

Christian Formation Conversation Starters

Where would you like to see your church go in the future? How would you like to help form the faith of your children, youth, young adults, adults, families, and neighbors in ways that are life-giving, relevant, and practical? Often the first step is to talk about it; you simply have to “put it out there” and “start the conversation!”

You can begin by asking the Christian Formation Questions listed below. These questions have been developed and used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency Christian Formation Team to talk with Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations about their vision and prayer for God’s work in the lives of their people. The questions are simple and intended to develop engaging, active conversations! Groups that would benefit from answering the questions might include:

- The session
- The deacons
- The staff of your church
- The various committees, teams, commissions, and coordinators that oversee ministries (*such as the Christian education committee, youth team, and evangelism commission*)
- Presbytery / Mid Council Educational committees
- Small groups and faith-sharing groups
- Youth groups
- Sunday school classes
- Search committees

Christian Formation Questions

1. Using a few key words or phrases, describe your congregation.
2. What are some of the life issues that people in your congregation are experiencing today?
3. What are the significant spiritual issues that you hear being discussed or considered?
4. What words would people of each age group use to describe their worship experience? (*include young/elementary age children, young teens, older youth, post-high-school young adults, young adult singles, young adult couples, midlife adults, boomers, and older adults.*)
5. What have you tried to do in terms of equipping parents, families, and caregivers to live in faith and share their faith at home and outside of church?
6. What do you see as your church's strengths in terms of nurturing Christian growth?
7. Where would you like to see your church improve in its efforts to nurture Christian growth?
8. How do you see your church engaging in intergenerational experiences? In other words, where are the opportunities for people of all ages to come together?
9. What spiritual formation experiences do your congregation participate in or support on a yearly or cyclical basis? (*for example, camps, retreats, mission and service, conferences, continuing education, and so forth*)
10. Is there something you—as an individual—are inspired to see, do, learn, pay attention to, or improve as a result of this conversation or process?

If you would like to schedule a time to talk with a staff member of the PMA Christian Formation Team about the process or questions described above, please contact Heather Leoncini at heather.leoncini@pcusa.org or call at 502-569-5460.

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