



Mimi (Magdalene) L. Larson, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	2014	Concordia University (River Forest, IL) Early Childhood Education Dissertation: <i>Making Meaning of God: The Faith Experiences of Preschool Children</i>
M.A.	2008	Covenant Theological Seminary (St. Louis, MO) Theological Studies, Cum Laude Capstone: <i>Faith for the Journey: Preparing our Children for Communicant Membership</i>
M.A.	1999	Wheaton Graduate School (Wheaton, IL) Educational Ministries
B.A.	1989	Wheaton College (Wheaton, IL) Psychology with a minor in Art

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Taylor University, Upland IN

Executive Director of Center for Faith and Children (2026-present), Assistant Professor of Christian Ministries - Tenure Track (2026-)

- ❖ Executive Director of Center for Faith and Children, including vision for an academic center that equips ministry leaders through educational opportunities, research, and vision; empower the local church with training, assistance, and imagination; and encourage parents by developing and curating resources, tips, and inspiration. Provides leadership for center staff, budget, programs, resources, and training.
- ❖ Developed undergraduate course for Introduction to Christian Ministries. Topics include foundations of Christian ministry, ministry as vocation, engaging scripture for ministry, teaching for transformation, the kingdom of God and culture, and practicing Christian ministry.
- ❖ Developed undergraduate course for Teaching and Learning. Topics include reflective teaching practice, theoretical foundations for teaching, lesson planning, understanding learners' culture and way of learning, and leading effective Bible study.

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield IL

Executive Director of Center for Faith and Children (2023-2026), Assistant Professor of Educational Ministries - Tenure Track (2021- 2026), Adjunct Assistant Professor of Educational Studies (2015-2021)

- ❖ Executive Director of Center for Faith and Children including vision for academic center that equips ministry leaders through educational opportunities, research, and vision; empower the local church with training, assistance, and imagination; and encourage parents by developing and curating resources, tips, and inspiration. Provides leadership for center staff, budget, programs, resources, and training.
- ❖ Program director of Master of Arts in Educational Ministries including serving as primary point of contact for graduate students, review and action of student petitions, co-leadership of assessment process for Master of Arts in Educational Ministries program, insuring all program materials (print and web) are current, marketing and communication of faculty and student activities to promote degree program.
- ❖ Oversight, mentorship, and advisement for graduate students in program plan of study including course selection and student progress, referrals to campus resources, review advancement to program candidacy and Capstone experience, and encouragement of students and fostering a community of learning.
- ❖ Coordination and supervision for the graduate Capstone experience including orienting students to responsibilities and requirements, providing assistance in project selection and management, providing constructive and supportive feedback, review and assessment of projects, and developing and updating syllabus.
- ❖ Recruitment of prospective students including response to inquiries from prospective students, follow-up with prospects via telephone, email, web meetings, and campus visits, advisement of admission requirements, program objectives, and marketing and communicating actions to attract students.
- ❖ Create opportunities for students to demonstrate competence and equip local churches by encouraging student's participation and presentation in professional meetings and conferences.
- ❖ Created different entry points for education at TEDS including developing and administering certificate program for children and family ministry.
- ❖ Developed graduate courses and lectures for Teaching and Learning. Teaching objectives include a review of prominent theories of teaching and learning, discussing possible implications and contributions of these theories to educational ministries; examine and model principles for effective teaching and learning in light of resources and participant interests; and evaluate, review, discuss, and critique basic human development theories and their relationship to educational ministry.
- ❖ Developed graduate courses and lectures for Curriculum Theory and Design (both for masters and doctoral levels). Topics include educational philosophy, curriculum organization, learning activities, assessment and evaluation.
- ❖ Developed graduate course and lectures for Spiritual Formation In the Family. Topics include the importance of spiritually vibrant families, a biblical understanding of families, how the family is an environment for formation, faith formation strategies, home and church partnership, and embracing a holistic model of formation.

- ❖ Developed graduate course and lectures for Children in Congregations. Topics include biblical and theological understanding of children, various approaches and theories for ministry with children, and identifying ways to promote and enhance the spiritual development in children.
- ❖ Developed graduate course and lectures for Nurturing Families in the Church. Topics include family systems theory, a biblical understanding of family, current family issues that impact spiritual formation, and developing a philosophy for family ministry.
- ❖ Developed graduate course and lectures for Reading Course on children's spirituality. Topics include understanding of and history of children's spirituality, the impact of resiliency, wonder, play, and intergenerational communities on children's spirituality.
- ❖ Developed an independent study for Understanding Children's Spirituality. Topics included participation at an international conference on children's spirituality and identifying implications of theory in the practice of spiritual formation in childhood.
- ❖ Received over \$1,335,000 in various grant funds to research children's faith formation including funds to develop an academic center for faith and children.
- ❖ Mentored students and served as second reader for doctoral comprehensive exams and dissertations.
- ❖ Served on Teaching and Learning Committee (2025-2026), Masters Program Committee (2022-2025) and Undergraduate Teaching Committee (2023-2025).

