

The image features two large, thick black L-shaped corner brackets. One is positioned in the top-left corner, and the other is in the bottom-right corner, framing the central text. The background is a light beige color with a subtle vertical gradient.

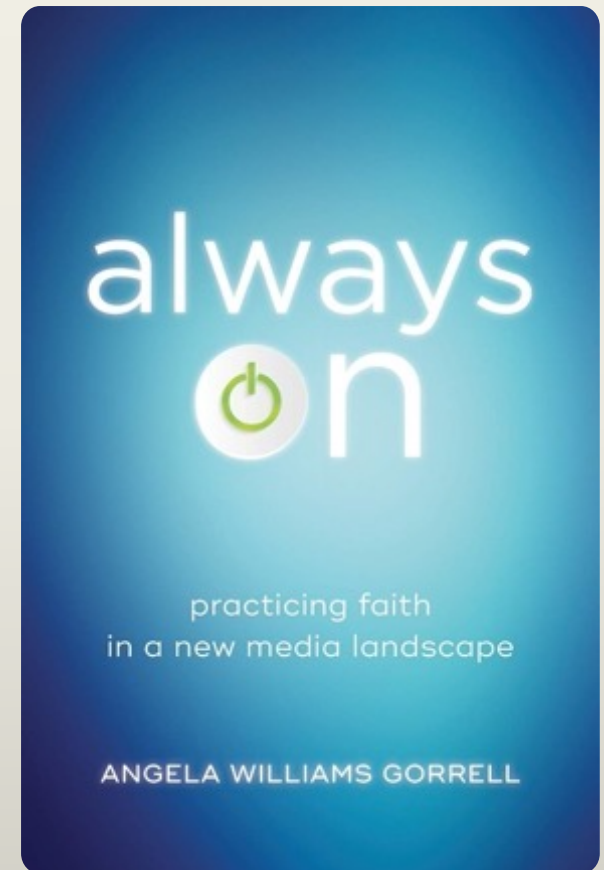
Our Hybrid Future

Hybridity

Recognizing online actions as meaningful helps Christian communities to consider our current online and in-person reality in terms of its hybridity, rather than in terms of digital dualism (think of online as virtual and in person as real).

“Hybridity,” describes “the coming together of online and offline, media and matter, or more dynamically. . . . the interplay between the online and offline dimension.” Most Americans live hybrid lives because our online and offline lives have been integrated. Interactions online shape offline experiences, and offline communication and practices shape people’s online engagement.

Angela Gorrell, *Always On*



Two Important Values

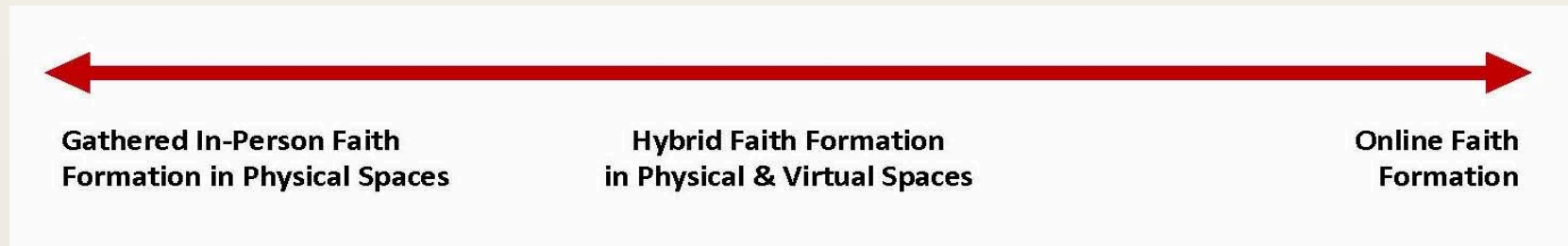
Hybrid models hold together two important values in faith formation:

1. the importance of in-person relationships and faith forming experiences, and
2. the importance of being responsive to the complexity of people's lives and their religious-spiritual needs.

