

Certification School

2014 TRAINING OVERVIEW (MINNESOTA)

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 May to November. 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 Certschool13 group. If students miss a live webinar, they will have the opportunity to view a recording of the presentation. See www.surfaceetosoul.org/webinars for a listing of upcoming webinars.

Certification School

WEEK-LONG INTENSIVE SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 18

- 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, May 19

- 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, May 20

- 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, May 21

- 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, May 22

- 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, May 23

- 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, November 7

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

Saturday, November 8

- 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, November 9

- 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 Locations

Weeklong Intensive

Pilgrim Point Bible Camp (320-846-2852)
2059 Pilgrim Point Road Northwest
Alexandria, MN 56308

Reunion

Camp Friendship (952.852.0104)
10509 108th Street NW
Annandale MN 55302

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 and VFM dropbox folders
- ___ found at faithformationlearningexchange.net
- ___ found at vibrantfaithathome.org

Overall, I'd rate my Certification School Experience a _____