



# **Sparked and Sustained by the Spirit:**

**Guiding Principles of Spirit-Filled Cross+Generational  
Faith Formation in EVERY Congregation  
with Rev. Breen Marie Sipes**

<https://pbsipes.com/sparked-and-sustained>

## **1. Spirit of Experimentation: Let's try an experiment**

### **Anatomy of an Experiment:**

- A problem, a burning question, or something that you wonder about.
- A hypothesis of how to solve that problem, answer that question, or explore what you wonder about more deeply.
- Test the hypothesis through an experiment.
- Record and report the results, including what you might try in the future, if your problem is not completely solved, answered, or explored.

### **Characteristics of an Experiment:**

- Experiments don't last forever
- Experiments can be tweaked and changed as you go
- Experiments help us get our feet wet.
- Experiments help us to dive into the deep end.
- Warning: Experiments often lead to more experiments, larger or deeper ones.
- Experiments are meant to be evaluated.

### **Questions:**

- What kind of experiment would you like to try?
- What problem would you like to try solving, question to answer, wondering to explore?
- Where is experimentation happening in your own context? Can you expand that experimentation to include the interaction of more generations?

## **2. Spirit of Vibrancy: The Spirit is already providing the energy**

- What is already working?
- What exciting ministry needs a critical mass?
- How can we intentionally and consistently invite more generations to participate?
- What might need to change?

### **3. Spirit of Teamwork: When we work together, the work is sustainable**

- Who is ready for a new thing?
- Who has an open mind and willing hands?
- Who keeps showing up as a participant?
- How many generations can you include?

### **4. Spirit of Curiosity: Every generation is still learning**

- What sparks your curiosity?
- What do we have to learn from one another?
- How can we lower the stakes for those who are afraid they don't already know something?
- How can we provide experiences which help us to be surprised by the Spirit?
- How can we issue clear, personalized invitations?

### **5. Spirit of Invitation: Each of us has something to teach**

- What sparks enthusiasm and passion in your youth?
- Who are the wise among you? How can they be invited to share?
- In what ways can we facilitate teaching partnerships?
- How can we provide space for reflection on our individual giftedness and opportunities to share those gifts with one another?

### **6. Spirit of Tenacity: Culture shift requires consistent support**

- What are some ways we can recognize a shift to old habits and do a course correction?
- What are some ways we can encourage and advocate for Cross+Gen, be in "the room where it happens"?
- Who could you invite to be your partners for support who help you to "stay the course"?

### **Sparked and Sustained by the Spirit: We don't have to go it alone!**

Nebraska Synod Growing God's Generous Generations (4G) Network

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaSynod4GNetwork/>

Pinterest: [https://www.pinterest.com/NebSynod4GNetwork/\\_saved/](https://www.pinterest.com/NebSynod4GNetwork/_saved/)

Website: <https://www.nebraskasynod4g.org/>

Contact Rev. Breen Sipes

Email: [pstrsipes@aol.com](mailto:pstrsipes@aol.com)

Websites: <https://feedmyfaith.weebly.com/>

<https://takingworshiphome.weebly.com/>