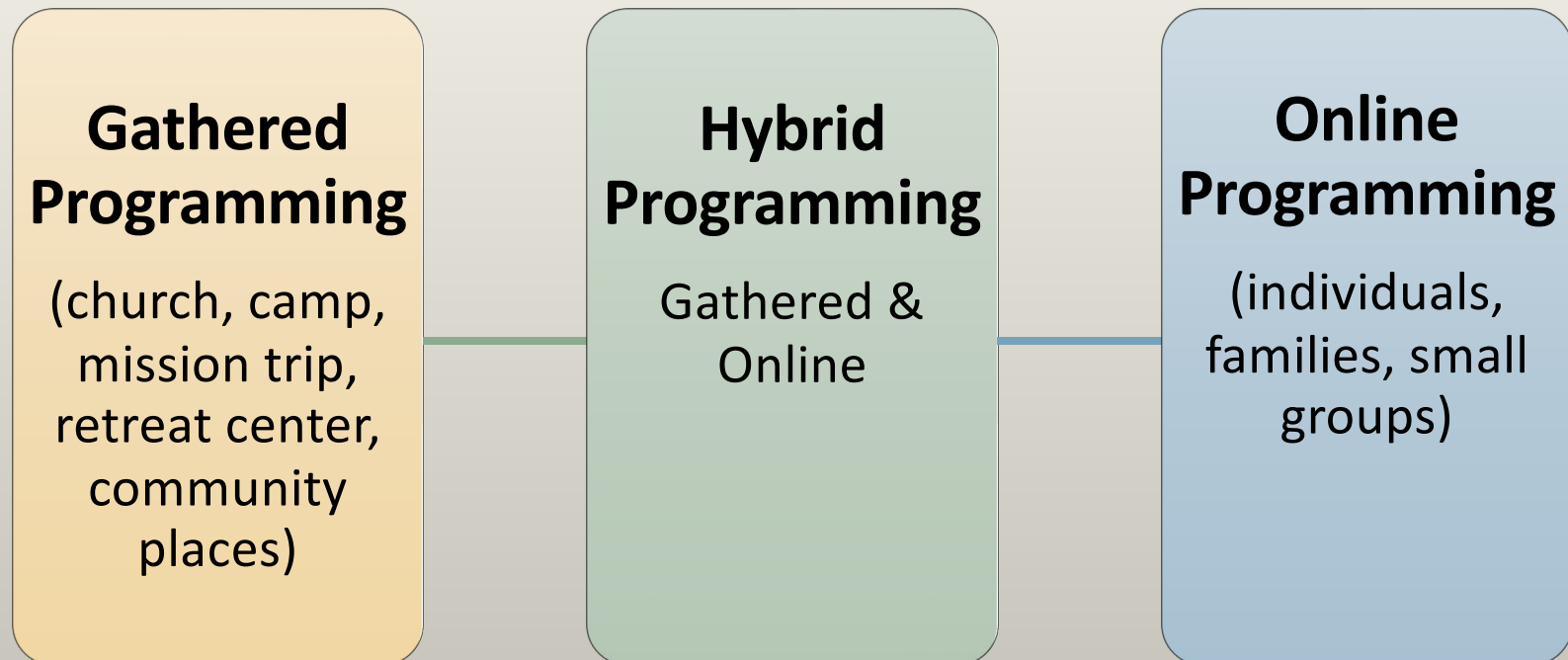
Hybrid models expand faith formation opportunities for everyone.

We can become much more strategic and careful about when, where, how, and for what we gather people because we can now integrate online with in-person faith forming.

