



Center for Faith Formation

Covenant's Mission Statement

Covenant Presbyterian is a dynamic Christian community that gladly invites all people into a transformational experience of faith; boldly proclaims the gospel; bravely works toward a whole and just world; and passionately nurtures discipleship.

The Team

Led by Leigh Ann Hall, Hunter Hoover, Meagan Lineberger, Jordan Schrieffer, with Grace Lindvall as staff liaison, the team began meeting in early 2026 to imagine new initiatives in adult faith formation.

The team was tasked with discerning what it might look like to expand the reach, depth, and accessibility of adult faith formation at Covenant. This work builds on Covenant's long-standing commitment to thoughtful, theologically grounded, and community-oriented discipleship.

The Need Identified

While people are more connected than ever through social media, messaging, and digital platforms, many are experiencing a growing sense of disconnection—from one another, from meaningful conversation across difference, and from spaces that foster deep reflection and purpose.

At the same time, many within the church are seeking deeper forms of engagement: opportunities to move beyond attendance into belonging, beyond information into transformation, and beyond familiarity into growth.

Covenant is uniquely positioned to respond to this moment by cultivating a space where exploration is fostered and cultivated—for church members, neighbors of other faith traditions, those exploring faith, those questioning it, and those who find themselves somewhere in between. While we anticipate a large impact of this work being on the congregation, a key tenet of this vision is an intentional invitation to those beyond our walls.

Rooted in Covenant's History

Covenant has long been a vanguard in shaping innovative responses to community needs—from the founding of Crisis Assistance Ministry to building the recreation wing both in service to our congregation and the community, and more recent initiatives like the church's work with affordable housing in 2018.

In that same spirit, we have explored the changing landscape of adult faith formation and identified three emerging pillars that nurture faith, build meaningful connection, and equip people to engage a complex and changing world.

Proposal

We are calling this initiative the *Center for Faith Formation*.

Rather than a single program, the Center is envisioned as a hub—a connective and generative space that gathers people, ideas, and practices into meaningful pathways of formation. It seeks to create accessible entry points into faith exploration while fostering deeper engagement over time.

This Center will intersect with our traditional adult education programming which will continue to offer Sunday School, Wednesday night learning opportunities, big speaker events, and other opportunities to expand learning and integrate faith into daily living.

Like the Covenant Recreation Wing, the Center will invite the overlap of the community and Covenant members in transformational experiences of faith.

Three key initiatives form the foundation of this work, each designed to cultivate connection across differences, nurture purposeful engagement, and support transformative growth. We envision this initiative as providing greater depth to and complimenting Covenant's ongoing education ministry and programming.

1. Short Term Content Specific Learning Groups

These groups are designed as intentional pre and post learning experiences that emerge from and support growth in larger gatherings such as speaker events, classes, or series. (eg. Jemar Tisby, Greg Boyle, Ethic of Peace).

These groups create a bridge from inspiration to integration—helping participants ask, “What now?” and “What does this mean for my life?” They would also till the soil for curiosity and appreciative inquiry as we approach hard conversations.

Participants gather in short-term, facilitated groups to reflect, discuss, and apply what they've encountered or will encounter in a relational and accessible setting. These cohorts offer a low-barrier entry point for those new to Covenant, those exploring faith, or those hesitant to join longer-term commitments.

Over time, groups may serve as a pathway into ongoing communities, such as Life Groups, or stand alone as meaningful experiences of connection and growth.

2. Expanding Life Group Ministry

Life Groups remain a central expression of belonging and discipleship at Covenant. Within the Center for Faith Formation, they are envisioned as anchors of relational depth—spaces where trust is built, faith is practiced, and lives are shared over time.

Expanding this ministry includes creating more accessible entry points into groups, equipping and nurturing leaders with strong theological and relational tools year round, and aligning group content with broader church-wide themes and initiatives.

Particular attention will be given to ensuring that Life Groups remain porous and invitational, creating space for new participants and diverse perspectives while sustaining meaningful community.

3. Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage offers a unique and embodied form of faith formation—inviting participants to step outside of their daily rhythms in order to encounter God, community, and self in new ways.

These experiences may range from local and short-term opportunities, such as retreats and regional journeys, to extended and global pilgrimages. Each experience is designed not simply as travel, but as intentional spiritual practice, incorporating preparation, guided reflection, and post-experience integration.

Over time, partnerships or continuing education opportunities may further enrich these offerings and expand their reach.

Together, these three initiatives create a natural pathway for engagement.

Space and Accessibility

An important component of this vision is the creation of space that is intentionally welcoming to those outside Covenant's established networks. A “common ground” environment supports both hospitality and learning, fostering settings where new relationships and honest conversations can flourish.

Our recommendation is to work towards dedicated space for the center that is welcoming, low-barrier and accessible. Initial spaces for this work may include the Library adjacent to the Fellowship Hall, creative use of the Welcome Center, dedicated space in the Education Wing, or even the Arosa House. Over time, this space could become a recognizable front door for the Center—signaling openness, curiosity, and belonging.

Looking Ahead

The Center for Faith Formation represents an opportunity to respond thoughtfully and faithfully to the evolving needs of both church and community.

By creating accessible, relational, and meaningful pathways into faith, Covenant can extend its witness beyond its walls—inviting others into a shared journey of discovery, connection, and transformation.

We believe this vision has the potential to grow into a transformational pillar not only within Covenant, but across the Charlotte community and beyond.