



Five Stars of Excellence in Christian Education

2019 - 2020

Information Packet
Application Forms

**Application Deadline
April 30, 2020**

Sponsored by:
The Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church
Committee for Faith-Forming Relationships and Spiritual Formation
and Texas Conference Christian Educators Fellowship

Celebrating congregations committed to vital Faith Formation ministries!

****Please note that the criteria have been updated for 2020****

Five Stars of Excellence in Christian Education

Sponsored by:

Committee for Faith-Forming Relationships and Spiritual Formation
and Texas Conference Christian Educators Fellowship

Five Stars of Excellence in Christian Education recognizes congregations in the Texas Annual Conference that are committed to effective ministries in Christian Education and Faith Formation. The program's goals are to:

- Assist congregations in evaluating existing Faith Formation ministries and developing a vision for the future;
- Encourage, promote, deepen, and facilitate the growth of Christian Education and Faith Formation programs; and
- Connect these programs to the overall ministry of the local church, the connectional church, and the community at large.

The Five Stars of Excellence in Christian Education program has two levels of awards:

- The **Five Stars of Excellence Award** for the overall work of congregations
- The **Shooting Star Award** for a new and innovative ministry

The Five Stars of Excellence program runs from April 15th to April 15th each year. Please submit the completed application, along with photos of the ministries described, by **Tuesday, April 30, 2020** (postmarked or emailed). Awards will be presented in May during Annual Conference at the Texas Conference Christian Educators Fellowship Luncheon (reservations required).

Staff and lay leaders are always invited to become members of Texas Conference Christian Educators Fellowship. All are welcome to join us for our luncheon during Annual Conference and our regular monthly lunch programs. Visit www.tccef.org for details and reservations.

For more information and help completing this application, go to www.tccef.org or contact Ellen Edwards at ellen.edwards@me.com.

Submit completed applications with pictures to Stephanie Scovell at:

Rev. Stephanie Scovell
Bering Memorial UMC
1440 Harold Street
Houston, Texas 77006

- or -

stephanies@beringumc.org

Please note that the criteria have been updated for 2020.

FIVE STARS OF EXCELLENCE CHURCH INFORMATION FORM

This application is for the:

Five Stars of Excellence Award

Shooting Star Award

Church Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Church Profile:

Total church membership _____ Average attendance in worship _____

Average Sunday School attendance: children _____ youth _____ adults _____

Contact Person's Name(s): _____

Contact Phone and/or Email: _____

Senior Pastor's Name, Phone/Email: _____

Associate Pastor(s) or Staff: _____

Members of TCCEF (staff and/or laity): _____

District: _____

Annual Conference Year: 2020

Signature and date this document was reviewed by key lay person working in the area of Christian Education or Faith Formation Ministries:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Completed packet includes:

- ___ Church Information Form signed by lay leader(s)
- ___ Completed 5 Stars Application Form
- ___ Photos of ministries (include up to 5 photos that can be shared digitally)
- ___ Shooting Star Application (optional)

DEADLINE is April 30, 2020



FIVE STARS OF EXCELLENCE AWARD APPLICATION

Key values of the Texas Conference include: Passionate Worship, Radical Hospitality, Extravagant Generosity, Faith-forming Relationships, Risk-taking Mission and Service, Connectional Ministry, Fervent Prayer and Diligent Study of Scripture, and “We Love All God’s Children.”

1. Discipleship Mission and Values

- a. Briefly share your purpose statement and mission goals for Christian Education and Faith Formation ministries in your local church. Describe how these contribute to the faith development and growth of those in your faith community.
- b. Briefly describe how the Christian Education and Faith Formation programs of your church incorporate the key values listed above.

2. Faith Formation in Congregational Life

- a. Describe how your church provides a pathway to discipleship, as individuals and as a community of faith.
(Examples could include a specific pathway to discipleship or the various ministries provided by your congregation to connect and grow individuals of every age and stage of their faith journey.)
- b. Share how you have incorporated or highlighted Faith Formation ministries in worship and in other areas of ministry.
(Examples could include celebrating Christian Education Sunday, highlighting Christian Education and Faith Formation ministries within worship, and church-wide study connecting with Sunday worship themes)
- c. Provide a list of other ministries in your congregation that serve to connect and grow your community in their faith.
(Examples could include faith-forming relationships, study, prayer, small groups, age-level groups, and discipleship.)

3. Inviting, Equipping, and Affirming Leaders

- a. Share how you identify, invite, equip, and celebrate leaders in Christian Education and Faith Formation ministries.
(Examples could include celebrating Christian Education Sunday, Rally Day, or Promotion Sunday; highlighting small-group or faith formation ministries during worship services; coordinating training for teachers, Faith Formation leaders, or small group leaders; providing opportunities for spiritual enrichment for leaders; providing job descriptions and/or covenant agreements for each teacher or leader; holding appreciation events; and

providing opportunities to discover spiritual gifts within your congregation as way of inviting participants into ministries.)

- b. Describe how clergy participate in providing leadership for Christian Education and Faith Formation ministries.

(Examples could include leading Bible studies, teaching confirmation or Sunday School classes, and helping with Christian Education curriculum.)

4. Reaching Out

- a. Share how your congregation practices hospitality, engages in mission and service, and practices generosity and compassion.

(Examples could include inviting prospective participants to small group or Sunday School classes, reaching out to members who are home-bound, away at college, or in the military, outreach within the surrounding community, mission and service opportunities across the world.)

- b. Share how your congregation lives out the call to “love all God’s children.”

(Examples could include ministries that address early childhood education, literacy, health initiatives, parent education, or the spiritual wellbeing of children within or outside of your congregation.)

5. Resource and Support

- a. Describe how your church is making Christian Education and Faith Formation a priority.

(Examples could include budget, materials and supplies, facilities, training through TCCEF programming, webinars, or other resources.)

- b. Provide a brief description of how you select and adapt curriculum for the various age-levels and other groups in your congregation.

- c. When have you evaluated or updated your congregation’s Safe Sanctuary policy? Share how the policy is working in your congregation to assure the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults.

REFLECTION

Based on this evaluation, share an area where your congregation is experiencing challenges and an area you are celebrating through these ministries.

Is there an area where TCCEF could provide additional support or guidance for your ministry?



THE SHOOTING STAR AWARD APPLICATION

The Shooting Star Award honors the work of congregations that demonstrate new and innovative Christian Education and Faith Formation ministries. Churches can receive this award annually, along with the Five Stars of Excellence Award.

Examples of past Shooting Star winners include:

- an ecumenical VBS program,
- the Bookworm book bus,
- the formation of a caregiver support group,
- an online and phone application for Children's Ministry

Along with your Five Stars application, submit the following information about your program:

Name of program

Description, purpose, and goals of the program

Resources and funding

A brief summary of what you would do differently or add to this program

A brief explanation of what you hope will come out of this program

Include at least one photo of the event or program (jpeg or pdf).

The **Shooting Star** and **Five Stars** applications must be emailed or postmarked by **April 30**. The ministries that qualify for the Shooting Star Award will be highlighted at the Texas Conference Christian Education Fellowship luncheon held during Annual Conference.

For more information and examples for completing this application, go to www.tccef.org or contact Ellen Edwards at ellen.edwards@me.com.

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