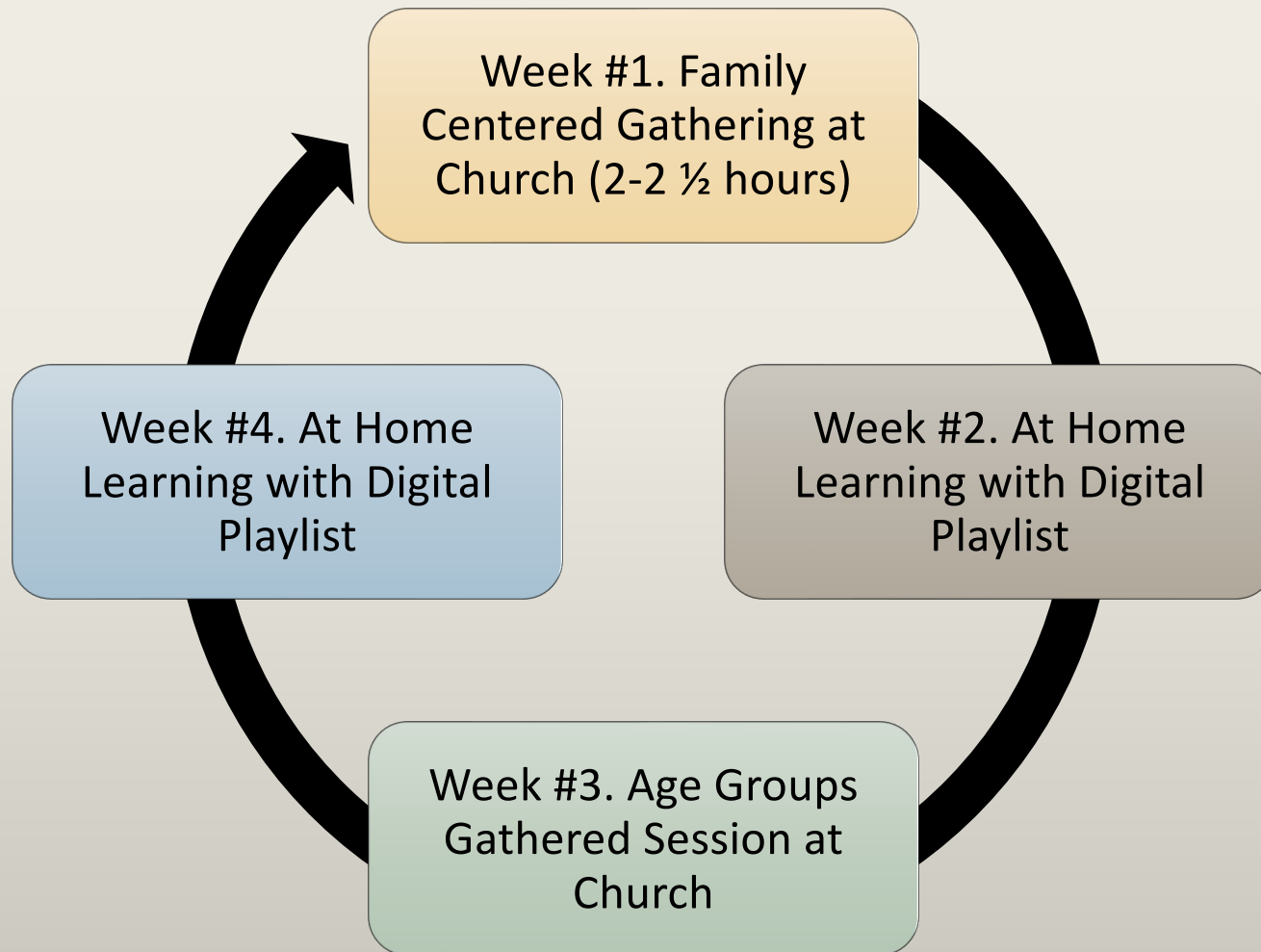
Three Approaches



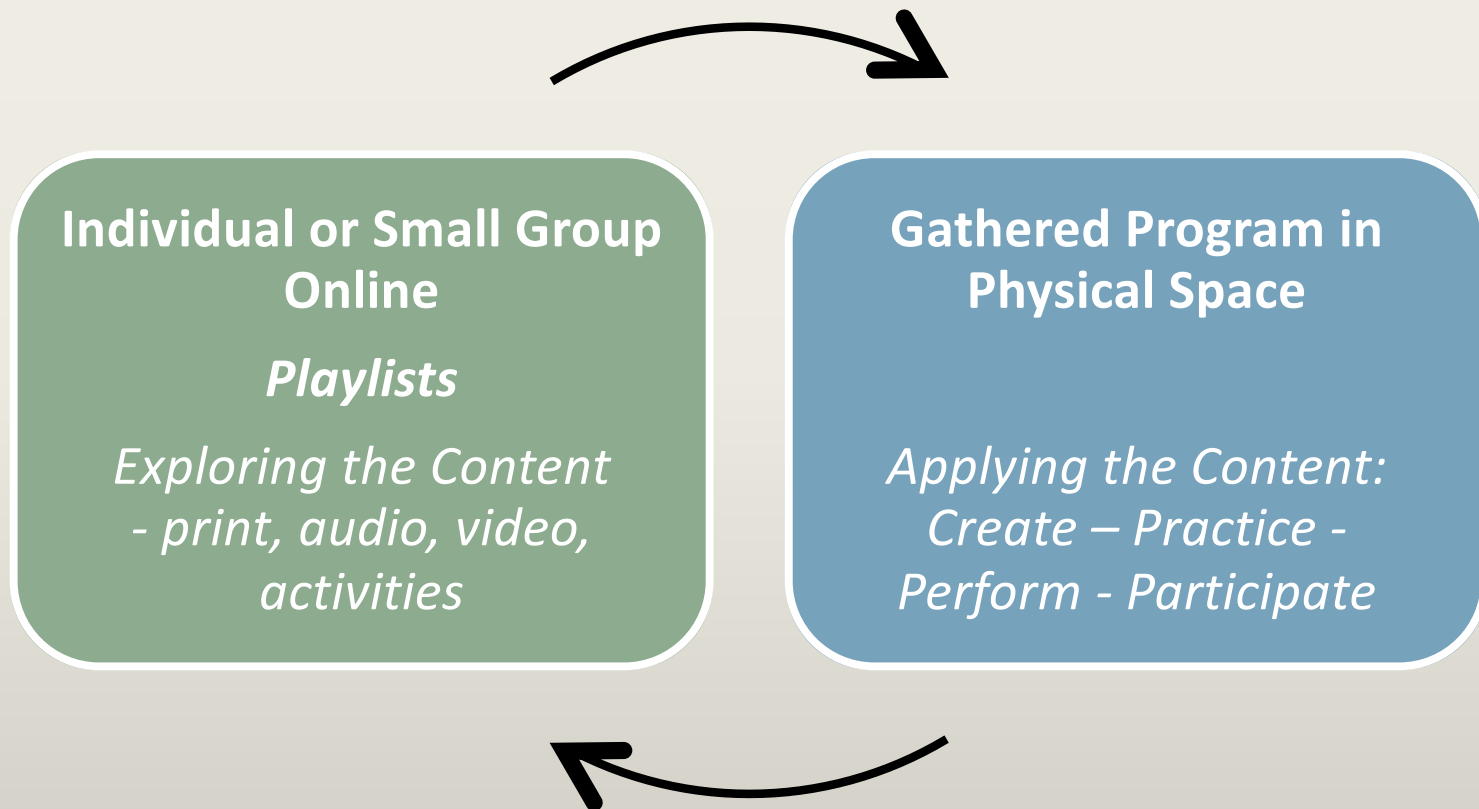
Synchronous and Asynchronous



Hybrid Family Program



Hybrid Flipped Program



Facebook Group or other online meeting space for sustained interaction and connection

Hybrid Approaches

Involve more people with time- and schedule-friendly programming

Reach more people through different learning formats

Promote more engaged learners

Find multiple ways to use the programming we create.

Engage or re-engage those who participate occasionally or who have stopped participating in church life.

One Program, Multiple Formats

- *Large group physical gathering:* People gather at church and a leader facilitates the program—showing a video, providing time for people to read and reflect, and guiding small groups in discussing the content.
- *Small group physical gathering:* People gather in small groups in homes or coffee shops or other conducive setting, watch the video, read and reflect on the content, and discuss the content.
- *Small group online setting:* People gather online in a small group (Zoom or other video conferencing platform) to watch the video together, read and reflect on the content, and discuss the content.
- *Hybrid:* People complete each session on their own, share reflections in a Facebook group (asynchronous), meet together to discuss the program (synchronous).
- *Online independent:* People complete the learning program on their own.

Potential for Hybrid Design

1. Sunday worship
2. Church year seasons
3. Milestones/sacraments
 - *Marriage preparation*
 - *Baptism preparation for new parents*
 - *First Communion preparation for parents and the family*
 - *Confirmation preparation*
4. Families with young children (0-5 years old)
5. Children's program with an at-home family component
6. All adult faith formation
7. Outreach initiatives
8. Leadership formation
9. And much more. . . .