

FAITH FORMATION NETWORKS

What is a faith formation network?

A faith formation network (FFN) is an innovative model of ministry that blends face-to-face, interactive faith formation programs and activities with virtual, online faith formation programs, activities, and resources. In other words, FFNs combine individualized learning with collaborative group experiences that provide opportunity for people to practice what they've learned.

The goal of FFNs is to empower individuals and families to take faith formation into their own hands by making the necessary resources available to them 24 hours a day.

What are the advantages of a faith formation network?

- FFNs excel at creating personal learning pathways that meet the spiritual and religious needs of individuals and families
- The way students learn today has evolved far beyond our current Sunday School models. FFNs take into account these changes. Specifically, FFNs are adapted to 3 key shifts in the way our youth learn:

A shift from education to learning

Education is what institutions do, learning is what people do.

Digital media enable learning anywhere, anytime; formal learning must be mobile and just in time.

A shift from consumption of information to participatory learning

Experts suggest that learning must be peer-based and organized around learners' interests, enabling them to create as well as consume information.

It encourages learners to experiment and to create, produce and design things.

A shift from institutions to networks

In the digital age, the fundamental operating and delivery systems are networks, not institutions such as schools, which are a node on a person's network of learning opportunities.

People learn across institutions, so an entire learning network must be supported.

- FFNs utilize a variety of faith formation models to address the diverse life tasks and situations, religious and spiritual needs, and interests of people: learning on your own, at home, in small groups, in large groups, in the congregation, and in the community and world.
- FFNs incorporate communities of practice to connect individuals and groups throughout the congregation.