

## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LEARNING & FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY - JOHN ROBERTO  
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### *VISION: ANCIENT & FUTURE*

Churches want faith formation that helps people. . .

- grow in their relationship with God throughout their lives
- live as disciples of Jesus Christ at home, in the workplace, in the community and the world
- develop an understanding of the Bible and their faith tradition
- deepen their spiritual life and practices
- engage in service and mission
- relate the Christian faith to life today
- participate in the life and ministries of the faith community

## THE ADAPTIVE CHALLENGE

### *TECHNICAL VS. ADAPTIVE CHANGE*

- ⊙ **Technical problems** (even though they may be complex) can be solved with knowledge and procedures already in hand.
- ⊙ Easy to identify.
- ⊙ Require change in just one or a few places; often contained within organizational boundaries
- ⊙ Everyday, people have problems for which they do, in fact, have the necessary know-how and procedures—*technical problems*.

## ADAPTIVE CHALLENGES

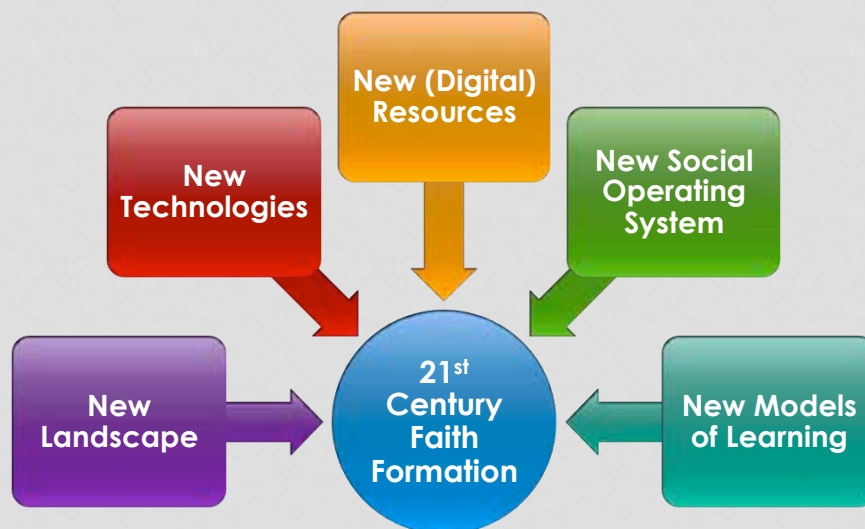
- ◉ **Adaptive challenges** are situations for which solutions lie outside the current way of operation.
- ◉ Difficult to identify (easy to deny). People often resist even acknowledging adaptive challenges
- ◉ Require experiments, new discoveries, and adjustments from numerous places in the organization.
- ◉ **Adaptive challenges** call for changes of heart and mind—the transformation of long-standing habits and deeply held assumptions and values. Without learning new ways—changing attitudes, values, and deep-seated behaviors—people cannot make the adaptive leap necessary to thrive in the new environment.

*You never change things by  
fighting the existing reality.  
To change something, build  
a new model that makes the  
existing model obsolete.*

Buckminster Fuller

## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY FAITH FORMATION: CONNECTED & NETWORKED

### *CONVERGENCE*



## **CONNECTED & NETWORKED FAITH FORMATION**



### **Creating Networks of Personalized & Customized Faith Formation Activities & Resources**



*focusing on addressing people's spiritual and religious diversity by offering a wide variety of religious content and experiences*

## **THE BIG IDEA**

**Congregations moving from. . .  
One Size Fits All Curriculum & Programming**

**to**

**A Network of Personalized & Customized  
Faith Formation Activities & Resources**  
*focusing on addressing people's spiritual and religious diversity by offering a wide variety of religious content and experiences*

