**RESOURCES FOR CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS**

Throughout the Diocese of New Jersey, many dedicated leaders—ordained and lay leaders alike--work to engage, empower, encourage, and equip people in their faith journeys of discipleship. Through the Lifelong Christian Formation Committee (LCFC) and other groups, the Diocese of New Jersey is here to support these leaders by offering resources, best practices, and opportunities to gather virtually and in-person throughout the year in order to live out their ministry of formation.

*Resources for Learning Leaders:*

* **Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary** offers several excellent resources:
	+ Building Faith’s mission is to equip and inspire churches and individuals for the ministry of Christian education and faith formation. They offer curriculum reviews, program guidance, and a variety of ideas for supporting your parish’s formation program for all ages. <https://buildfaith.org>
	+ eformation Learning Community focuses on ministry in a digital world. <https://eformationvts.org>
	+ Episcopal Children’s Curriculum (ECC) is a thematic Sunday school curriculum tied to the seasons of the church year. It is no longer in print, but the materials are available for free download here: <https://vts.edu/resource/episcopal-curriculum-for-youth/>
* **Milestone Ministries** offers frameworks for recognizing memorable and meaningful events in the lives of parishioners. <https://milestonesministry.org>.
* **Taking Faith Home**, also from Milestone Ministries, is a printable resource for parishes based on the Keys of Faith. <https://milestoneministries.org/taking-faith-home/>
* **Forward Movement’s** mission is to inspire disciples and empower evangelists. They offer a variety of resources, including books, pamphlets, and curriculums for group and individual use. They also publish the popular Forward Day by Day devotional books. <https://www.forwardmovement.org>
* **The Episcopal Church** offers a variety of formation resources and curriculums, including:
	+ The Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life (a nine-session guide plus seasonal curriculums) <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/>
	+ Becoming Beloved Community (working towards growing as reconcilers, justice-makers, and healers in the name of Christ) <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community/>
	+ From Many, One: Conversations Across Difference (a campaign inviting Episcopalians and our neighbors to engage in one-to-one listening and sharing across the many differences that separate us) <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/from-many-one/>

* Resources for children and family formation:
	+ **Candle Press** offers some beautiful yet accessible resources for families with young children. <https://candlepress.com>
	+ **Worshiping with Children** offers an abundance of resources for including children in worship—you can search by lectionary, scripture, or topical indexes! <http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com>
	+ The **Godly Play** approach helps children explore faith through story, to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. <https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org>
	+ **Flame Creative Children’s Ministry** uses the Messy Church model and has a wealth of hand-on activities and prayer stations. <http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com>
	+ **Sparkhouse** Publishing offers a variety of curriculum resources, including lectionary, rotation, and all-ages. <https://www.wearesparkhouse.org>

* Resources for confirmation and youth formation:
	+ **Confirm, not Conform** has an Episcopal-specific confirmation curriculum that is adaptable and accessible <https://www.confirmnotconform.com>
	+ **Sparkhouse** Publishing has several curriculum options that are appropriate for confirmation and youth study.<https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/category/286820/Youth>
	+ **Diocese of New Jersey Youth Conveners**