Wheaton College, Wheaton IL

Visiting Assistant Professor (2016-2021), Guest Assistant Professor (2015-2016), Professional Ministry Mentor (2010-2016), and Guest Lecturer (2006-2015)

- ❖ Developed undergraduate course and lectures for Transformational Education. Topics include the roles and process of education for spiritual growth, roles of teacher and learners, curriculum development, and sound biblical interpretation and teaching.
- ❖ Developed undergraduate course and lectures for Human Development and Ministry. Topics include human development, social science theory, and spiritual development through the lifespan.
- ❖ Developed undergraduate course and lectures for Ministry to Children and Families. Topics include faith development, biblical and theological implications of ministry, family as a social system, curriculum construction, and ministry management.
- ❖ Developed undergraduate course and lectures for Introduction to Christian Formation & Ministry. Topics include mission of the local church, Christian spirituality, contextual realities in global Christianity, and an understanding of the grand narrative and its relevance to the Gospel message.
- ❖ Developed graduate course and lectures for Teaching for Transformation. Topics include facilitating spiritual growth, creating effective curriculum, and an understanding of sound biblical interpretation including the role of the Holy Spirit in the process of learning.
- ❖ Developed graduate course and lectures for Developmental Theory & Spiritual Formation. Topics

include biblical understandings of the nature of persons, psychological and sociological understandings of human development, relating these ideas to Christian formation and ministry.

- ❖ Developed undergraduate course and lectures for History and Philosophy in Christian Education. Topics included the history of Christian educational and ministry thought, educational philosophies, and how to formulate a personal, biblical philosophy of ministry.
- ❖ Developed course and lectures to undergraduate and graduate students for Ministry with Families. Topics included family systems theory, the impact of culture on families and ministry with families, and different philosophies and models of family ministry.
- ❖ Developed course and lectures to undergraduate and graduate students for Advanced Curriculum Development for Ministry. Topics included curriculum design, an understanding of learners, and the role of learning environments and experiences in facilitating spiritual growth.
- ❖ Mentored Christian Formation & Ministry graduate students specializing in ministry with children and families. This included facilitating conversations, nurturing relationships, connecting principles and methods with contextualized ministry, and advising students on academic, curricula, and vocational issues. Past experiences also included supervision and mentorship of student in ministry internship experience.
- ❖ Prepared and delivered individual lectures to the following courses: Introduction to Christian Formation & Ministry, Children's Ministry, and Human Development and Ministry. Topics included the church, theological ministry models with children, and faith formation in early childhood.
- ❖ Mentored undergraduate students and consulted with graduated students on final projects including served both first and second reader for graduate thesis projects.
- ❖ Participated in Faith and Disability Working Group.
- ❖ Participated in first-year faculty seminar.

Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI

Adjunct Professor (2021)

- ❖ Developed graduate course and lectures for Faith Formation for All Ages. Topics include the spiritual, moral, emotional, and social needs and development of children and adults, the creative design of faith formation programs and intergenerational education, and the development of skills needed to teach a wide variety of programs.

Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena CA

Outside Tutor for PhD Tutorial (2016-2017); Comprehensive Examiner (2020)

- ❖ Served as Ph.D Comprehensive Examiner for doctoral students, creating and grading exam questions, assessing if the student demonstrates mastery of the wider academic field.
- ❖ Moderated and mentored doctoral students in developing an initial doctoral literature review for Ph.D studies.
- ❖ Served as outside reader for doctoral dissertations.

Judson University, Elgin IL

Adjunct Professor (2014 - 2024) and Curriculum Services Editor (2014-2019)

- ❖ Developed graduate course and facilitated online learning for Facilitating Communities of Learning in Christian Ministries. Topics include biblical and theological foundations of Christian learning, human development and learning, facilitating Christian learning communities, curriculum development process, and engaging non-traditional learning opportunities.
- ❖ Developed graduate course and delivering lectures for Applied Research Project in Leadership. Topics include scholarly research, writing literature reviews, ethical issues in research, personal and professional branding, and creating poster presentations.
- ❖ Developed graduate course and delivering lectures for Analysis and Research Strategies. Topics include identifying organizational problems, surveying and critiquing existing literature, developing strong research arguments, ethical research, and designing a literature review.
- ❖ Prepared and delivered lectures to undergraduate students for Human Behavior and the Social Environment. Topics included an overview of human behavior and social environment, human development in various life stages, and Erikson's psycho-social stages of development.
- ❖ Prepared and delivered lectures to undergraduate students for Research Methods. Topics included the fundamentals of research, focusing research efforts, qualitative and quantitative methods, and preparing the research report.
- ❖ Created and wrote graduate curriculum and syllabus for Applied Research Project in Leadership that is used as consistent source for all faculty teaching.
- ❖ Created and wrote graduate curriculum and syllabus for Analysis and Research Strategies that is used as consistent source for all faculty teaching.
- ❖ Obtained university faculty training in eLearn, eLearn II - Beyond Basics, Teaching Techniques for Adult Learners, and Creating Great Rubrics.
- ❖ Reviewed/edited university curriculum and syllabi for over 100 face-to-face and online classes.

