

Principles to Practices

Christian Identity

1. Through IFF Christian commitment is formed and strengthened as persons develop relationships and actively participate in intergenerational faith communities that teach, model, and live our the communities' beliefs.
2. Through IFF people learn the ways of the community of practice as they participate authentically and relationally with more experienced members of the culture; people learn Christian ways from more experienced members of the culture through intergenerational Christian communities.
3. Through IFF people identify with their community of practice as they are allowed to participate legitimately in the activities to be learned – as children and new believers (and others) participate in relational community doing “Christian” things with those further down the road, they come to identify with the believing community.

1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal invitations to the wise-young-at-hearts to join the intergenerational community Prayer stations intergenerationally Vespers/evening prayer A year of monthly IG sessions each focused on a Christian practice or object: Bible, holy water; and sent families home with those items and new understandings God’s Work, Out Hands: who church/all ages going out into the community hosted a picnic, outreach followed by a debriefing; how has this experience changed you Sister church in Zimbabwe pen pals, exchange visits, worship participation, shared experiences Myth busters night – debunk social norms/pressures with Christian values, busting the ...isms, discussing pros and cons of each side Formation around church doctrine, history and tradition, and creed Liturgy worship participation Families blessing each other, praying together Intergenerational gatherings around the Creed to connect to worship and what we believe Sacraments and milestones become more God-centered Prayer life: pray for others, prayer traditions (Rosary, November) Understand and define common language Identity Re-claiming language and common vision (within parishes/churches) for catechetical and formation Youth conference of multiple parishes: with older generation present / leading and benefiting; mutual sharing of stories Recognizing marriages, parents in Mass Ways to express multiple identities, especially for Postmoderns
1,16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charge money for drop-off CCD but not charge for family-based process (sacrament means commitment)
1-3, 12-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Faith in 3 Words” – video created of all generations, individually and in groups of what their faith is in 3 words

1, 4, 5, 6, 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IG meeting between services to learn, explore, develop community and connect with worship service • Maybe including tools/ways to utilize at home with families • Create a webpage, social media to communicate outside of church walls • Curate the faith
1, 2, 3, 12, 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First communion preparation: having parents tell their own stories; also expecting parents to do preparation of their children for first reconciliation
1, 2, 5, 8, 12, 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergenerational workshop on grief: could be part of a church-wide series on death from Christian perspective/practice
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sell, preach, tell, and show success stories of IFF • Life Line: intergenerational storytelling; mentoring (confirmation sponsor and beyond)
2, 3, 7, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IG community to prep for initiation sacraments, baptism, first reconciliation, confirmation; including youth and adults to mentor each other; 2 times per year as workshop
3, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do everything IG (even sex ed): HS kids trained to be leaders; HS kids write “Questions I wish I had discussed with my parents” to give to parents of 8th graders and parents respond to their kids also in writing • Video: Sex Still Have a Pricetag! • Invite all generations to video: re-visit issue at 16 years, 18 years, senior citizens
3, 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a very age-segregated church, start with those who lead older youth to support youth as mentors of younger kids
3, 7, 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving children (often with parents) leadership roles in worship: ushering, reading, etc.

Relationship & Community

4. IFF strengthens and creates new relationships among people of all ages, enhances their sense of belonging in the faith community, and increases participation in church life.
5. IFF promotes a community where generational differences can be transcended rather than reinforced, where generational understanding and positive intergenerational relationships can be experienced.
6. IFF affirms each person’s value in the total community (regardless of age), and promote understanding of shared values and respect for individuals in all stages and ages of life.
7. IFF fosters a climate that includes valuing, nurturing, and employing the gifts of every person from young to old.
8. IFF creates a welcoming and safe environment – of warmth, trust, emotional safety, acceptance, and care – conducive to promoting faith sharing, group participation, mutual support, and care for one another in the congregation and in the community.

