

## WHY COACHING ... for Congregations and Parents?

### COACHING CONGREGATIONS

If you work or volunteer in a congregation, you know that sometimes we get stuck - stuck doing it the way we've always done it, stuck pursuing whatever is popular and cutting edge, stuck doing the urgent and missing the important, stuck not being or doing that to which God has uniquely called our congregation. Coaching is a way to get un-stuck!

Coaching will provide a yearlong ministry relationship in which I will join you, your ministry team, or your congregational leadership to:

- clarify the vision of what God is calling you to be and to do in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry
- identify desired ministry outcomes
- assess where your congregation is now, related to those desired outcomes
- prioritize the desired outcomes
- keep the focus on those outcomes
- determine those things which this congregation will no longer do, or will not do at this time
- celebrate accomplishments and all those things that are going well
- brainstorm and resolve challenges and obstacles to accomplishing those outcomes
- identify resources for staff, leadership, and the congregation, to support moving toward this vision.

Coaching will take the form of monthly meetings, in person or by phone or Skype, and a full day of my presence during the year to do presentations or a retreat for staff, volunteers, ministry teams, parents, or grandparents; to do presentations to the congregation; to teach a class; to do a conference; or train volunteers, teachers, or mentors. I will also be available to identify resources to support your ministry.

### COACHING PARENTS

Why coach parents? We all know from lived experience that parenting is the hardest, as well as the most important, thing we will ever do. Doing “what comes naturally,” simply means repeating the ways in which we were parented, some of it wonderful, some of it not so wonderful. Parenting is too important to leave it to what our parents did - and didn't - know how to do. Children deserve the very best of what we know today about supporting their physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual growth.

As a parent educator for 33 years, I have had the privilege of coaching parents to be ever more effective in doing this quintessentially spiritual work with the children God has entrusted them to our care. Few of us experienced intentional faith formation in our homes growing up. Together, we can learn to braid faith into everyday life together. God has called you to do this.

As a Certified Family Life Educator, I have learned the skills, theory, and best practices of parenting children. As a woman of faith, I have learned how essentially spiritual this journey of being a family really is. I do know how busy parents are. I also know how essential it is to the wellbeing of children to have time, attention, engagement, and involvement with the most important people in their world, their parents. Don't the children in your life deserve the very best you can give them?

So what does parent coaching look like?

- **Equipping** a ministry team to run a parent support group or teach parenting classes at your church.
- **Group coaching** can take the form of Marilyn teaching a class, doing a parenting conference, leading a family camp or retreat, heading a parent-child event, or doing an adult forum.
- **Individual coaching** can be a session with Marilyn, in person or by phone, focusing on a specific challenge or question you are facing with your child.

Call or email Marilyn at 612-202-8152 or  
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to explore options tailored to your needs.