Concordia University, River Forest, IL

Adjunct Professor and Guest Lecturer (2013-2015)

- ❖ Prepared graduate course materials including lectures, handouts, resources, and audio-visual presentations for Curriculum Construction. Topics included curriculum philosophies, reflective teaching practices, the relationship between learning & curriculum, designing instructional strategies, evaluation tasks, and rubrics.
- ❖ Prepared graduate course materials including lectures, handouts, resources, and audio-visual presentations for Seminar in Reflective Practice. Topics included implementation of action research, data collection and analysis, teacher reflection in pertinent educational issues, and research writing.
- ❖ Prepared graduate course materials including lectures, handouts, resources, and audio-visual presentations for Teacher as Researcher. Topics included research collaboration, process of action research, literature reviews, and research ethics.

- ❖ Initiated, facilitated, and moderated undergraduate classroom discussions for Values and Virtues. Topics included capital punishment, euthanasia, war and terrorism, and racism.
- ❖ Obtained university certification for teaching online courses.

Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis MO

Visiting Instructor (2008, 2025) and Contributing Writer for Distant Learning (2010)

- ❖ Prepared graduate course materials and facilitated class lectures and activities for Children's Ministry. Topics included philosophy of ministry, spiritual development of a child, ministry models, ministry structures and foundations, volunteer management, and curriculum development.
- ❖ Designed and wrote weekly discussions questions for online theology classes that encouraged learners to interact with the lecture materials in light of their own life/ministry context.

Additional Academic Experience in Graduate Studies

Field Experience with Dr. Shirley Morgenthaler, Distinguished Professor of Education (2012-2013)

Concordia University, River Forest IL

- ❖ Assisted in developing initial proposal for an academic center focusing on faith and children that included mission and vision statement, recommendations for initial budget, research direction, and potential advisory board.
- ❖ Facilitated and moderated classroom discussion for Dr. Morgenthaler's Teacher as Practitioner class.

Graduate Assistant for Dr. Judy Skorek, Associate Professor of Counselor Education & Director of Clinical Training (2011-2013)

Concordia University, River Forest IL

- ❖ Led practicum and internship orientations.
- ❖ Met with clinical supervisors to discuss students' progress and to complete required grade-related paperwork.
- ❖ Created and wrote practicum and internship materials.
- ❖ Maintained and updated all forms and materials regarding practicum and internship experiences and placed in electronic data base for student use.
- ❖ Built and maintained electronic handouts and resources in Blackboard for student and faculty use.
- ❖ Informed students of procedures for completing and submitting class work.
- ❖ Prepared or proctored examinations.
- ❖ Notified faculty of errors or problems with assignments.
- ❖ Collaborated with professors to address teaching and research issues.
- ❖ Scheduled and maintained regular office hours to meet with students and faculty. 0

MINISTERIAL EXPERIENCE

Ministry Consultant (2022- 2023) Children's Ministry Catalyzer (2017-2022)

Christian Reformed Church in North America

- ❖ Supported local church and denomination with casting vision for the faith formation of children.
- ❖ Developed and maintained strong, supportive coaching relationships with congregational CRC children's ministry leaders throughout North America.
- ❖ Networked with denominational leadership and congregational leaders to provide the strongest possible support for congregational children's ministry.
- ❖ Created supportive resources for children's ministry leaders as needed.
- ❖ Developed and led training workshops on children's ministry topics.
- ❖ Developed denominational white paper on the topic of engaging children in worship.
- ❖ Served as Children's Ministry Catalyzer for Faith Formation Ministries (2017-2022).

Director of Children's Ministries (2000-2009)

Naperville Presbyterian Church, Naperville IL

Education and Training

- ❖ Developed curriculum including *Echoing the Faith* (family-based Communicants curriculum) and *Praise Junction* (a three-year early elementary large/small group curriculum)
- ❖ Set educational standards and goals, establishing policies, procedures, and programs to carry them out.
- ❖ Selected appropriate curricula and ministry structures for the educational programs.
- ❖ Taught classes for Communicant-age children and their parents.
- ❖ Trained and supervised over 250 people including ministry staff, leaders, and volunteers.
- ❖ Mentored and coached, trained and provided resources and support for children's ministries in local church plants.
- ❖ Created and hosted "Building an Effective Children's Ministry 2003 Conference" for regional children's ministry leaders and teams.

Organizational Development and Administration

- ❖ Planned, directed and supervised all ministries relating to children (birth through fifth grade) and their families in 1000+ member church.
- ❖ Identified and recruited potential volunteer workers.
- ❖ Analyzed congregational needs to determine ministry emphasis.
- ❖ Determined allocations of funds for staff, supplies, materials, and equipment, and authorized purchases.
- ❖ Implemented program plans by ordering needed materials, scheduling speakers, reserving space, or handling other administrative details.
- ❖ Scheduled events such as summer camps, vacation Bible school, ministry conferences, meetings

and retreats.