4-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elders share seasonal/stories at Christmas, Lent/Easter with children and Easter songs • “Barnabas” accompaniment • Prayer “warriors” • Engagement in personal and communal spiritual practices Sense of welcome for anyone with any type of special need (toddlers, nursing mothers, learning needs) • Interactive museum in atrium post-gatherings • Care packages from church community sent to college students
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little card to add to donation baskets • Have a church “docent” tour your physical space; learn history, terminology, emphasis on His story; Jesus unifies us as the body • Community graffiti/chalkboard with weekly prompt question any one can answer anonymously • Storytelling, story wall; intentional process for analysis and conversion and conversation • Embracing diversity: age culture, experience; when collaboration between parishes/denominations or when parishes combine • Building in reflection and debriefing after events, projects, drives, etc. • Recognize visitors and newcomers: how, when; training of ministers; introduction of ministers so people know who they are • Connect people on similar journeys; how to identify – silicon bracelets, ribbons, to empower not label • Inclusiveness for accessibility for all persons: physical handicaps, learning handicaps • Art project that reflects IFF learning that is in common areas; sparks discussion in whole community • Recognizing and utilizing our gifts • Constantly invite • Participating in church life doing what you are comfortable doing: matching gifts with ministries • Hospitality, bereavement care, outreach, ministering to those in need; divorced, grieving • Display boards showing generations together • Greeters at worship, fellowship meal; eating together, potlucks • Welcome “mat” – signed by all in community, on display • Alpha for families • Prayer partners across generations • All are learners; all are teachers • Using tools that are relevant but native • Faith Webbing: making relationship matches to fill needs and voids • Logos: weekly gathering with all generations; intentional about building relationships • Spiritual friendships: small groups of parents; discussion starters for parents with children • Templates built into gatherings for relationship building • Tweeted prayers during streamed worship • Events/opportunity to expand community out into the neighborhood • Greater opportunity for community through all generations because of post modern generations • Opportunities to be social in new ways • Tapping into helping parents re-connect; helping their children connect
4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family choir or involving children in older choir with rhythm instruments, etc.
4, 12, 13, 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing mentoring models
4, 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show ministry leaders the YouTube “Ode to Joy” video; ask them to imagine how they could make their ministry look more like that
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizing God is present; already in the other • All ages –same story
5, 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible presentation to children; have members of older adult Bible study come to class and

	share
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole community catechesis vs. IG faith formation • Transitioning with new leadership/space constraints: new mode leaders to expand IFF • Direct of faith formation and youth pastor on board. Need pastors support. • Plan for future: how would we like to shape this future if space wasn't an issue? • Congregation is aging: what should faith formation look like? • Adult Bible study is very successful: how can we capitalize on this? • Challenge: lost vision; whole community catechesis was successful but it faded away.
6, 9, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly IG event following liturgy: How to engage/draw in HS & MS; use VBS concept – give leadership to youth. • Senior citizens – give them tasks/leadership roles, too
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open the door to teachers of all ages then get out of the way and affirm them
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying spiritual gifts
7, 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring apprentice opportunities
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a trustful environment through caring conversations • Visio and Lectio Divina; and audio

Developmental

9. IFF addresses the social and developmental needs of age groups, and speaks to the relevant concerns and challenges people face today within the context of intergenerational community and experiences.
10. IFF addresses the variety of faith styles and religious experiences of people in the congregation by engaging people of all ages in a variety of activities that are developmentally-appropriate, experiential, multi-sensory, interactive, and participatory.
11. IFF settings are authentic, complex learning environments, made up of individuals at various stages in their faith journeys, teaching some and learning from others as they participate in their community of believers.

9-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convening groups for IG conversations and support in response to current needs Faith formation Sunday or all ages worship experience • All ages response to art at their faith stage • Art created during Sunday sermon (drawing, Scripture); could be done during an IG learning session • Ritual of decorating cross for Exaltation of Cross IG prayer service, then all ages reflected on it in age groups • Older generations and younger ones are engaged and having fun • Prayer practices with a new perspective i.e., Living Stations, Jesus seen through the eyes of Mary • Rituals with all generations, i.e. foot washing • Practice makes perfect – introduce people to foot washing, veneration, etc. practice it, learn it, then do it; Seder Meal • Engaging all the senses to account for those with different learning styles • Share transitions of different cultures, e.g., bread vs. matzo, bake and eat • Intergenerational preparations for church life, sacraments, confirmation, etc. • Building other adults (not just parents) into their lives (Logos, Sticky Faith) using story to communicate
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active opportunities: conversation, participative • Need to always be thinking “so what” and “who cares?” • Transmitting faith goes down and up between generations • Multi-sensory experiences • Palm Sunday: Easter Fair • Continued contact with those unable to attend (college, homebound) • IG Vespers/evening prayer
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive stations • Fully inclusive activities
10, 13, 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-room schoolhouse once per month for 3 year olds – 8th grade during service; HS & MS volunteers help lead • Expand to IG Sunday evening event
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model multigenerational teams and committees • Intentional staffing of teaching teams for youth to elders
11, 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language matters: not programs but process

Learning & Growing

12. IFF encourages faith growth and practice in all generations and provide “up close and personal” formation in faith as children, teens, young adults, middle-aged adults, and older adults engage in sharing faith, teaching, learning, serving, celebrating, and praying for one another.
13. IFF has a positive effect on both the older and young populations involved by creating intentional opportunities for young and old to meet together, to share stories, to create something together or merely to talk which can be mutually beneficial and bless the whole body of Christ.
14. IFF supports families by surrounding them with a community of faith and engaging the whole family in caring, celebrating, learning, praying, and serving together; and providing parents with opportunities to learn from Christians who are practicing their faith and raising faithful children.
15. IFF equips people to live their faith in daily life, and engages them in service to others, locally and globally.