***Providing Differentiated Faith Formation***

## ***THE BIG IDEA***

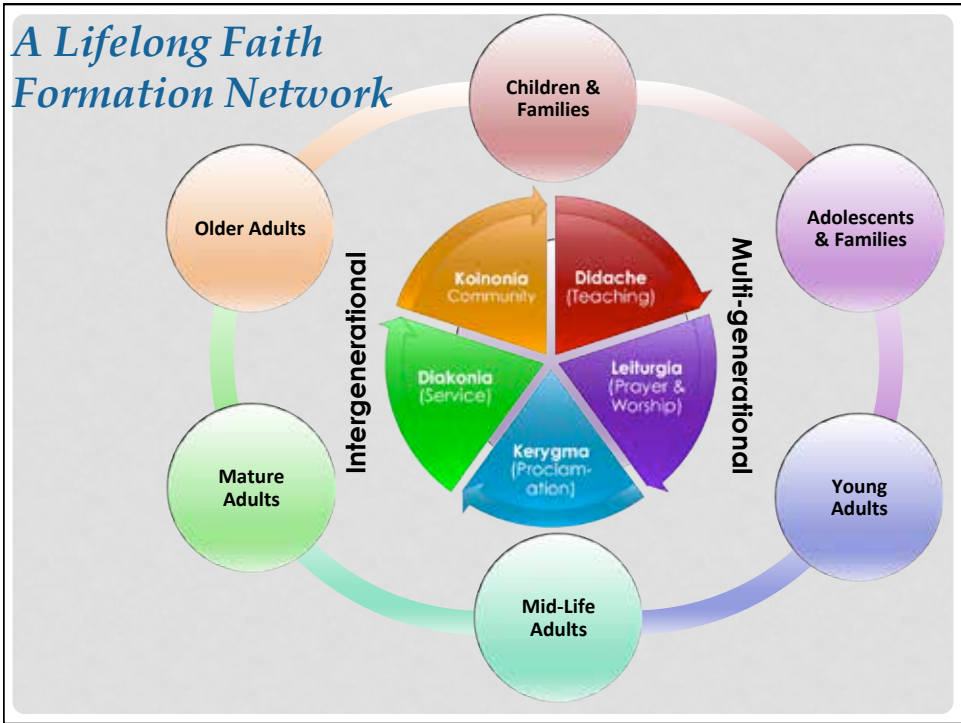
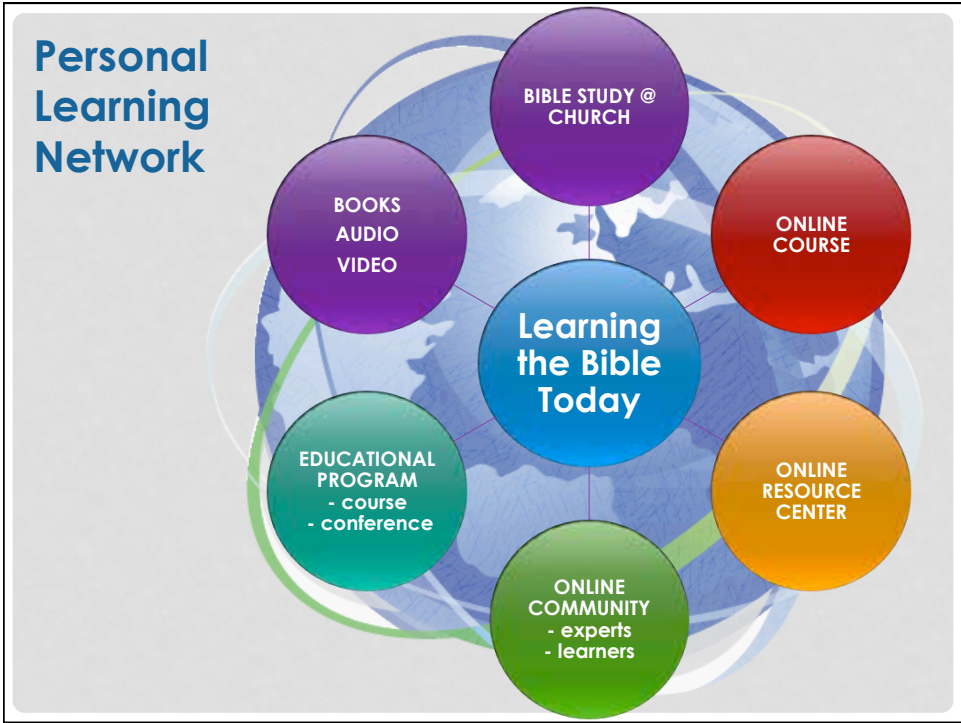
We now have the resources and technologies to:

- **Expand** faith formation to address the diversity of people today – life tasks and issues, religious and spiritual needs
- **Deliver** religious content and experiences to people wherever they are, 24 x 7 x 365
- **Engage** people in a wide variety of experiences tailored to their needs, interests, spiritual journey, and busy lives
- **Connect** people to each other – in physical places and virtual spaces



**We Can Now  
Provide Faith  
Formation for  
All Ages &  
Generations!**





## ***STRENGTHEN THE INTERGENERATIONAL CORE***

1. Intergenerational Community Life & Events (arts festivals, music and concerts, drama)
2. Intergenerational Mentoring (Reverse Mentoring)
3. Intergenerational Service
4. Intergenerational Learning
5. Intergenerational Retreats & Camps
6. Intergenerational Leadership
7. "Intergenerationalize" Age-Group Programs

