

Opening Doors to Discipleship

A training website for faith formation leaders in the Reformed tradition

What is Opening Doors to Discipleship?

Opening Doors to Discipleship (ODTD) began as an ecumenical partnership between five Reformed denominations that developed a training and learning website for church leaders. In 2019, the Association of Partners in Christian Education (APCE) became stewards of the website and decided to update and redesign it. We recognize that contemporary Christian Education is at its best when we listen to diverse voices, collaborate with one another, and share our collective wisdom. Therefore, the new ODTD site was designed by a group of writers who represent these values. The site is free to use and can be accessed by anyone by going to <https://odtd.net/>

Who is the site for?

The short answer is anyone! However, the writers and the project managers designed this site with the learner in mind that may not have formal religious education, could be a new faith formation leader and may be paid or unpaid in their context. We will depend on seasoned educators to view the site and pass on modules or sections to the people they are equipping in educational and faith formation ministries. We are all lifetime learners, and the content of this site was curated and created by a variety of voices and will be added to! We all may discover a fresh perspective on ODTD.

What can I find on the site?

There are 4 main sections in the site, 4 doors that you can enter.

- ❖ **Leadership** contains the modules Exploring Your Call, Calling Others, Equipping Others and Your Faith Formation Ministries Path.
- ❖ **Reformed Theology** contains the modules God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Bible and Covenant Community.
- ❖ **Educational Practices** contains the modules Defining Learning, Approaches to Learning, Teaching Methods, Designing Lesson Plans, and Evaluating Curriculum.
- ❖ **Explore More** will be continuously added to and will contain special topics, age and stage related trainings and special APCE projects. Currently you can find the APCE 50th anniversary curriculum, and modules for older adult faith formation, children's ministry, and intergenerational faith formation.

Each module includes a resource list that will be continuously updated by APCE. We suggest you come back to these often and see what is new!

How can I use the site?

This site is set up so that it can be used in a variety of ways. Each section has an introduction describing the content you will find. Each module within the section is divided into small chunks of content that includes videos, narrated presentations, links, and written content. Think of the site as “choose your own adventure”! You can sit down and take in an entire section or module, or you can look for certain topics that interest you. It is helpful to come to the site with a Bible and journaling materials to take notes and participate in the activities. The site doesn’t generate completion certificates. If you are a leader that is asking that someone complete certain sections or modules, you may want to devise a way to evaluate that they have done so.

Questions?

The Association of Partners in Christian Education maintains the *Opening Doors to Discipleship* website. If you have any questions, please contact odtd@apcenet.org. The *Opening Doors to Discipleship* site can be found at <https://odtd.net/> . Go to <https://apcenet.org/> to find out more about APCE.

Created in partnership between APCE (www.apcenet.org) and the Office of Christian Formation (www.pcusa.org/formation.)

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