

**Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Leader Community of Practice
for Faith Formation Leadership Program Students
Who Serve Outside of the Southern New England Conference**

Good news!

We have a Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Leader Community of Practice that you may join to meet the requirement for certification in the Faith Formation Leadership Program.

Through the generosity of my colleague, Lisa Hart, who serves the Wisconsin Conference UCC as the Associate Conference Minister for Faith Formation & Justice Ministries, you are welcome to join the Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Cohort that she administrates via Zoom. This group consists not only of faith formation and youth ministry leaders from the Mid-West, it also has attendees from other areas of the country as well.

It meets the first and third Thursdays of each month from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. CENTRAL TIME. Our requirement is that you meet with such a group a minimum of once a month as you are able; however, you are more than welcome to attend on both of these Thursdays each month if you so choose.

Please contact Lisa at LHart@wcucc.org in order to get on her e-mail list and receive the Zoom link.

It is also possible to connect with The Damascus Project which houses this group's resources and facilitates communication. You do not have to create the (free) account with them; however, it is a great organization to add to your "toolkit" of resources, as it offers classes, workshops, and webinars, as well. Read the specific information below from Lisa to help you navigate it if you'd like to check it out.

Please let us know if you have any questions:

Contact Lisa (Lisa Hart lhart@wcucc.org) for questions related to this group and/or The Damascus Project.

Contact Debbie Gline Allen (glineallend@sneucc.org) for questions related to the Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Leader Community of Practice requirement for certification.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursdays!

Blessings,
Debbie

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Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

How to Connect with the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Leaders Cohort

The Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Leaders Cohort has its home on The Damascus Project Network (a joint project of the Minnesota and Wisconsin Conferences). The cohort is an online community where faith formation and youth ministry leaders (volunteer, paid, lay and clergy) can gather to offer support, ask questions, and share ideas and resources. The resources shared can be tagged by topic to make it easy to search for resources.

The cohort also offers a drop-in support and resource Zoom. These gatherings are on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 10 am to 11:30 am CT. Participants can drop in for all or part of a session. The Zoom link is available in the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Leaders Cohort platform**. Here is the link to join the Damascus Project Network: https://learning.the-damascus-project.org/share/H4u0RY_akuqR4jNp?utm_source=manual

After clicking on the link above, you will need to create (if you aren't already part of the Damascus Project Network) a free account to join the Damascus Project Network (select free plan when you get to the landing page).

Next, find "Cohorts" in the navigational bar on the left. Click on Cohorts; a list of available cohorts will appear. Find the Cohort for "Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Leaders" and click on it to join. Now you are in and can start engaging in the network as a whole and what it has to offer and also can start posting within the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Leaders cohort.

These videos are helpful, especially the one about how to navigate the network – this could eliminate some frustrations.

Video: What is the Damascus Project Network?:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIBgg9Wii9A&list=PLxbeVYaIPFFnKHal6u5V0gIIESb7sM65e&index=1>

Video How to Create Your Damascus Project Network Account:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRgrWaoRLeI&list=PLxbeVYaIPFFnKHal6u5V0gIIESb7sM65e&index=4>

Video: **How to Navigate the Damascus Project Network:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGXVPXC5wzU&list=PLxbeVYaIPFFnKHal6u5V0gIIESb7sM65e&index=5>

** If you prefer to connect with the support and resource Zoom without joining the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Leader Cohort, please contact Lisa Hart (lhart@wcucc.org) to request the Zoom link.