

Symposium 2017: Faith Formation with a New Generation

Faith Growth Pathways

		Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing			Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing	
Connecting with God	Personal Spiritual Practices	I am learning about daily devotions and praying to find those that I want to practice. I read the Bible from time to time.	I am practicing some spiritual devotions occasionally, including reading from the Bible. I am learning about STER (Scripture, Tradition, Experience, Reason)	I am using spiritual devotions regularly. I also use other resources to understand the Bible at times. I use STER to make decisions.	I am revising my spiritual practices. I can share with others how I connect with God through spiritual practices.	Changing Our World with Christ's Love	Generosity of Time, Talents, and/or Financial Gifts (TTFG)	I like to hear how my church meets the needs in the community. I like to hear stories from others about how they have been changed by either giving or receiving. I contribute with some Sunday offerings, at Christmas and Easter.	I commit to share my TTFG regularly. I help a neighbor or a charity with my TTFG occasionally. I can share a story about my TTFG.	I make an annual commitment and give in proportion to my income. I share my TTFG regularly. I am a member of a church committee or team.	I make an annual commitment and give in proportion to my income at a tithe (10%) and beyond. I share my TTFG regularly. I am inviting others to be a member of a church committee or team.	
	In Community	I attend worship at least once a month. I say the Lord's Prayer during worship, grace before meals and prayers in the morning and/or at bedtime.	I attend worship on Sunday mornings at least twice a month. I participate in Central Connect Groups (faith formation opportunities).	I participate in worship every week unless sick or out of town. I share Biblical and/or Christian stories with my family/friends.	I provide worship leadership and/or other service on Sundays. I help organize Central Connect Groups (faith formation opportunities).		In Community (Evangelism, Mission Trips, Service Projects, Social Action)	I learn from the church about caring for others in the community. I help in the community in the fields of arts, academics, athletics, politics, charity, etc. I am learning how to apply Christian ethics and faith in my work world.	I participate in community service through church ministries occasionally. I am learning how to apply Christian ethics and faith to local and political issues.	I participate in community service through church ministries regularly. I invite others to try a variety of serving opportunities outside the church. I assist the church to advocate for peace and justice for all.	I participate in ongoing service beyond the walls of the church. I recruit and equip leaders for ministries and missions. I participate in a community peace and justice group.	
	Connecting with Others	Individually	I aim to accept others, including those whose color, status, etc. are different from mine.	I go out of my way to be hospitable to members and guests in our church.	I listen and try to help others with their spiritual questions, joys, and concerns. I share my faith through personal testimony/story.		I invite others to worship and church events. I share my faith with others through invitation and witness.					
		In Community	I attend seasonal events or special events. I am learning about ministry opportunities.	I participate in a Central Connect Group for fellowship or faith formation. I attend or serve at events.	I provide leadership for special events. I am open to being trained in church leadership.		I am a leader in a Central Connect Group. I am open to training others for leadership in church administration, education, etc.					



Central United Methodist Church
Waterford, MI

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Kathy Pittenger
Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation
kpittenger@waterfordcumc.org
248.681.0040

Discipleship Pathway Self-Assessment

Note: These are not rigid categories but general ideas of where you are currently in relationship with Jesus. Use them to identify what your next steps can be.

