

For the pastoral leader: This document is designed to help you reflect on the theological convictions regarding children in your denomination. While few denominations offer explicit teaching on the place and education of children, the implicit teachings and typical approaches in churches of your tradition may influence congregational expectations and/or connect you with resources for children's spiritual formation. Knowing your tradition's theological teachings and normative experiences will help you make intentional decisions moving forward.

Theological Convictions

Briefly summarize the church's theological position on the following topics-

- Baptism

- Original Sin

- Salvation

- Work of the Holy Spirit

- Church Membership

- Communion Participation (who, when, how?)

What did I expect?

For each Triad member:

Complete the following questions to gauge what is considered normal to you and your community. Identifying what feels normal can help the team discern which norms to keep and which to consider adapting. If you're in a non-denomination context, consider other churches with similar convictions, sizes, and demographics. If you're in a large and diverse congregation, consider noting both the approaches of congregations similar to yours as well as congregations that vary widely even with the same denominational umbrella.

In our tradition, the environments where children generally receive religious education include...

In our tradition, the role of the church and the role of the family can be described by...

In our tradition, children's involvement in congregational life generally looks like...

In our tradition, family's expectations regarding congregational worship and children can be described as...