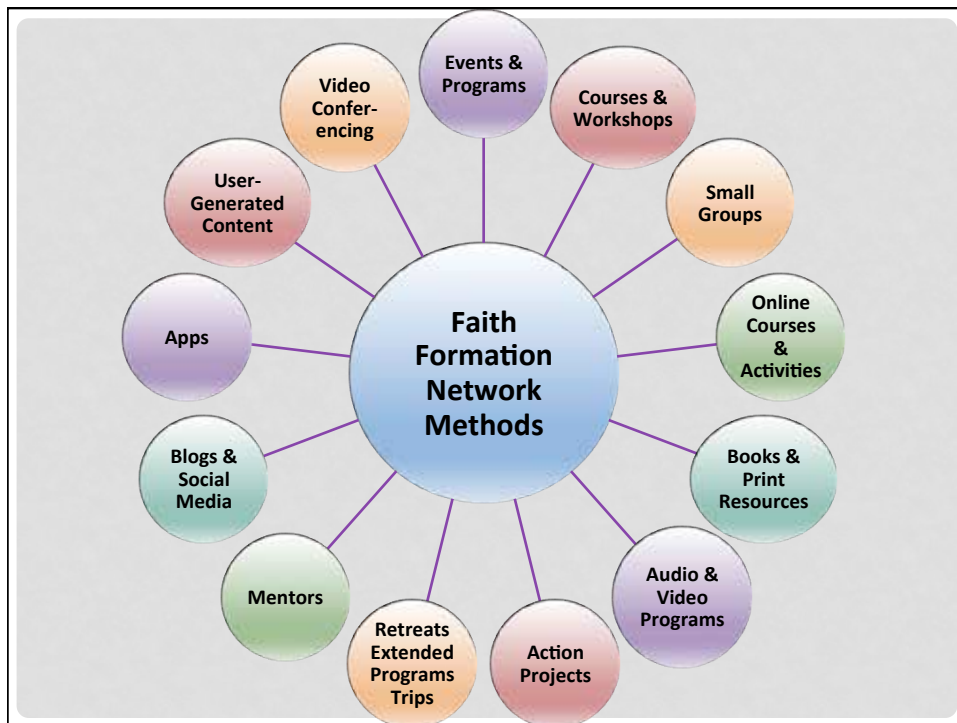
## ***CREATING A NETWORK***

Congregations can create faith formation networks around

1. **Ministries** and **activities** such as Sunday worship, service and mission projects, and programming (children's faith formation, youth ministry, Vacation Bible School)
2. **Age groups and generations:** children, adolescents, emerging adults, young adults, midlife adults, Baby Boomers, older adults
3. **Families and households** across the life cycle.



## FAITH FORMATION SETTINGS



## YOUNG FAMILIES NETWORK



## Families with Children



## BUILD AN ONLINE RESOURCE CENTER

**Family Faith Formation Network**



- Home
- Community Life & Events
- Bringing Sunday Worship Home
- Whole Family Experiences
- Faith Practices
- Milestones
- Parent Faith Formation
- Parenting & Support Groups
- Getting Started in Faith
- Children's Programs

**September Morning Prayer**



"Smile at each other, smile at your wife, smile at your husband, smile at your children, smile at each other—it doesn't matter who it is—and that will help you to grow in greater love for each other."  
(Ruthie Tenold)

**September Nighttime Prayer**



Dear Lord, may all of us in this home serve the Lord.  
May all we have done and said this day serve you.  
May we come as night, fall and offer praise to you.  
As we proceed, for each:  
May we lift our hands in prayer  
And praise the Lord,  
The Lord is the Creator of heaven and earth,  
We pray that you will bless us this night, Amen.  
(Adapted from Psalm 134)

## TARGETED STRATEGIES TO RESPOND TO DIVERSE NEEDS



## *FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN*

### Scenario #4

- Parent faith formation @Baptism
- Parent mentoring–Baptism & beyond
- “Deepening Faith & Engagement”
- Milestone & church year celebrations
- VBS (w/ parents), early childhood FF
- Mom’s groups / Dad’s groups
- Family service, family camp
- Online family resource center

### Scenario #1

- Faith Practices @Home (rituals, Bible reading, devotions, service, prayer)
- Parent faith formation & mentoring
- Milestones celebrations
- @Church family gatherings
- VBS, family camp, family service
- Early childhood faith formation
- Online family resource center

