

FAITH STORY GUIDELINES

Faith Stories – Create a 10-minute Video or Write 1 Reflective Page

Video Example: First United Methodist Church Austin

Austin Church has uploaded 3 Personal Faith Stories <https://fumcaustin.org/category/faith-stories/>

Austin Church Prompt: “Each of us has a story—an experience that has helped us understand God and ourselves through joy, connection, hurt, and hope. When we tell our stories, we find that they intertwine with God’s story and the stories of others.”

Guidelines for Preparing Your Own Faith Story

Below I’ve excerpted/adapted some guidelines from a faith-sharing manual that contains small group exercises published by the General Board of Discipleship, UMC (2004) https://gbod-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/legacy/kintera-files/certified-lay-ministry/CLM_Faith-Sharing-Participants-Manual.pdf

Our Faith Stories Are Always: Centered, Personal, and Relational

Some Helpful Questions:

1. Who in your family or extended family most influenced your faith journey?
2. Who outside your family or extended family most influenced your faith journey?
3. Share a time when you responded “yes” to Jesus or to God’s working in your life.

A Personal Exercise:

On your own, take some time to identify your own faith journey, and write your own spiritual autobiography. Initially, this may be a few pages. Leave your autobiography for a couple of weeks. Then, condense it into one page. Sharing your faith is more than sharing an autobiography. *You are invited to tell your story, pointing to the living Christ as active in the drama of your life.* Sharing faith is more than an interesting exercise—it is a way of rehearsing the story we must tell so that the center of our journey—our relationship with Jesus Christ—remains the center.

Sharing our faith journeys and the ways we feel God’s nudging and prodding in our lives helps us clarify the word we are hearing. Speaking our story aloud is a way of participating in mutual accountability with others in the faith community, and even with strangers.

Keep these questions in mind while creating your “Spiritual Autobiography Chart”: 1) Who has had the most to do with your being a Christian? 2) When, along the way in your life, have you experienced moments in which your relationship with the living Christ truly made a difference? 3) Why have those moments been significant in your faith? 4) What is your current experience as a faith-sharer? A. In what ways are you growing in faith? B. In what ways does your relationship with the living Christ make a difference in your daily living, relationships, lifestyle, and decisions?

Your Faith Story Might Include One or More of the Following Points:

What Jesus Christ means to me in my life What my life was like before accepting Jesus Christ How I became aware that I needed Christ; how Christ meets my basic needs Who influenced me most to accept Christ as my Lord and Savior How I came to trust Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior How I discovered ways of serving in the name of Jesus in the world. Or, your story might focus upon *a single faith experience* and how that experience has made a significant difference in your daily living, relationships, lifestyle, and decisions.