

**INUMC FAMILY
MINISTRY COHORT
INFORMATION**

What is Family Ministry?

“Family Ministry” has become a popular term in the church world, with definitions that range from one extreme to the other. Often, it is defined as age level ministries for children, youth and their parents/guardians, or equipping parents to tackle their role as primary faith formers in the home.

While children, youth and their parents/guardians are a vital part of this definition, the healthiest approach to family ministry is to intentionally involve and bring together all generations to help lead children and teenagers to follow Jesus. This does not mean age level programming ceases to exist, but that these ministries no longer operate as separate programs within the church. There is intentional strategizing to connect these ministries with the whole life of the church, the entire congregation becomes more aware, invested and involved in the discipleship process of all generations, and discipleship resources for ALL generations are provided so that faith development continues outside of the church.

Family ministry is not a new program or a simple adjustment of existing programming. It is a complete change in the culture of how we make, connect and nurture young disciples of Jesus Christ. It requires everyone - young and old - to commit to learning and growing together. Family ministry looks a lot more like ancient church than what we typically imagine. It is all about connecting people to Jesus through personal relationships that nurture faith development.

Simply put, family ministry is the whole church partnering together to help lead children and students to follow Jesus.

What is the INUMC Family Ministry Cohort?

This program has been designed to help churches produce healthy, sustainable family ministries by strengthening the adult and students leaders within their congregation, designing a ministry plan and growing congregational support. It is not a cookie cutter approach, but rather one designed to build systems and processes within each ministry at each church's optimal level.

How can a church participate?

12 churches will be invited to begin the process in 2015. At the present time, participation is by invitation only. Churches interested in future cohorts should contact Helene Foust at the Conference Center. Churches that meet the criteria for this program have:

- Gifted leadership in place.
- High potential for ministry growth.
- Senior pastor values and supports family ministry.
- Full commitment to participate in training/coaching.

What is the cost?

\$1100

This covers the cost for all sessions, coaching, workshop materials, a set of the books that will be used, and the session manual. A church can pay this fee in full upon registering or they can pay an initial \$500 non-refundable payment and be billed for the remainder in July (\$300) and October (\$300).

What are the steps?

Shared Learning Experiences:

Each church establishes a team of 5-7 leaders (including the senior pastor) that meets with teams from other INUMC churches for four learning sessions led by our family ministry coaching team. This experience will help your team learn key concepts and best practices in developing sustainable family ministry.

Session 1:

Intro to the INUMC Youth Ministry Coaching Program

Defining Family Ministry

Connecting Ministry Silos

Family Ministry Vision

Session 2:

Bridging Generational Gaps

Equipping Adult Leaders

Building a Family Ministry Plan

Communication & Calendaring

Session 3:

Equipping Student Leaders

Partnering With Parents

Reaching Your Community

Family Ministry Mission & Service

Session 4:

Worship Design

Decorating Spaces

Creating A Culture of Call

Budgets & Fundraisers

Each session will consist of:

- 1) “Group Time” - Small groups mixed from all the churches that will stay in the same small group for the course of the year.
- 2) “Team Time” - Each church will review the learning agenda for the day and determine their goals for “take-aways.”
- 3) Learning sessions as outlined above.
- 4) Ministry Homework – Each team will leave with hands-on assignments.

Dates

Dates will be determined by a poll of all churches. First meeting date will be in September 2015.

Sessions are held from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm ET.

What Happens Between Sessions?

Each participant on the team will read books that pertain to session topics. Those on your church’s team will meet at least once at your church, between each session to debrief the session, discuss the readings, and to see how each person is doing at applying the concepts personally. A one-hour phone coaching session will be scheduled each month (between session months).

PHONE COACHING

Each team will receive one hour of phone coaching each month between the onsite months with Helene Foust, Associate Director of Student Ministries of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The calls will have a set agenda as sent out by Helene and will cover the homework given at the last training day.

Teams will sign up for the coaching times at each training day.

ON-SITE CHURCH ASSESSMENT/COACHING

Each church will receive 6 hours of specialized coaching with their team, including a workshop for the whole congregation.

What are the Benefits?

This yearlong process will help each church:

- Deepen each leader's understanding of important family ministry concepts and practices.
- Develop vision and clarity for family ministry in their congregation.
- Develop a plan to engage the whole church in ministry that is fruitful and sustainable.
- Equip laity and develop a strong volunteer team.
- Incorporate youth and children into the life of the church and develop them as leaders.
- Build a strong culture of call within the family ministry.
- Expand outreach efforts.
- Develop an administrative plan (calendars, budgeting, etc)

- Equip leaders to lead meaningful discussions and studies.
- Create a discipleship plan.
- Evaluate staffing (paid and volunteer) and facility needs.

Questions?

Contact Helene Foust for more information at:

Helene Foust

Associate Director of Student Ministries

Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church 301

Pennsylvania Pkwy, Suite 300

Indianapolis, IN 46280

Office: (317) 564-3253

Cell/Text: (317) 670-8196