

# ENCOURAGING DISCIPLESHIP

*Shaped by Grace*



Christian Reformed Church  
**Faith Formation  
Ministries**

# FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

## Faith Formation Ministries (FFM)

supports congregations as they carry out their callings in faith formation and discipleship. FFM recognizes that each congregation has a unique identity, history, context, and calling. To that end, FFM listens, dialogues, and then suggests ideas and develops resources to strengthen these ministries.

Coaching conversations with our regional catalyzers range from a fifteen-minute check-in on a small detail to a year-long congregational re-visioning journey, and everywhere in between.

If you face a faith formation question or challenge, **let's talk!**

[www.crcna.org/FaithFormation](http://www.crcna.org/FaithFormation) | [faithformation@crcna.org](mailto:faithformation@crcna.org)



Each toolkit contains a wide variety of ideas and resources to meet your congregation's unique needs. You'll find best practices from other churches, recommended reading, links to helpful online materials and ideas, and more.

**Topics we're addressing include**

- \* welcoming children to the Lord's Supper
- \* intergenerational ministry
- \* telling faith stories
- \* the four building blocks of faith
- \* faith commitments such as baptism and profession of faith

**New resources are added regularly, so check back often at**  
[crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits)

# OUR REGIONAL CATALYZERS

## A Regional Catalyzer

responds to questions or challenges with ideas, resources, and encouragement with the goal of catalyzing healthy change.

**Our Regional Catalyzers will:**

- \* discuss specific topics upon request by email, phone, video chat, or visit
- \* provide short-term coaching (3-12 months)
- \* present workshops
- \* facilitate conversations
- \* connect leaders with resources and other leaders
- \* help discern the state of discipleship and faith formation in your congregation

**To find a Regional Catalyzer near you, visit**  
[crcna.org/FaithFormation/coaching](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation/coaching)

# OUR WORK

**“One of the youth who participated in the Leadership Studio said that no one had ever pointed out their gifts for leadership before, and another noticed how members in the congregation have been surprised to see their mature, adult-like participation in small group sermon discussions. In a sense the faith of the whole congregation has been impacted through this one, catalytic event!”**

**—PASTOR ANTHONY ELENBAAS,  
IMMANUEL CRC, HAMILTON ON**

**“FFM has helped and encouraged us to look inward and wonder about who God has made us, and about who God is making us to be as a church community.”**

**—REV. SCOTT ELGERSMA,  
THE RIVER CRC, REDLANDS CA**

**“We have begun to ask ourselves how every member of our congregation knows that they belong, that they have an understanding of who God is and who he created them to be, that they have hope in the future, and that they are called and equipped to serve God.”**

**—PASTORS KEN BOONSTRA  
AND BRET LAMSMA,  
IMMANUEL CRC, RIPON CA**

**“As a result of working with FFM, our Faith Nurture Team has presented a proposal to the Council recommending a very significant change. In a nutshell, Sunday mornings will focus on Worship (age appropriate), and Wednesday evening events will focus on Faith Formation programming nursery through adult.”**

**—EVELYN HOTROP,  
SPRING LAKE CRC, SPRING LAKE MI**

**“FFM’s Grace Buffet Workshop helped attendees take a broad and idea-sparking look at ways we make disciples. When we asked for input on the matter of children at the Lord’s Supper, FFM provided resources and shared experiences gathered from other churches, all without making prescriptions for us.”**

**—REV. BRENT WASSINK,  
LONG BEACH CRC, LONG BEACH CA**

**“Being part of the Building Blocks Pilot project has helped us to identify and celebrate the ways that our own faith has been shaped, and the ways that the Building Blocks are being incorporated into our present ministries. Looking ahead, this is helping us to refocus and become more intentional. It has been a very valuable process for our church.”**

**—TERRI BAAS,  
BETHEL CRC, PRINCETON MN**

**“I feel that I can come to the FFM team (including our classis youth ministry champion) with any question, and they will engage in an in-depth discussion, asking pertinent questions and offering helpful advice. As a person new to vocational ministry, their role has been invaluable to me as I navigate this exciting terrain.”**

**—STEPHEN VAN BRED A,  
EXETER CRC, EXETER ON**

# WHAT WE DO

## Listen

Through meetings and coaching relationships, we listen to hear, understand, and discern the strengths and needs of congregations.

## Assist

Through our communications, workshops, and meetings, we assist congregational leaders in their church's faith formation efforts.

## Resource

We seek to offer support by curating and creating resources to educate and mobilize congregation members and support families in faith formation.

## Share

We share what congregations and other ministries are doing to foster learning and ministry growth.

## Coordinate and collaborate

We coordinate and collaborate with other ministries in our efforts to be good stewards of the gifts we have been given.



**“EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD’S GRACE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS.”**

—1 PETER 4:10

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