



Sample Description for an Adult Faith FORMATION TEAM

1. The Purpose of the Adult Faith Formation Team

To develop a multi-faceted approach to adult faith formation by identifying, creating, and offering a variety of adult resources and opportunities. Working with the adult faith formation leader, the team is responsible for coordinating the establishment of a context for adult learning, and planning activities for specific programs. Its role is consultation, planning, and program implementation for adult faith formation in the parish. (*Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*, par. 143)

2. The Responsibilities of the Adult Faith Formation Team

The Adult Faith Formation Team works with the Adult Faith Formation Leader to plan, execute, and evaluate adult learning opportunities that respond to the needs of the parish community. In addition the team coordinates its efforts with those of other parish ministries. The Team plays a major role in representation of the diverse elements and groups within the community. While the team strives to honor the gifts and talents of each member, the members are also expected to embody certain competencies: each member, with the help of the Adult Faith Formation Leader acquires [or has] a basic understanding of adult learning theory and program planning principles.

The specific responsibilities of the Adult Faith Formation Team (in cooperation with the Adult Faith Formation Leader) are:

- To work with other individuals and groups within the parish to create a climate conducive to adult faith formation. This task is to sustain and deepen the faith community of the parish that motivates adults to grow in an understanding of their faith. It also involves the attempt to establish a climate for growth that puts people at ease and invites them to share with others from their experience.
- To motivate adults to want to continue their growth in faith.
- To design varied catechetical opportunities that correspond in content and process both to the needs, interests and concerns that exist in the community and to the mission of the parish and of the Church.
- To select appropriate live, printed and audio-visual resources.
- To schedule programs realistically and locate them in the most comfortable facilities available.
- To market and publicize the various opportunities and resources that the team makes available.
- To call forth the gifts and talents of individual parishioners and to help these persons to better utilize these gifts in service to the parish.
- To consult with the Adult Faith Formation Leader over budget design.
- To evaluate programs in order to continually meet the needs of the parish community.

3. Who is on the Adult Faith Formation Team?

The Team is open to those parishioners who are interested in giving form to the vision of building the parish as a living, caring faith community, and who are knowledgeable of or willing to learn about adult learning theory and program planning. The Team size will be 3 - 10 people.

4. How does a person become a member of the Adult Faith Formation Team?

Membership is drawn primarily from those who express an interest in serving on the Team. However, individuals in the parish may be invited to serve in order to ensure that the Team is representative of all elements of the parish community. Parishioners who are not members of the Team might be involved on an *ad hoc* basis.

5. How long is a person a member of the Adult Faith Formation Team?

A person is asked to make a commitment of two years with a possible additional two-year commitment at the discretion of the individual and the Team. The two-year commitment will be designed so that only one-half of the members' terms end the same year, thus allowing for continuity.

6. What structure does the Adult Faith Formation Team have?

The Team has a chairperson who has a sense of personal ministry with trained leadership ability to facilitate meetings and inspire a concern for growth in faith. The chairperson takes responsibility to work with the Adult Faith Formation Leader to set goals and agenda for the Team. An individual holds this position for one year. The Team also has a recording secretary who takes minutes of the meetings and a treasurer who monitors the accounts of the programs. The Team, in carrying out its responsibilities, designates *ad hoc* committees as it sees fit, or designates each person to be responsible for one program or one facet of all the programs.

7. What specifically is involved in being a member of the Adult Faith Formation Team?

To be a member of the Adult Faith Formation Team one must actively prepare for and participate in the monthly meetings of the Team. This allows for the "representative" function of the Team to be fulfilled. Specific tasks and responsibilities will be shared among team members recognizing the variety of gifts and talents of the members. Time commitments will be handled on an *ad hoc* basis, depending on the interest and availability of the individual members.