



Annual Program Report

VAUMC Initiative Preparing the Way for Children

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Hatching Faith Cohorts project is to discover how to more meaningfully engage children in corporate worship by leading congregations through a three-phase process.

THE THREE PHASE MODEL



Nesting

Preparation

Congregations get ready.



Hatching

Design & Experiment

Try new worship practices.



Nurturing

Sustainability

Spread and sustain the model.

YEAR 1 IMPACT

98% of those who noticed change said worship now includes **more** opportunities for children to be creative.

8

churches in
Cohort 1

87%

said their worship
experience has **improved**

86%

noticed **more** children
present in worship

+19%

ave. **improvement**
in bulletin accessibility

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WORSHIP

Family-focused worship services centered on family participation, across several congregations.



Child-led liturgy

Child written and led
liturgical elements



Worship arts program

Liturgical dance and displayed
art created by children



Table-based worship

Coloring, snacks, fidgets and
family-style communion



Multi-sensory scripture

invitation for congregational
participation in storytelling

LOOKING AHEAD

Winter 2026

Spring 2026

May 2026

Fall 2026

April 2027



Cohorts 2 & 3
enter Nesting phase



Cohort 1 completes Hatching phase
Cohorts 2&3 enter Hatching phase



Cohort 1 enters
Nurturing phase



Hatching continues with initial
experiments + micro-grants for Cohorts 2&3



Cohorts 2&3 complete
Hatching phase

LEARN MORE:
vaumc.org/hatchingfaith

Rev. Hannah Bryn
Director of Hatching Faith Cohorts
Email: hannahbryn@vaumc.org

Rev. Jennifer Coffey
Hatching Faith Cohort Coordinator
Email: jennifercoffey@vaumc.org