

Eight Characteristics of Adult Religious Formation

Relational:

Hospitality should mark the entire educational process with careful attention paid to the comfort and needs of adults and their various learning styles.

Life Centered:

Adults are primarily motivated by needs stemming from their life tasks. They need opportunities to reflect critically on their faith as it applies to the issues of today in the light of Christ's teaching.

Empowering:

Effective adult religious education enables adults to activate their minds, hearts, and wills in coming to know God.

Communal:

Good adult religious education should grow out of the community; be an experience of the Church as community, and reinforce community in its rituals, structures, and mission.

Liberating:

Adult religious education processes can help learners attain greater freedom by helping them to think and act critically and responsibly. This means avoiding both an over-dependence on authority as well as rejection of authority in the Church.

Developmental:

Adult religious education is a lifelong process that encourages and enables adults to move to deeper levels of faith understanding and commitment.

Integrative:

Adult religious education, through collaboration with other parish ministries, should seek to provide a holistic and integrated approach to learning that considers the various learning that adults experience in the life of the faith community.

Transcending:

Adult religious education transcends one's own personal needs and interests and encourages a global view. It benefits the community as well as the learner.