

# Certification School

## 2014 TRAINING OVERVIEW (FLORIDA)

### Welcome Certification School Participants!

You are entering into a spiritual, mental, communal, personal and physical adventure that includes two face to face immersions, five webinar sessions, ten online blogging assignments and personal coaching throughout the process. It will be a time of learning, laughter, reflection, action and sharing.

### Outcomes for Certification School

- Equip leaders with a foundational knowledge of effective youth and family ministry practices.
- Nurture the personal and spiritual lives of participants in the school.
- Create an ongoing learning community and support network of youth and family ministry leaders.
- Deepen the biblical and theological perspectives of each participant.
- Equip students how to teach faith formation principles, practices and pathways..
- Introduce students to principles, practices and perspectives related to exercising effective leadership.
- Provide strategies for creating a congregational culture that promotes spiritual vitality.

### What's covered in the tuition?

- Meals and lodging for week-long intensive and the reunion.
- A downloadable *Leadership Toolkit* and access to research studies and downloadable resources.
- Books: *Vibrant Faith in Congregation*, *From Great Omission to Vibrant Faith* and *Surface to Soul*.
- Four Key Resources: *FaithTalk Four Keys*, *Milestones Ministry Manual* and *Heart Ignite*.
- Free access to designated webinars before, during and after the Certification School process.
- Training and support for developing a year-long Ministry Plan to guide ministry initiatives.
- Complimentary coaching support for up to 9 months after the reunion date.

### How the School Works

Certification school combines two face-to-face intensives with online training and learning experiences. The design is intended to provide optimum learning through a highly flexible, user-friendly format. Students can expect to spend 10-12 hours a month reading, blogging and participating in webinars. To be certified students must:

- Read *Vibrant Faith in the Congregation*, *From The Great Omission To Vibrant Faith*, *Surface to Soul*, *Lifelong*. *Faith Journal* articles and at least two modules found in the *Milestones Ministry Manual*.
- Submit a completed Spiritual Vitality Audit, and Personal Development Plan.
- Submit a comprehensive Ministry Plan and present it to other students for feedback..
- Read and post comments to weekly blog postings found at: <http://www.surfaceetosoul.org>.
- Read and post comments at the Certschool 13 Facebook group page (Facebook is mandatory!).
- Participate in at least two Facebook Parties (first Thursday of the month @ 8pm central time) found at Vibrant Faith Ministries' Facebook page ("like" this page to get notices about parties).
- Review research and resources found at <http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net>.
- Review family-based resources found at <http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org>.
- Read "required reading" documents found at <http://www.surfaceetosoul.org/certschool>.

### Webinar Schedule

Dozens of webinars are made available to Certification School students. Students are required to participate in the webinars scheduled Thursdays at 1pm Central time from January to April. Students will be able to hear the presenters but will not have the opportunity to speak. Communication from students will take place via the chat room, polls, raising of hands, etc. Students are asked to share specific comments about the webinar via Facebook's Certschool 14 group. If students miss a live webinar, they will have the opportunity to view a recording of the presentation.

See [www.surfaceetosoul.org/webinars](http://www.surfaceetosoul.org/webinars) for a listing of upcoming webinars.

# Certification School

## WEEK-LONG INTENSIVE SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, January 19**

- 3:00pm: Arrive, Registration and 10-minute Interviews
- 6:00pm: Opening Dinner
- 7:15pm: Orientation, Distribution of Resources and Creation of Group Covenant
- 9:00pm: Vespers (hospitality time afterwards)

### **Monday, January 20**

- 8:30am: Breakfast
- 9:15am: Morning Worship
- 10:00am: Introduction to Lifelong Faith Formation
- 12:00pm: Lunch & Sabbath Time
- 1:30pm: Adventure Sequencing and Team Building
- 5:30pm: Dinner
- 7:00pm: Progressive Christianity
- 8:30pm: Vespers (hospitality time afterwards)

### **Tuesday, January 21**

- 8:30am: Breakfast
- 9:15am: Morning Worship
- 10:00am: Introduction to Facilitating CHANGE
- 12:00pm: Lunch & Sabbath Time
- 1:30pm: Adventure Sequencing (ropes)
- 5:30pm: Dinner
- 7:00pm: Family Systems
- 8:30pm: Vespers (hospitality time afterwards)

### **Wednesday, January 22**

- 8:30am: Breakfast
- 9:15am: Morning Worship
- 10:00am: Engaging the Bible with Youth
- 12:00pm: Lunch & Sabbath Time
- 1:30pm: Engaging Contemplative Practices & Worship With Youth
- 3:30pm: Contemplative Practices (in silence)
- 5:30pm: Dinner (in silence)
- 8:00pm: Vespers (processing the silence afterwards)
- 9:00pm: Hospitality

### **Thursday, January 23**

- 8:30am: Breakfast
- 9:15am: Morning Worship
- 10:00am: Discovering Your Spiritual Type
- 12:00pm: Lunch & Sabbath Time
- 1:30pm: Adolescent Development
- 3:30pm: Adventure Sequencing
- 5:30pm: Closing Banquet (off-site)
- 8:30pm: Vespers (hospitality time afterwards)

### **Friday, January 24**

- 8:30am: Breakfast
- 9:15am: Morning Worship
- 10:00am: Next steps, Ministry Plans, Evaluations, Affirmations and Blessing and Sending
- 12:00pm: Lunch

