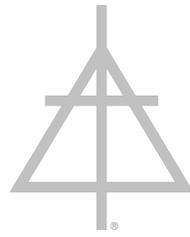


An Invitation



Christian Reformed Church
**Faith Formation
Ministries**

Dear Colleagues in Ministry:

[CRC Faith Formation Ministries](#) is just over a year old in carrying out its mandate to support congregational discipleship and faith formation. As we navigate our steep learning curve, we've realized that inviting congregations to join a focused cohort that develops new steps or strengthens recently begun steps of faith formation holds capacity to bear rich fruit.

Many ministry leaders throughout the CRCNA are voicing the need to be more intentional concerning the discipleship and faith formation practices of their congregations. As we listen to these voices, we recognize how challenging this desire is, and this challenge has led us to develop a "[Strengthening Your Faith Formation Culture](#)" project.

We invite you to consider joining a cohort of twenty congregations that will work with us to intentionally strengthen faith formation practices from October 2016 to January 2018.

The pages that follow provide the details that you need to help you discern if this is right for you. Here's a quick snapshot:

What is a cohort?

FFM defines a cohort as a group of congregations that work together with a shared purpose (like strengthening their congregation's faith formation practices) in order to provide each other with encouragement and support. This cohort will be made up of twenty congregations who are all committed to strengthening their faith formation culture and practices. The cohort will respect the uniqueness of each congregation. FFM will provide a coach to walk alongside as a listener, brainstormer, encourager and connector (e.g. connecting the congregation to resources, resource people and other congregations in the cohort whose trajectory is somewhat similar). Listen to past cohort members describe their experience in [this seven-minute video](#).

Why should we consider joining?

Throughout the CRCNA, congregational faith formation is going through many changes, and most congregations are navigating these changes on their own. A coached cohort provides a discerning and equipped community for this navigation.

What's the price tag?

Not much.

- Cohort congregations will receive four free registrations for the Calvin Worship Symposium (Jan. 26-28, 2017 in Grand Rapids), which at least two persons are required to attend (at least one of them being from the congregation's team taking the lead on this). The congregation is responsible for their accommodation, lodging and travel (if flights are required, the congregation can apply for a \$500 travel grant from FFM).
- Each congregation will be invited to contribute financially to FFM during the spring of 2017 (through an offering or other means).

[This document](#) contains more detailed information about this cohort. We would encourage you to reflect on this information, jot down questions that come to mind, and then have a conversation with a member of the FFM team. To apply or ask questions, contact Christine Dekker at cdekker@crcna.org. Applications are due October 15, 2016.

Our young ministry has been VERY encouraged by our [interactions with congregations](#) during our first year, and we're eager to build on our learnings as we head into year two.

Your partners in ministry,

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