

## Regional Intergenerational Families Summits

The vows we take at the font compel us to partner with congregations and parents to become a more welcoming worshipping community and to nurture the faith of children through worship and prayer. The Font & Faith Initiative is committed to helping the church live into the promises made in baptism by

- . providing occasions for critical and sustaining conversations,
- . creating supporting communities on a common journey,
- . researching, developing, and offering resources to strengthen family and congregational ministries that nurture children in worship and prayer,

so that children's faith and congregations' worship and prayer life are engaged, enriched, and enlivened.

### **Intergenerational Summits**

Families have the most significant impact on children's lives. Partnering with families as they grow in the life of Christian faith through communal worship and personal and collective prayer is essential for cultivating enduring practices that sustain faith throughout life's journey in a complex and changing world. Church, in general and worship in particular, is one of the few remaining places, beyond our families, where we gather intergenerationally.

These Intergenerational Summits invite children and their families to embark together on a journey that can result in a more inclusive worship environment and experience for children. In five different regions, we will provide families with opportunities to discover practices that nurture faith in fun and engaging ways. We will explore both worship and prayer through art, music, stories, and practices that enrich our experiences. All participants will have an opportunity to share, through video, what they love about worship, and what they find challenging, as we listen to the wisdom of children and the families who nurture their faith. These insights will directly lead to resource development that support and sustain families as they grow in baptismal living through worship and prayer.

## **Dates and Arrangements**

Each region has a capacity for up to fifty participants.

We will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday and end by 3:00 p.m.

Regional Intergenerational Summits will take place:

June 14, 2025: Charlotte, North Carolina

August 2, 2025: Atlanta, Georgia

August 23, 2025: Greenville, South Carolina

November 8, 2025: Richmond, Virginia

November 15, 2025: Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas

Travel, lodging, food, and materials related to participating in the Summits are covered by a generous grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. Our Center staff will assist you with all arrangements.

## **After The Summits**

The ministry of nurturing faith in children and families through worship and prayer continues after the Summits. We are committed to supporting you in ministry. Journey Groups will be established after the Summits to facilitate community and sustain your continued engagement in this vital ministry. In these Journey Groups we will provide space for sharing intentional Christian practices of worship and prayer with children and families, supporting one another along the journey, sharing in celebrations and challenges, exploring questions, and exchanging ideas. All interactions take place through secure online portals through the Font & Faith website. Resources will also be available to Journey Groups to continue to engage and empower their work. All Summit participants will continue in Journey Groups.

At the end of the three-year Journey Groups, all Summits will reconvene in their original locations for a time of celebration and evaluation. These final Summits will seek to dream and plan for future needs.

## **Application Process**

Summit participants will be selected through an application process.

Applications are available on the Font & Faith Website:

<https://fontandfaith.cece.upsem.edu/>

