

# DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR VIBRANT FAITH IN THE CONGREGATION

## CHAPTER 1

- ◆ “Evangelism: Being Church in Congregation, Homes, and Community” identifies three strategies based on the Vibrant Faith Frame: serving the community, homes as Christian outposts, and Milestones Ministry (pp. 25ff). In your congregation, which of these three strategies require the most attention?
- ◆ How do you and your congregation react to Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s understanding of church? “The church is only the church when it exists for others” (p. 26).

## CHAPTER 2

- ◆ Chapter 2 suggests a shift from a school-instructional model of Christian education to Christian faith formation that incorporates “preaching and teaching; passion (Acts 4:31); commitment to one another; suffering with joy (5:41); and the growth of the church” (p. 53). How can these concepts help your congregation promote faith formation for children, youth, and adults? How does the Vibrant Faith Frame foster lifelong faith formation?
- ◆ A major principle promoted by Milestones Ministry is to “do less, but do it more thoroughly” (p. 60). How does that influence what you do or don’t do in your congregation’s faith formation ministry?

## CHAPTER 3

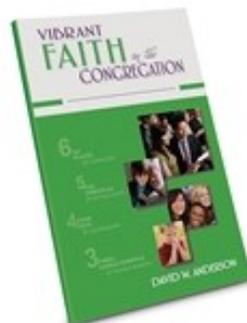
- ◆ Chapter 3 emphasizes the use of the Four Key Faith Practices in worship and preaching, stating that public worship shapes our daily lives in Christ, rather than offering a time-out. How does your worship service follow you into your daily life? What recommendations for connecting worship with daily life would you like to apply?

## CHAPTER 4

- ◆ Chapter 4 addresses youth and family ministry by stating, “Generally speaking, today’s youth are open to and even eager for meaningful contact with adults” (p. 103). How can this awareness shape youth and family ministry in your congregation and in your home?

## CHAPTER 5

- ◆ Chapter 5 describes Christian stewardship as something that includes, but far exceeds, our financial support of a congregation. How does the role of the home as an expression of the church impact your practice of Christian stewardship?



## Do you wonder what vibrant faith looks like in a congregation?

The Vibrant Faith Frame is a great place to start! The Vibrant Faith Frame helps connect all of a congregation’s programs into one ministry, rather than having several disconnected activities under one roof. As a result,

focused on two foundational tasks in everything they do—Christian faith formation and community outreach.

Whether just getting started or looking for best practices, Vibrant Faith in the Congregation outlines what the Vibrant Faith Frame should look like from the perspective of various congregational ministries, including evangelism, Christian education, worship and preaching, youth and family, and stewardship.

## CHAPTER 6

- ◆ Chapter 6 observes that preschools, day schools, and after school programs represent a largely untapped resource for congregations to develop faith formation in homes and outreach into communities. What examples and ideas in the chapter seem best suited to your congregation?

## CHAPTER 7

- ◆ Chapter 7 emphasizes administration as ministry by applying the Four Key Faith Practices to support lifelong faith formation. How does your role as congregational leader/organizer enable you to act as a faith formation caregiver? How can you use the Four Key Faith Practices to encourage others in their Christian life?

## CHAPTER 8

- ◆ Chapter 8 states, “architecture always wins” (pp. 172-173). What values are articulated through your congregation’s facilities? Do your buildings present a vision that contrasts with your congregation’s stated values? If so, what facility changes can be made to address this?