# Certification School

## REUNION SCHEDULE & ITEMS TO BRING

### Friday, April 25

- 5:30pm: Dinner
- 7:00pm: Schedule Ministry Plan Presentations; Review Ministry Plan Presentation Process
- 8:00pm: Vespers (hospitality afterwards)

### Saturday, April 26

- 8:00am: Breakfast
- 8:45am: Morning Worship
- 9:15pm: Ministry Plan Presentations and Feedback
- 12:00pm: Lunch
- 1:00pm: Ministry Plan Presentations and Feedback
- 5:30pm: Dinner
- 6:15pm: Review of Ministry Plans; Communicating Your Plan to Your Congregation
- 7:30pm: Vespers (hospitality afterwards)

### Sunday, April 10

- 8:00am: Breakfast
- 9:30am: Worship
- 11:00am: Presentation of Certificates; Sending and Blessing
- 12:00pm: Lunch

### Items to bring to Certification School

Please bring a Bible, a laptop or tablet, a copy of the Sample Ministry Plan, a copy of the Personal Development Plan, loose clothing appropriate for low and high ropes activities, proof of having had a recent background check, and a letter of reference from your pastor or a congregational leader that also states his or her expectations for this learning experience.

Students will receive books and resources the first day of the week-long intensive. All other resources will be available as downloads. Students are expected to download and read the *LifeLong Faith* Journal articles, at least two of the Milestones Ministry Modules and the Sample Ministry Plans packet beforehand.

Vibrant Faith Ministries encourage students to send Jim LaDoux a draft of your ministry plan within one month of the weeklong intensive and to schedule coaching conversations with him as your ministry plan develops, and as you live into your plan the months following the reunion date. He can be reached at 877.693.7196.

At the Reunion, students will need to bring copies of their ministry plan for each student and instructor. In addition, students will need to submit to VFM a copy of their Annual Goals and a completed Spiritual Vitality Audit which assesses a congregation's capacity to create and sustain a culture of vibrant faith.

### Training Location for Weeklong Intensive & Reunion

#### DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center

8411 25th. St. East, Parrish, FL 34219  
(888) 314-5744  
<http://dayspring.dioswfl.org>

# Certification School

## FEEDBACK ON CERTIFICATION SCHOOL OUTCOMES

Please rate the following items on a scale of 1-10 (10 = very satisfied with the training received)

### **I gained a greater awareness and understanding of . . .**

- \_\_\_ adolescent brain development and stages of faith formation
- \_\_\_ multiple learning intelligences and Edgar Dale's Cone of Learning
- \_\_\_ the Bible, foundational scripture passages, church history and the emergent church
- \_\_\_ principles and practices for vibrant faith formation found in *Great Omission & Vibrant Faith*
- \_\_\_ the purpose and key components of Milestones Ministry celebrations
- \_\_\_ faith forming activities, including the Four Keys
- \_\_\_ family systems theory based on Peter Steinke's DVD series, *Leading Change*
- \_\_\_ how to create faith formation learning networks based on *Faith Formation 2020*
- \_\_\_ the eight reasons why change efforts fail based on John Kotter's book, *Leading Change*
- \_\_\_ leadership principles and practices based on *The Leadership Challenge*
- \_\_\_ adaptive VS technical change strategies addressed in book, *Leadership Without Easy Answers*
- \_\_\_ the six CHANGE steps highlighted in the workbook, *Surface to Soul*
- \_\_\_ faith formation strategies related to cross+generational ministry

### **I gained skills in . . .**

- \_\_\_ how to engage people in caring conversations using Four Key resources
- \_\_\_ how to integrate faith practices into home and congregational settings
- \_\_\_ developing a ministry plan to guide our congregation's ministry to youth and their families
- \_\_\_ creating a Personal Development Plan to enhance one's ministry effectiveness
- \_\_\_ facilitating small group discussion and using D.R.A.G. Bi.G and Get W.E.I.R.D tools
- \_\_\_ planning, promoting and leading milestone celebrations
- \_\_\_ creating covenants for families, events, ministry teams and congregations
- \_\_\_ leading meetings that are productive and purposeful
- \_\_\_ planning, promoting and evaluating activities that are **Active, Relevant & Transformative**
- \_\_\_ creating effective presentations and promotional publications
- \_\_\_ exercising effective leadership using the five practices found in *The Leadership Challenge*
- \_\_\_ how to build high performing teams based on *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*
- \_\_\_ ways to articulate my vision for ministry and the assumptions I hold regarding faith formation
- \_\_\_ how to evaluate people, programs, events and meetings

### **I became more familiar with ministry these tools and resources . . .**

- \_\_\_ for practicing Caring Conversations
- \_\_\_ for practicing Devotions
- \_\_\_ for Serving others
- \_\_\_ for practicing Rituals and Traditions and Milestones celebrations
- \_\_\_ for developing leaders and building leadership teams
- \_\_\_ found at [surfacetosoul.org](http://surfacetosoul.org) and VFM dropbox folders
- \_\_\_ found at [faithformationlearningexchange.net](http://faithformationlearningexchange.net)
- \_\_\_ found at [vibrantfaithathome.org](http://vibrantfaithathome.org)

**Overall, I'd rate my Certification School Experience a \_\_\_\_\_**