Counseling and Consultation

- ❖ Counseled individuals concerning spiritual, emotional, and personal needs.
- ❖ Conferred with parents and staff to discuss educational activities and policies, and children's behavioral or learning problems.
- ❖ Visited people in homes and hospitals to provide care and comfort.

Supervision and Management

- ❖ Hired, trained and evaluated children's ministry staff and recommended personnel actions for the children's ministry department.
- ❖ Collaborated with other staff and ministries to establish goals and objectives for faith formation.
- ❖ Prepared and maintained activity and personnel reports and records for church leadership.

Director of Children's Ministries (1994-2000)

Faith Evangelical Covenant Church, Wheaton IL

Education and Training

- ❖ Set educational standards and goals, establishing policies, procedures, and programs to carry them out.
- ❖ Trained and supervised children's ministry leaders and volunteers.
- ❖ Selected appropriate curricula and ministry structures for the educational programs.
- ❖ Prepared and delivered weekly children's sermons.

Organizational Development and Administration

- ❖ Planned, directed and supervised all ministries relating to children (birth through fifth grade) and their families in 250+ member church.
- ❖ Identified and recruited potential volunteer workers.
- ❖ Developed a child protection and awareness project, a comprehensive sexual abuse/child protection policy.
- ❖ Determined allocations of funds for supplies, materials, and equipment, and authorized purchases.
- ❖ Implemented program plans by ordering needed materials, reserving space, or handling other administrative details.
- ❖ Scheduled events such as camps, vacation Bible school, conferences, meetings, and retreats.
- ❖ Collaborated with and hosted Big Idea Productions (creators of Veggie Tales) in the filming of a vacation Bible school ministry video.

Counseling and Consultation

- ❖ Conferred with parents and staff to discuss educational activities and policies, and children's behavioral or learning problems.
- ❖ Visited people in homes and hospitals to provide care and comfort.

Mid-Week Ministry Coordinator (1990-1993)

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Northbrook IL

Education and Training

- ❖ Collaborated with other staff and ministries to establish goals and objectives for faith formation.
- ❖ Trained team of volunteers.
- ❖ Selected appropriate curricula and class structures for the educational program.

Organizational Development and Administration

- ❖ Planned, directed and supervised the children's midweek club ministry in a mid-size church.
- ❖ Identified and recruited potential volunteer workers.
- ❖ Supervised team of volunteers.
- ❖ Implemented program plans by ordering needed materials, reserving space, or handling other administrative details.
- ❖ Scheduled events such as fall and spring outreach, parent's night, and meetings.
- ❖ Collaborated with other staff in offering special events for children and youth.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Current Research

- ❖ Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer, Lilly Endowment, Indianapolis, IN. 2023-2028.
Project Title: Center for Faith and Children, \$1,250,000.

Past Grants

- ❖ Phase 1 Grant - Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer, Lilly Endowment, Indianapolis, IN. 2022-2023. Project Working Title: An Exploration of the Needs Regarding Children's Faith Formation Program, \$50,000.
- ❖ Vital Worship Grant, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, MI. 2022-2023. Project Title: Children and Sacred Play, \$18,000.
- ❖ Teacher-Scholar Grant, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, MI. 2020-2021.
Project Working Title: Children and Worship: A Look at Best Practices, \$18,000.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Larson, Mimi L., and Robert J. Keeley (Eds.). *Bridging Theory and Practice in Children's Spirituality: New Directions for Education, Ministry, and Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan, 2020.

Books (chapters contributed)

(Submitted) Larson, Mimi L. "Anthropology of Faith: Understanding and Welcoming Children's Spirituality in Worship." *Untitled Baylor University - Shaping Young Worshipers through*

Transformative Music Ministry Project Book, unknown pages, unknown publisher, unknown date.

(Submitted) Larson, Mimi L. "You Belong Here: Reimagining Intergenerational Worship Through the Eyes of a Child." *Untitled Intergenerate Book*, unknown pages. unknown publisher, unknown date.

(In process) Larson, Mimi L. "From Conception to Creation: Embracing God's Active Presence in Prenatal Development." *The Human Element in Ministry: Learning, Human Development, Life Stages, and Ministry*, unknown pages. Nashville, TN: Lifeway Publishers, unknown date.

Larson, Mimi L. "Engaging the Meaning Makers: Creating Churches Where Our Children's Faith Can Flourish." *Imagining the Generations*, 197-206. Abilene, TX: Abilene Christian University Press, 2025.

Larson, Mimi L. "Does the Church Care if Children Think?" *Bridging Theory and Practice in Children's Spirituality: New Directions for Education, Ministry, and Discipleship*, 187-200. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2020.

Larson, Mimi L. & Shirley K. Morgenthaler. "The Sacred Playground: Play and a Child's Forming Faith." *Bridging Theory and Practice in Children's Spirituality: New Directions for Education, Ministry, and Discipleship*, 227-240. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2020.

Larson, Mimi L. "Making Meaning of God: The Faith Experiences of Preschool Children." In *Story, Formation, and Culture: From Theory to Practice in Ministry with Children*, 86-98. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2018.

Morgenthaler, Shirley, K., Jeffrey B. Keiser, and Mimi L. Larson. "Nurturing the Infant Soul: Spiritual Formation and Very Young Children." In *Story, Formation, and Culture: From Theory to Practice in Ministry with Children*, 108-122. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2018.

Morgenthaler, Shirley .K., Jeffrey B. Keiser, & Mimi L. Larson. "Engaging, Expressive and Experience-Based Prayer Models with Children." In *Exploring and Engaging Spirituality for Today's Children: A Holistic Approach*, 3-13. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2014.

Journal Articles

Holmes, Sarah E., Mimi L. Larson, and Sue Price. "Will The Children Have Faith in the Post-Pandemic Era? Investigating Models of Children's Faith Formation in a World Changed by Pandemic Experiences." *Journal of Beliefs and Values*, 46(2) (March 6, 2024): 406-422.

Yamashiro, Daniel K. M. and Guthrie, Donald C. and Larson, Mimi L., Vygotsky's Perezhivanie as a Theoretical Prism to Explore Childhood Trauma at the Intersection of Religious Education in Formation of American Presidents (November 07, 2023). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4922012> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4922012>

Larson, Mimi L. "The Child in Our Midst: The Shifting Trends in Ministry with Children and Families Over the Past Forty Years." *Christian Education Journal*, 17 (3) (December, 2020): 434-448.

McRay, Barrett W., Laura Barwegen, Daniel T. Haase, Muhia Karianjahi, Mimi L. Larson, Rob Ribbe, Tom Schwanda, David P. Setran, and James C. Wilhoit. "Spiritual Formation and Soul Care in

the Department of Christian Formation and Ministry at Wheaton College." *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* 11, no. 2 (November 2018): 271-95.

Larson, Mimi L. "Making Meaning of God." *Lutheran Education Journal* (Winter 2018): 37-49.

Morgenthaler, Shirley K., Jeffrey B. Keiser, & Mimi L. Larson. "Nurturing the Infant Soul: The Importance of Community and Memories in the Spiritual Formation of Young Children." *Christian Education Journal*, 11, no. 2 (2014): 244-258.

Reports/White Papers

Holmes, Sarah, Lawson Murray, Mimi Larson, Sue Price, Phil Whitehead, & Valerie de Abreu. "Do Church Structures Enable Children's & Family Ministry to Grow? A Multi-National Research Project." October, 2022. <https://www.nurturingyoungfaith.org/post/full-report-do-church-structures-encourage-children-family-ministry>

Larson, Mimi. "Engaging Children in Worship: Perspectives for Churches to Consider." Thrive of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, 2021. https://faithandchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2024/06/Engaging-Children-in-Worship_-Perspectives-for-Churches-to-Consider-compressed.pdf.

Holmes, Sarah, Lawson Murray, Sue Price, Mimi Larson, Valerie de Abreu, & Phil Whitehead. "Do We Need a New Plan For Children's Ministry? A Report Based on Research in Brazil, Canada, UK, and US in later-pandemic stages." October, 2021. <https://www.nurturingyoungfaith.org/post/does-the-church-have-a-plan-for-reaching-children>.

Magazine Articles

Larson, Mimi L. Ahyuwani Akanet, & Lindsey Goetz. "To Disciple Kids Well, Help Their Parents." *Christianity Today*, January 28, 2025. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/2025/01/disciple-kids-help-parents-church-programs-family/>.

Larson, Mimi L. "How Children Make Meaning of God: Five Ways Children Learn, with Three Ideas for Worship." *Reformed Worship*, June 2022, pp. 16-18. (Honorable Mention for Professional Resource by the Associated Church Press 2022 Best of the Church Press Awards)

Larson, Mimi L. "Fly the 'W' for Worship." *The Banner*, 2 Aug. 2021, <https://www.thebanner.org/columns/2021/08/fly-the-w-for-worship>.

Larson, Mimi L. "Raising the Bar for Ministry with Children: Why Your Children's Ministry Leader Needs More Education and Training." *Christianity Today*, 10 Apr. 2021, www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2021/april/raising-bar-for-ministry-with-children.html.

Book Reviews

Larson, Mimi L. "Book Review: Parenting: The Complex and Beautiful Vocation of Raising Children, by Holly Taylor Coolman." *Christian Education Journal*, 21, no. 2 (2024): 238-241.

Larson, Mimi L. "Book Review for Developing a Faith-Based Education: A Teacher's Manual, by Barbara J. Fisher." *Christian Education Journal*, 13, no. 1 (2016): 234.

Curriculum

Larson, Mimi L. *Imagine (Dwell Curriculum Year 1)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2011.

Larson, Mimi L. *Imagine (Dwell Curriculum Year 2)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2012.

Larson, Mimi L. *Follow the Leader if You Dare: Early Elementary Children's Activity Book*. Wheaton, IL: Mainstay Church Resources, 2003.

Larson, Mimi L., & Mary J. Murray, *3-2-1 Penguins—Bible Academy: Tots Flight Manual*. Lisle, IL: Big Idea Productions, 2002.

Larson, Mimi L., & Mary J. Murray, *Veggie Tots: Jonah—An Overboard Adventure*. Lisle, IL: Big Idea Productions, 2001.

Larson, Mimi L. *Veggie Tots: Veggie Town Values for the Family!* Lisle, IL: Big Idea Production, 2000.

PRESENTATIONS

Keynote/Plenary Engagements

Larson, Mimi. "Nurturing Spiritual Formation in the Early Years." Keynote speaker for the annual Early Childhood Christian Network - North State Conference, 1 August 2024.

Larson, Mimi. "Nurturing Spiritual Formation in the Early Years." Keynote speaker for the annual Early Childhood Christian Network - Central State Conference, 11 July 2024.

Larson, Mimi. "How Do Children Worship?" Part of the Subversive Theology: Questions that Matter series at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, 6 October 2022.

Conference Presentations

Larson, Mimi L. "Right from the Start: Intentional Nursery Ministry." Workshop presented at the Children's Spirituality Online Summit, 2 October 2025.

Larson, Mimi L. "Asking the Right Questions for Including Children in Worship." (Invited Paper Presentation) Intergenerate 2025, 11 June 2025.

Larson, Mimi and Lindsey Goetz. "A Child Shall Lead Them: Incorporating Childlike Ways of Worship." Workshop presented at the Worship Symposium - Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 6 February 2025.

Larson, Mimi. Facilitated panel discussion on "Sacred Play: Engaging Play as a Form of Discipleship in the Local Church" at the Children's Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives, Deerfield, IL. 22 May 2024.

Larson, Mimi. "Engaging Children as Full Participants of Intergenerational Worship." Workshop presented at Intergenerate Conference, 21 June 2023.

Larson, Mimi. "Integrating and Applying Conference Insights" (Invited Guest Panelist) at the Children's Spirituality Summit and Intergenerate conference, 24 May 2021.

Larson, Mimi. "Engaging Children as Active Participants in Worship." Presented at the Children's

Spirituality Summit, 24 May 2021.

Larson, Mimi L. "Engaging Children in the Worshipping Community." Workshop at 2021 Annual Event of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators, 4 February 2021.

Larson, Mimi. "Children in the Worshipping Community." Workshop presented at the Symposium on Worship, 31 January and 1 February 2020, Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI.

Larson, Mimi, Robert Keeley, Peter Jonker, LaVerne Tolbert and Joyce Borger. "Children in the Worshipping Community: The Faith that Calls Children to Worship." Seminar presented at the Symposium on Worship, 30 January 2020, Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI.

Larson, Mimi. "Deepening Children's Thinking: Children's Ministry Curriculum through the Lens of Bloom's Taxonomy." Paper presented at the Children's Spirituality Summit, 28 June 2018, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Larson, Mimi & Shirley K. Morgenthaler. "A Sacred Playground: Play and a Child's Forming Faith." Paper presented at the Children's Spirituality Summit, 28 June 2018, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Larson, Mimi L. & Shirley K. Morgenthaler. "Play and Spirituality: What's the Connection? Finding Ways to Think about Play's Relationship to Spirituality and the Essential Spiritual Nature of the Young Child." Paper presented at the annual meeting for the National Association for the Education of Young Children, 3 November 2016, Los Angeles, CA.

Larson, Mimi L. "Making Meaning of God: The Faith Experiences of Preschool Children." Paper presented at the Children's Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives, 13 June 2016, Lipscomb University, Nashville TN.

Larson, Mimi L. Facilitated panel discussion on "Nurturing Spiritual Formation in Children Facing Difficult Circumstances" at the Children's Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives, 13, June 2016.

Morgenthaler, Shirley K., Jeffrey B. Keiser, & Mimi L. Larson. "Nurturing the Infant Soul: Spiritual Formation and Very Young Children." Paper presented at the Children's Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives, 13, June 2016, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Larson, Mimi L. "Making Meaning of God: How Preschoolers Make Meaning of their Faith Experiences." Research poster presented at the annual meeting for the National Association for the Education of Young Children, 19 November 2015, Orlando, FL.

Morgenthaler, Shirley K., Jeffrey B. Keiser, & Mimi L. Larson. "Implications of Nurturing the Soul of the Child: Building on the Importance of Emergent Teaching and Learning, Memories, and Community in the Cognitive and Spiritual Formation of Young Children." Research poster presented at the annual meeting for the National Association for the Education of Young Children, 19 November 2015, Orlando FL.

Larson, Mimi L. "Making Meaning of God: How Preschoolers Make Meaning of their Faith Experiences." Paper presented at the Early Childhood Conference, 7, August 2015, Concordia University, River Forest, IL.

Morgenthaler, Shirley K., Jeffrey B. Keiser, & Mimi L. Larson. "Implications of Nurturing the Soul of the Child." Paper presented at the Early Childhood Conference, 7 August 2015, Concordia University, River Forest, IL.

Larson, Mimi L. "Making Meaning of God: The Faith Experiences of Preschool Children." Paper presented at the annual meeting for the Mid-western Educational Research Association, 13 November 2014, Evanston, IL. **Selected as one of the distinguished papers from the 2014 MWERA conference.

Morgenthaler, Shirley K., Jeffrey B. Keiser, & Mimi L. Larson. "Nurturing the Soul of the Child: The Importance of Community, Memories, and Emergent Teaching/Learning in the Cognitive and Spiritual Formation of Young Children." Paper presented at the annual meeting for the National Association for the Education of Young Children, 7 November 2014, Dallas TX.

Larson, Mimi L. & Jeffrey B. Keiser. "Faith as Incubation: Hatching Wisdom and Faith from Relationships and Spiritual Exploration." Paper presented at the Early Childhood Conference, 8 August 2014, Concordia University, River Forest, IL.

Larson, Mimi L. & Jeffrey B. Keiser. "Incubating a Young Child's Faith: How Faith Hatches from Relationships within the Christian Community." Research presented at Faith Forward 2014, 20 May 2014, Nashville, TN.

Morgenthaler, Shirley K., Jeffrey B. Keiser, & Mimi L. Larson. "Nurturing the Infant Soul: The Importance of Community and Memories in the Spiritual Formation of Young Children." Paper presented at the annual meeting for the North American Professors of Christian Education, 18 October 2013, Chicago, IL.

Larson, Mimi L. "The Young Child in Our Midst: Being Faith-Intentional and Spiritually Present with Infants and Toddlers." Paper presented at the Early Childhood Conference, 9 August 2013, Concordia University, River Forest, IL.

Larson, Mimi L. "Prenatal & Early Childhood Spiritual Formation." Ministry Model presented at the Children's Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives, June 2009, River Forest, IL.

Webinars

Larson, Mimi & Kirsten Hitchcock. "Discovering Your Vision for Ministry." Online webinar with Center for Faith and Children, 18 June 2024.

Holmes, Sarah, Mimi Larson, and Sue Price. "Will our Children Have Faith in Post Pandemic Times?" Online webinar with Liverpool Hope University, UK, 2 May 2024.

Larson, Mimi. "Following Jesus with Young Children." Online webinar with Uncommon Pursuit, 14, September 2023. https://youtu.be/xQ7jL5JpwDA?si=ir9csabyheKRcV_H

Holmes, Sarah, Mimi Larson, Lawson Murray, Sue Price, Phil Whitehead, & Valerie de Abreu. "Clergy ThinkTank: Do Church Structures Help or Hinder Ministry Amongst Families?" Online webinar with Liverpool Hope University, UK, 27 February 2022.

Larson, Mimi, Sarah Holmes, Lawson Murray, Phil Whitehead, Susan Price, & Valerie Gill de Abreu. "The Future of the Church? Rethinking the Framework of Ministry Amongst Families" Online international webinar with Liverpool Hope University, 19 January 2022.

Practical Ministry Workshops/Classes

Larson, Mimi. "The Ministry Within - Strengthening Your Soul for Enduring Ministry." Worship presented at the Children's Pastors Conference, 6 January 2026.

- Larson, Mimi. "A Weary World Rejoices: Caring for Your Soul in a Busy Ministry Season." Workshop presented through International Network of Children's Ministries webinar, 13 November 2025.
- Larson, Mimi. "Understanding the Young Child in the Church." Workshop presented at the Children's Pastors Conference, 7 January 2025.
- Larson, Mimi. "Best Practices for Classroom Space." Workshop presented at the Early Childhood Christian Network - North State Conference, 1 August 2024.
- Larson, Mimi. "Intention Nursery Ministry for Infants and Toddlers." Workshop presented at the Early Childhood Christian Network - North State Conference, 1 August 2024.
- Larson, Mimi. "Best Practices for Classroom Space." Workshop presented at the Early Childhood Christian Network - Central State Conference, 11 July 2024
- Larson, Mimi. "Intentional Nursery Ministry for Infants and Toddlers." Workshop presented at the Early Childhood Christian Network - Central State Conference, 11 July 2024
- Larson, Mimi. "Early Childhood Essentials 105: Best Practices for Preschool Spaces." Workshop presented at the Children's Pastor's Conference, 11 January 2024.
- Larson, Mimi. "Eight Ways to Nurture a Preschooler's Faith." Workshop presented at the Children's Pastor's Conference, 10 January 2024.
- Larson, Mimi L. and Lindsey Goetz. "Trends and Research in Children's Ministry." Workshop at the Evangelical Free Church in America Children's Ministry Gathering, 13 November 2023.
- Larson, Mimi. "Right from the Start: Intentional Nursery Ministry." Workshop presented at the Children's Pastors Conference, 12 January 2023.
- Larson, Mimi. "Theology Informed Children's Ministry." Workshop presented at the Children's Pastors Conference, 10 January 2023.
- Larson, Mimi L. "Engaging Higher Levels of Thinking in the Sunday school Classroom." Workshop at First Presbyterian Church of Aurora, 22 January 2022.
- Larson, Mimi & Kirsten Hitchcock. "Putting Emphasis on the Right Things: Discovering Your Vision for Ministry." Workshop presented at the Children's Pastors Conference, 13 January 2022.
- Larson, Mimi. "Assessing Curriculum and Its Effectiveness in Your Ministry." Workshop presented at the Children's Pastors Conference, 11 January 2022.
- Larson, Mimi L. "Does the Church Care if Children Can Think?" Workshop at Toronto's Children's Ministry Conference, Wycliffe College, Toronto ON, Canada, 7 November 2020.
- Larson, Mimi L. "Children in Worship." Workshop for Vibrant Faith Ministries, 20 October 2020.
- Larson, Mimi L. "Hot Topic Questions about Children's Ministry." Workshop at Inspire 2019, Windsor ON, Canada, 3 August 2019.
- Larson, Mimi L. & Ron DeVries. "A Practical Theology for Children's and Youth Ministry." Workshop at Inspire 2019, Windsor ON, Canada, 2 August 2019.
- Larson, Mimi L. Ministry workshop training at First Christian Reformed Church, Oostburg, WI, 21 March 2019.
- Larson, Mimi L. "Making Old Stories New." Workshop training at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church,

Roselle, IL, 5 November 2017.

Larson, Mimi L. "Will Our Children Have Faith?" Workshop training at Crossroads Kids Club, Streamwood, IL, March 2015.

Larson, Mimi L. "The Young Child in Our Midst: Being Intentional & Present with Infants and Toddlers." Workshop training at Northwest Presbyterian Church, Dublin, OH, April, 2013.

Larson, Mimi L. "Understanding the Kids in our Midst: Multiple Intelligences in a Ministry Context." Workshop training at Northwest Presbyterian Church, Dublin, OH, April 2013

Larson, Mimi L. "Creatively Teaching the Bible." Workshop training at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church, Roselle, IL, October 2011.

Larson, Mimi L. "What Does Formation Look Like in the Church?" Workshop training at Shepherds of the Sheep Ministry Network, Wheaton, IL, January 2011.

Larson, Mimi L. Facilitated panel discussion at the Synergy Conference, Glen Ellyn, IL, October 2010.

Larson, Mimi L. "Creating Space to Encounter God: The Importance of Wonder in a Preschooler's Faith Formation." Workshop training at The Ark Preschool, Glen Ellyn Evangelical Covenant Church, Glen Ellyn, IL, April 2010.

Larson, Mimi L. "Nurturing Your Child's Love of Scripture." Workshop training at Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Northfield, IL, November 2006.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

- ❖ Founder and Executive Director, Center for Faith and Children, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (2022-2026), Taylor University (2026-present)
- ❖ Program Director for the Master of Arts in Educational Ministries, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (2021-2026)
- ❖ Teaching and Learning Committee, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (2025-2026)
- ❖ Undergraduate Teaching Committee, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (2023-2025)
- ❖ Masters Program Committee, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (2022-2025)
- ❖ Deerfield Dialogue Group, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (2023-2026)
- ❖ Chapel Speaker, Till Christ is Formed in Us: Jesus' Vision for Children at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, 9 April, 2025.
- ❖ Speaker, Subversive Theology: Questions that Matter series at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, 6 October, 2022.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION & OTHER ACTIVITIES

Current

- ❖ Board of Directors for the Society of Children's Spirituality: Christian Perspectives. (Board chair 2020-2025; Board Member)
- ❖ Membership in Society of Professors of Christian Ministry.

- ❖ Membership in the Religious Education Association.
- ❖ Member of Global Children's Forum.
- ❖ Advisory Member, Baylor University's Shaping Young Worshipers through Transformative Music Ministry Project.
- ❖ Advisory Board Member, National Community of Catechetical Leaders' Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative
- ❖ Advisory Board Member, Search Institute's Igniting Spiritual Thriving with African American, Latine/Hispanic, and Low-Income Families Project
- ❖ Peer Reviewer for *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care*.
- ❖ Peer Reviewer for the *Christian Education Journal*.
- ❖ Area Book Reviewer for the *Christian Education Journal* in Children's Ministries & Families.
- ❖ Participant in Evangelical Free Church in America's Children and Family Leaders Group.

Past

- ❖ Delegate for the Fourth Lausanne Congress, Seoul Korea.
- ❖ Advisory Board Member for Masters of Arts in Educational Ministries degree at Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO.
- ❖ Membership in The National Association for Education of Young Children.
- ❖ Membership in the Mid-Western Educational Research Association.
- ❖ Membership in Evangelical Theological Society.
- ❖ Creative Team for *Veggie Tales Vacation Bible School* (Big Idea Productions, Lisle, IL).
- ❖ Advisor for Sparkhouse (ELCA publisher) regarding early childhood ministry curriculum.
- ❖ Discipleship Team, Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, Elmhurst IL