### Scenario #3

- Family life center
- Family events: movie nights, concerts, children’s festivals
- Mom’s groups, Dad’s groups
- VBS (with parents), family camp, family service
- Parenting programs & resources
- Online family resource center

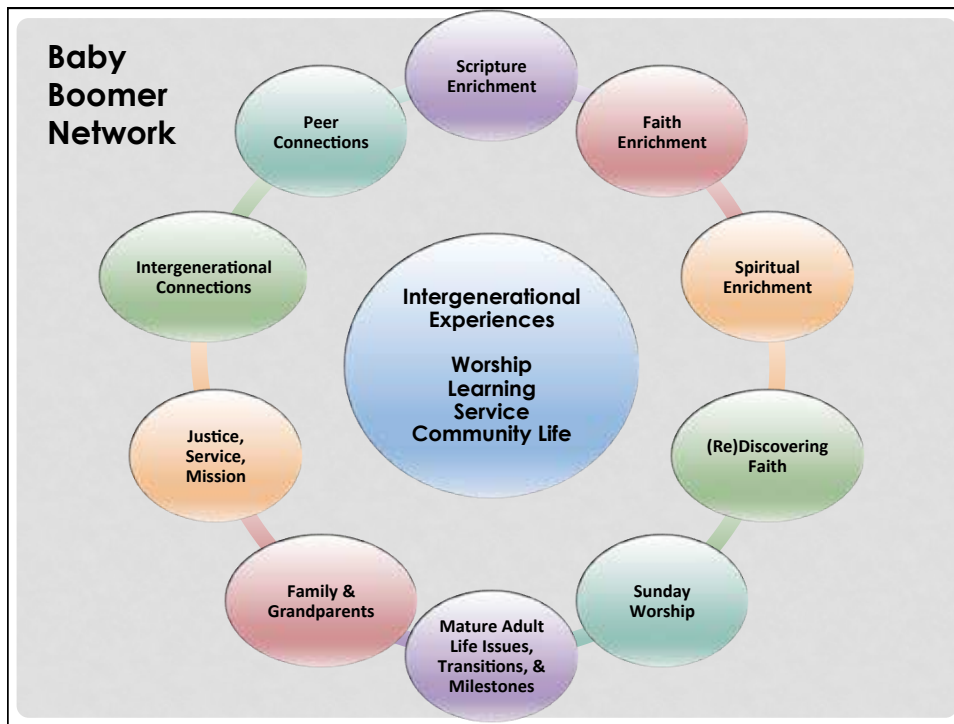
### Scenario #2

- Small group family experiences
- VBS (w/parents), family camp, family service, children/family events
- Parenting programs
- “Spiritual Seeker” experiences for parents
- Mom’s groups, Dad’s groups
- Online family resource center

## *TARGETING ADULTS*

**Mature Adults:  
50s-60s  
(Baby Boomers)**

1. Life Tasks
2. Life Issues
3. Milestones and Life Transitions
4. Spiritual & Religious Needs
5. Ethnic-Cultural Needs



## Adult Faith Formation

- Home
- Scripture Enrichment
- Faith Enrichment
- Spiritual Enrichment
- Rediscovering Faith
- Sunday Worship
- Life Issues
- Milestones
- Service & Mission
- Intergenerational Connections
- Peer Connections
- Grandparents



### Holy Trinity Adult Faith Formation

Welcome to Holy Trinity's faith formation center designed specifically for active, energetic, empty-nest, working & retiring, grandparent (and almost grandparent), "always young" mature adults in their 50s and 60s who seek a faith community that . . .

- engages them in meaningful spiritual growth and faith enrichment
- provides enriching worship services
- engages them in making a contribution to the church & world
- connects them to each other and the other generations in the faith community

Our faith formation center is rich in experiences, activities, and resources designed to nurture your faith as mature adults. Select from our variety of activities using the menu. You can learn and grow on your own, at home, in small groups, in large group programs, in our church community, and in the world. Invite your friends to join you in an activity.

# Adult Faith Formation Methods & Resources

Spiritual Growth for Baby Boomers

- Sunday Worship
- Online Courses
- Apps & E-newsletters
- Online Prayer & Spirituality Resources
- Small Group Bible Study
- Trip to the Holy Land (with Road Scholar)
- Retreats
- Day at the Monastery
- Spiritual Book of the Month Club
- Monthly Spiritual Practices Series
- Spiritual Seeker Program
- Third Place Spiritual Conversations