

Adult Faith Formation Symposium

Infrastructure Ideas

Small Churches

1. International mission / missional focus (meaning social service)
2. Intergenerational mission trips
3. Lay pastor training by synod/diocese
4. Partner with churches in the city to do food packaging; combine Lenten study; rotate churches for combined summer worship
5. Make a network – in person, Facebook
6. Share best practices; share the blueprints; share on a website and use a diocesan e-newsletter and meetings to lead people there; synod or diocese as an aggregation network
7. Synod/diocese to provide an expert for consultation; synod to create network
8. Bring adult education in worship – everything we do teaches: paragraph in bulletin explaining; give the setting and character before reading OT lesson
9. Network
10. Adult Formation Resource Exchange – in diocesan email and online; theme for the month in readings
11. Support/nurture pastors

Unitarian Universalists

1. Clergy support – multi-pronged approach
2. Professional formation of religious educators that includes framing work to include AFF
3. Time and money issues – urgent overtakes important-stop this!
4. UUA.org has a ton of resources – need guided tour
5. Engaging adults in the process of discerning what is needed – take time off from “deliverables” to discern; collaboratively set priorities; create structure and vision
6. How do we flip to adult self-directed materials?
7. Ideas for connecting to senior centers; facilitating elders and children/youth conversations
8. Working in senior spaces rather than in the congregation and building

Catholic Diocese Directors

1. Connect AFF ministers within the diocese: meet, share ideas – AFF online network
2. Who are the AFF leaders? - usually leading other ministries. How do we help parishes discern AFF contact persons and connect with them?
3. QUEST – resource for small Christian communities & RCIA
4. Congregational developmental rather than separate children/teen/adult departments – How to introduce this (AFF) in parishes?
5. St. Damien online retreat – daily in Lent – How to connect this to the parishes?

Diversity

1. How is our lack of diversity affecting our language, resources, solutions, and strategies?
2. What structures are necessary to bring a more diverse population?
3. Reach out – meet people where they are

4. All of the strategies relate to one group – majority culture, e.g., family of immigrants experience, stress of work
5. Need to be aware of ethnic/cultural background
6. Structures in place to listen and learn from African-Americans
7. How to address the diversity that is already present: LBGTQ, life experience, age, wisdom, learning styles
8. How to address the diversity that seems to be most lacking: age, color
9. Diversity among planning and presenting
10. Acknowledge the privilege of our conversation here and in these places
11. We are the broken body of Christ; we are not where we need to be
12. If you are inviting people to including minority/diversity, then the group needs to be open
13. We need diversity training, devotionals on the power of listening
14. How does the wound of racism effect our adult faith formation
15. Lack of diversity in presentation style
16. Acknowledge our diversity in the welcome: denomination, belief; some small groups to pray together – we missed the opportunity

Congregations

1. Staff development on working as a team: personality types, understanding the different “Seasons,” how to set up and follow-up an agenda for meetings
2. Planning: staff plan for events and calendar, need to share what is going on in the parish; online calendars
3. Parish council on-board for AFF
4. Need a team – can’t do it all
5. Need administrative staff: PR, communications, advertising, regular website/designer support staff to make online presence inviting
6. Need to have all staff on board for support AFF; need to talk it up, etc.; collaboration among staff
7. Remember that everything teaches; intentionally around what we do
8. Need teams to both come up with ideas and implement them; not just give other people work; team should be large enough that work can be divided
9. Helping curate resources
10. Dovetailing sermon series, website, etc.
11. Ways to connect with other like-minded AFF leaders to share, preferably who are geographically close
12. Inviting community in to learn about church architecture, especially during festivals, etc.
13. Unleash: start with one idea
14. Network, network, network
15. Creative communications – Advent hymns, devotions, use in worship, youth group, online component
16. Have the church buy-in to AFF – need to market it
17. Metanoia minute for Lent – business cards with each family name, prayed for them
18. Prayer partners
19. Searchable online resources – somebody publish this
20. Structure that will generate collaboration: brainstorming, sharing, creative; time with staff designated for that purpose; need volunteer presence as well

21. Resource website a judicatory level; four times per year updated; at least a place to start. Need to work at pulling ecumenical works, make it rounded.
22. Help keeping resources middle of the road
23. Buy-in – from leadership and parishioners
24. Team of adult catechists trained and ready to go
25. Physical space
26. Create more opportunities for volunteers
27. Communication infrastructure: bulletin, web page, social media, newsletter, email, promotion/marketing
28. Media strategy
29. Music program
30. Professional leadership team
31. Cross training/succession planning
32. Budget – many times religious education gets the last piece, what left
33. Technology budget/team/staff
34. Lost a hierarchical mindset to allow adults to lead and use strengths
35. Have a person dedicated to AFF
36. Work smarter, not harder
37. Lose silo mentality
38. Denomination, regional, synodal, diocesan level curation
39. Networking
40. Ecumenism/interfaith
41. Listening (availability, interests)
42. Learning how to distribute/delegate/share responsibilities of faith formation staff (over-worked, burden)
43. Training (budget for non-staff and staff)
44. 4 seasons of AFF – base training upon this; programs are selected
45. Training leaders in the 4 seasons of AFF
46. Where can people meet – at various stages of AFF
47. Offer a diversity of prayer forms that help discernment and an open support for AFF

District/Deanery/Catholic Diocese/Regional Settings

1. Need for faith formation for leaders
2. Training: Training is localized: 3Ps – personal, portable, participatory; multi-leveled; topic-centered; connect to colleges; training volunteer team to function as a paid professional would and adjust job description; formed in theology not in leadership/formed in leadership not theology; leadership inventory; formation for clergy – catechetical instruction in seminary
3. Finances: Opportunities for grants; debit tithing; education and encourage charitable gifts
4. Networking: Go outside institutions/denominations; clearinghouse for all AFF resources available (YouTube, podcasts); publishers bumping up quality of AFF