12-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating and passing on milestones • Modeling faith practices “Get off your donkey” – a service project theme connects to Samaritan Gospel, Easter/Palm Sunday; blessing bags for homeless; intergenerational service activity putting together • Mentoring, walking with someone on their faith journey • Mentors learning from mentee • Share our stories • Explain/understand doctrine; teach others, evangelization • Continued learning: digital media using multimedia presentations, YouTube, blogs, video clips, Twitter, Facebook • Different ages view the world + problem-solving through different lenses and come up with unique ideas and solutions • Night in Bethlehem • Characters in costume present in situations to give perspective • Appalachian re-creation • Intergenerational mission trip • Introducing prayer practices through an intergenerational weekly services: zentangle,
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meditation, labyrinth • Christian symbol event, chrismon invitation to all ages to participate in educational programs • Sharing stories in community • Platforms to share • Teaching discernment • Ways to be part of a greater story • WE – series of intergenerational gatherings: connecting questions, meal, learning opportunities, all ages around the table • Modeling at church what can happen in the home • Interactive teaching of good content • Community to express doubt and ask questions
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13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing the stories that come out of our congregations • Storytelling: childrenatthewell.org – interfaith StoryCircle • Seeing (witnessing) the IG ministries/stories of our congregations (and affirming) • Intergenerational problem solving • Opportunities to just enjoy each other’s company; have fun • Small assigned tasks enable people to connect on projects already in place • Filling needs for different generations, e.g., parish fixing meals for college students • Corporate ministry: separate but supported by church • Corporate lunches; ecumenical • Connect to current events; people who witness • Crash course on social media (HS youth teaching adults)
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14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inviting people to sit closer together in worship, greet one another
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15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergenerational retreats
15-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission statement prominently displayed • Teens on pastoral council • Thank volunteers in context of community • Covenant between parish and parishioners; stating intent and support • Retreats to refuel; invite people to take a leadership role and support them

Leadership

16. IFF is led by congregational leaders who embrace a collaborative, team-based, and empowering style of leadership; and have a shared vision of an intergenerational church.
17. IFF ministries and programming is facilitated by teams who work collaboratively in designing and conducting programming, and are well-prepared and supported in their ministry.

16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk through Holy Week – IG event with dinner and stations • Clergy will be present: senior youth group required to attend • Communion will be administered, not just discussed • Pastor being cheerleader; expecting laypeople to figure out how make things happen • Parish-wide language that all ages say, understand, and live into (i.e., vision statement of theme)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inviting people to share their own stories of cross-generational formation • Moving from experts to sharing tools and stories • Opportunities for leaders to gather/support each other • Connecting to websites; curating resources • Hope to form pastors and leaders
16/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inviting each generation to share their story with the others • Learning from those older/younger (fishbowl) • inviting children and tends into leadership roles • current volunteers mentoring new volunteers • Nurturing and identifying gifts in people • Developing adult leaders as people who are in relationship with Jesus • Personal invitation to lead • Teams • Apprenticeships • Continuing education • Mentoring • Intergenerational councils, teams, leadership • Commissions and councils: youth and young adult representation • Inclusiveness in general • Teams that do planning for events/worship • Should be intergenerational • How to disciple and nurture? Apprenticeship? • Intentional mentoring and apprenticeship • Terms/limits for all commissions/ministries • Intentional about communication: vision and training; common language for leaders and those we serve • How do we use “kingdom” language, not just Christian • Begin and end with vision that includes planning, implementation, and evaluation/assessment • Leadership ladders: empower young people • Invitation to help in meaningful ways • Worship leadership for children/youth • Online sermon feedback group (middle schoolers and parents) • Find ways to help church leaders experiment and improve models to fit their needs; flexibility
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train the trainers; take home workshops to train and inspire your own congregation • We have influence and lack authority • Develop coaches • Use short periods of time for experimental IFF programs (Advent, Lent) • Use existing structures and programs and insert IFF into them
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFF helps each of us realize and reaffirm our God-given mission to “baptize all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” We all have a part to play and are needed.