

Tips for Learning Communities

Regardless of our age, we learn best when we are active participants in a process of discovery helped along by mentors and teachers who share important information and help us develop skills for critical thinking and processing that allow us to find the pieces we need at any particular point on our journey.

Our formation as Christians is a lifelong process that involves information, instruction, reflection, action, community, and prayer in an ever-connected circle.

Some things to think about as you reflect on how you would like your congregation to feel as a learning community of all ages:

- Questions are key
- Are learners' interests guides?
- Are learners invested in the process?
- Are learners and teachers partners?
- Are all the senses engaged?
- Reflection is never skipped over
- Everyone has a voice
- Experience is a great way to learn
- Teachers and learners are both open to surprises

We all get excited about sharing information and ideas that excite us. We need to remember that they may or may not excite our hearers the same way; that is okay. The delightful surprise is when what we have shared comes back to us from our children and co-learners with new and wonderful insights days or years later and leads us to new learnings.

Faith Formation is lifelong learning happening on God's time, not ours. If we can allow that, we are truly helping each other deepen our faith and are partners on a wonderful journey.