Position: Resident
Formed in Faith Project
Whitworth Office of Church Engagement (OCE)
Estimated average of 10 hours/month
September 2026 - December 2027

Position Supervisor: Lauren Hunter
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Director of Formed in Faith Project
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Function:
A Resident is a children's/family ministry leader or key volunteer (or, in some cases, a solo pastor) currently serving in a Spokane-area church who desires to receive further education and assistance attending to the faith formation of parents/caregivers and young children in their community. Residents will join a cohort of residents from 6-8 local churches looking to follow God's lead in more fully becoming the *family* of God, radically hospitable to the caregivers and youngest children in their midst.

Residents will both be paid employees of the Formed in Faith project and, during employment, will receive intentional vocational development culminating in a Certificate in Intergenerational Ministry and Family Faith Formation. This experience will prepare residents to:

1. equip parents/caregivers to experience God alongside their young children
2. extend that work to the whole church body so it can more fully become an intergenerational community experiencing God alongside young children and their parents/caregivers.

Because ministry is deeply contextual, residents represent their churches and must commit to experimenting and applying learnings in their congregations. Because of this, the church a resident represents – including that church's head pastor/leader - must support the resident in this work. This means residents are investing in their own development *and* their churches are changed as a result of this work.

As employees of the Formed in Faith project, residents are expected to:

- Represent the church they are serving and commit to apply/experiment with project learnings within their congregations, including regular engagement with parents/caregivers

- Collaborate with other ministry leaders in the resident's congregation to create lasting congregational change (support for this provided)
- Participate in sessions. Sessions take place once or twice per month, with the exception of our Parent Small Group training sequence (see timeline). On average, residents can expect to participate in 1-3 gatherings per month (this includes retreats, coaching, and workshops/trainings).
- Attend two retreats (Kick-off retreat, mid-way retreat)
- Meet quarterly with a Formed in Faith coach.
- Attend and assist with 1-2 Formed in Faith events per year.
- Share about the residency and project learnings with their congregation
- Lead one story gathering event at your church (support provided)
- Assist in evaluation to measure congregational change. This includes deploying surveys to parents/caregivers and two all-church surveys, as well as participating in Formed in Faith resident surveys.

Residents will receive:

- Training and coaching relevant to the resident and their ministry
- Personalized recommendations for the resident's church related to project goals
- Access to funding to support experimentation in your church related to project learning
- A monthly stipend
- A Certificate in Intergenerational Ministry & Family Faith Formation

The stipend attached to this position is meant to support the high level of investment and to increase applicant capacity to commit to this type of communal learning and experimentation.

Schedule:

Residents will meet for pre-scheduled sessions, retreats, coaching meetings and events and should expect to attend 1-3 of these gatherings per month (the exception is our Parent Small group training that will run once/week for 5 weeks, see timeline). However, most of the residents' work will happen within their own congregation and will run concurrently with their role in children's ministry there. Please note that sessions through Phase 1 are already scheduled. Phase 2 gatherings will be scheduled based on accepted residents and their availability.

Residents can expect to devote approximately 10 hours/month to attending trainings and doing Formed in Faith-specific work. Another 10+ hours should be spent contextualizing learnings in your ministry context. This should overlap with the church work you are already doing!

Qualifications, Skills, and Abilities:

- A personal commitment to the Christian faith
- Desire to network and build relationship with local Spokane churches across denomination, tradition, and demographic
- Humility and sensitivity to different worship & theological expressions

- Demonstrated awareness of church landscape in Spokane
- Passion and experience in discipling young children and families
- Theological training or ministry experience required
- Experience working with faith leaders and leading small groups or individual spiritual direction in ministry settings
- Bachelor's degree and/or MA preferred
- Exceptional interpersonal skills and ability to navigate professional and personal networks
- Strong written, verbal, and telephone communication and problem-solving skills
- The ability to organize tasks and attend to a variety of details with minimal supervision
- Demonstrated awareness and commitment to effectively establishing relationships and positive communications across multiple dimensions of diversity including, but not limited to race, gender, sexuality, physical limitations, class or religious perspectives