

Faith Formation: A Checklist for Congregations

(For use by Pastors, Elders, and Committees)

You will undoubtedly find it insightful to evaluate the culture of your congregation and its ministries by using this document as a guide for a “checklist evaluation”.

- ___ do we promote healthy and secure marriages in our congregation?
- ___ do we have ways of giving extra support to single parents?
- ___ do we properly celebrate births and adoptions?
- ___ are our baptism services celebratory events that highlight God’s covenant?
- ___ do we occasionally affirm our baptisms in worship liturgies?
- ___ do we sufficiently encourage and aid parents in affirming baptism within the family?
- ___ does our church education ministry affirm the meaning of baptisms?
- ___ do we have a forum of some kind for conversations between children, youth, pastors and elders?
- ___ do we take note of multiple milestones of faith development?
- ___ does our church education ministry faithfully teach the meaning and significance of the Lord’s Supper and stir the desire to participate?
- ___ do we aid and encourage parents to discuss the Lord’s Supper with their children?
- ___ do we encourage the openness between children, youth, pastors and elders to discuss a desire to come to the Lord’s Table?
- ___ have we clarified our procedure as a congregation for welcoming children to the Table?
- ___ do we provide a manner of affirmation and blessing for children who do not partake of the Lord’s Supper?
- ___ are children and teens encouraged to participate in local opportunities of Christian Service?
- ___ is mentoring provided for those who are being formed in faith?
- ___ do elders and pastor encourage youth to make a public profession of faith?
- ___ is the interview for public profession of faith with the elders and pastor warm, personal, and of quality content?
- ___ are public professions of faith times of celebration for the congregation?
- ___ are public professions of faith encouraged before the time comes for youth to potentially leave the community?
- ___ what kind of follow-up care is given after public profession of faith?
- ___ are those who drift away from their faith-commitment exhorted to return in penitence?
- ___ are those who chose not to make profession of faith counseled and encouraged?
- ___ are all encouraged to participate faithfully in worship, education, stewardship and Christian service?
- ___ are all regularly encouraged to share their faith stories with others?
- ___ are those of middle-age encouraged to continue their growth in faith and service?
- ___ are those reaching retirement encouraged to consider new avenues of service?
- ___ are all encouraged and supported in their faith when they reach the end of their lives?

(Faith Formation Committee)