	Exploring	Getting Started	Going Deeper	Centering
	Relating to God Acquaintances	Friends	Good Friends	Intimate Friends
Deeply Rooted	Prayer and Meditation Sometimes I pray (ex: at the beginning or end of the day, or at meals).	I pray for the needs of others in my life, community and around the world. I reflect on my day, and confess struggles to God.	I set aside intentional time each day to pray and learn new methods of prayer. I have a prayer partner/group to encourage to me.	I continue to increase my prayer life by learning practicing contemplative prayer and fasting. I spend time in silence and solitude each day. I lead others in prayer.
	Scripture Reflection I occasionally read the Bible for knowledge and understanding.	I read the Bible for knowledge and understanding, and also listen to how God speaks to me through Scripture.	I spend time each day reading and reflecting on Scripture to listen for God speaking to me. I study scripture with others.	I am exploring new ways to read and study the Bible. I read Scripture and write personal reflections as I listen to God.
Branching Out	Corporate Worship I attend worship when a friend invites me, it is convenient, or I feel a need.	I attend worship once or twice a month and realize that God is present with me every day.	I participate in worship regularly and set aside time to connect with God daily.	I live my life increasingly aware of God's presence and seek to please God in all I do. I lead worship.
	Small Group Community I am loosely connected to or interested in a class or other group.	I regularly attend a GIG or other small group.	I am involved and interconnected with my group. The group is an important part of my spiritual practice.	I lead my group by being present with them mentally and spiritually. I am learning to be honest with this trusted group.
Bearing Fruit	Gift-based Service I occasionally volunteer or would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities.	I have taken a spiritual gifts survey to identify my gifts. I regularly help do God's work.	I am using my spiritual gifts to make God's love real in the world.	I am actively pursuing ways to sharpen my gifts (practice, studies, classes, etc.) even if it takes me outside my comfort zone.
	Financial Generosity I thank God for providing for my needs. I occasionally give a monetary offering and consider it a response to God's love and provision in my life.	I budget money to give to God's work. When I hear about critical needs, I give.	I've committed to move toward a tithe (10% of income). I have studied finances from a spiritual perspective and consider how I spend my income because all I have belongs to God.	I give 10% of all income to God's work and respond with more when prompted to do so. I consider how all assets can be used by God. I've provided for a portion of my estate to go to God's work. I'm beginning to live a life defined by generosity as I'm led by God.
	Invitational Evangelism I admire others who can talk about their faith and am exploring questions in my own faith.	I am finding and making friends and am willing to accept others as they are. I invite others to church.	I am actively trying to relate more to people outside of the church in ways that reflect God's love and acceptance of them. I share my faith.	I intentionally seek to build relationships with people in order to share God's love. I mentor others on their faith journey.

spiritual assessment

knowing God

	DOES NOT APPLY	APPLIES SOMEWHAT	APPLIES COMPLETELY			
1. I understand the essential beliefs of the Christian faith, and feel confident that I could explain them to a non-religious friend.	0	1	2	3	4	5
2. I have a good knowledge of the Bible, including its major events and themes, and I know how to read it for maximum understanding.	0	1	2	3	4	5
3. If someone were to ask me, "What do United Methodists believe?" I feel confident in my ability to answer them.	0	1	2	3	4	5
4. I understand basic Christian ethics, and I know how to draw upon my faith to come to conclusions about important moral and ethical issues.	0	1	2	3	4	5
5. I have a good understanding of God's will for human beings, and I know how to discern his will for my life in particular.	0	1	2	3	4	5

loving God

1. I know God has the power to transform lives and I'm open and responsive to wherever that may lead in my life.	0	1	2	3	4	5
2. I lay aside my own desires and sense of importance and submit to God's will for my life.	0	1	2	3	4	5
3. As a means of growing in Christ, I prayerfully practice various spiritual disciplines in my life.	0	1	2	3	4	5
4. I am experiencing "the fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22) in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.	0	1	2	3	4	5
5. I have a group of friends who grow in faith together and challenge each other to grow deeper in Christ.	0	1	2	3	4	5

serving God

1. I invest time in building my relationships with God and with others.	0	1	2	3	4	5
2. I know my God-given spiritual gifts, and am actively serving Christ by using those gifts.	0	1	2	3	4	5
3. I give back to Christ by giving to the church and to others in proportion to my income, with at least 10% as my goal.	0	1	2	3	4	5
4. I spend time serving in God's world by helping meet critical needs and showing what it means to follow Jesus Christ.	0	1	2	3	4	5
5. I am actively nurturing the spiritual lives of others, sharing my faith story, offering spiritual encouragement and leading others to Christ.	0	1	2	3	4	5

Place your self-assessment number for each question below and add across, giving you an overall total.

Knowing: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ Total Head _____

Loving: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ Total Heart _____

Serving: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ Total Hands _____

■ No one can concentrate on too many things at once. Look first at the individual questions, and then turn to the inside of this folder to consider next steps. Seek to find one or more areas in which you can grow in your relationship with God. Use the following scale as a general guide to the three levels:
0-2 Level 1 3-4 Level 2 5 Level 3