of families in faith formation.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 13. We recognize the family as the epicenter of faith formation across the generations.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 14. We celebrate the evidence of vibrant faith at work in the everyday lives of families and their young people.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |