

About Leanne

I have spent my entire career working in children's ministry, and training and mentoring adults. I bring a unique mix of extensive hands-on experience working in congregations and pastoral care settings with children along with intellectual study and education.

- Children's Hospital Chaplain.
- Worked with Children of migrant farmers and their families.
- Experienced lead pastor of small and large churches.
- Founded First Steps Spirituality Center.
 - Provided one on one pastoral care to over 1000 hurting children and teens.
- National and International Trainer, Speaker Consultant and Coach.
 - Has led retreats, worship experiences, and workshop to over 20,000 people in the past ten years.
- Expert in Grief, Loss and Crisis including suicide and military family issues.
- Internationally trained and consulted in Italy, Canada, United Kingdom, South Africa, Trinidad, and at the International Conference on Grief in Florence Italy.

What makes me uniquely qualified to work with Conferences and congregations in this area is:

- I bring a strong theological and educational background.
 - I earned a BA in theater and communications and my degree focused on creative ways to teach children using the arts.
 - I am theologically trained earning both M.Div. and D.Min. degrees focused my studies about the spiritual formation and healing of children.
 - I developed the only model of pastoral care and spiritual formation for children to date as my D.Min. project.
 - I am an Ordained Elder in the UMC but have worked and worshipped ecumenically and understand the various backgrounds many families bring to the UMC.
- I have extensive hands on experience working directly with children and their families.
 - I teach what my 30 years of experience, observations of and interactions with children and their families have taught me. The children have been my teachers. As a result, the things I teach work.
 - I have dramatically increased numbers, programs and most importantly, the theological depth of every children and family ministry I have served.
- In addition to working directly with children I have been lecturing, coaching, and consulting for the past twenty years.
 - I have developed and teach an original 18 Hour Certification Program for the spiritual formation of children, teens and families; completed by 2,000 professionals.
 - I consult with congregations throughout the nation concerning creating spiritual formation programs for people of all ages within the context of their ministry settings.

I am offering my expertise to help strengthen ministries to children and families in a theological, spiritual and practical new way.