Responding to Trends that Affect North American Churches Today

Presenter: John Roberto
LifelongFaith Associates
(jroberto@lifelongfaith.com)

Not Just an Era of Change but a Change of Eras
Accelerating Change

The world is now changing at a rate at which the basic systems, structures, and cultures built over the past century cannot keep up with the demands being placed on them. Incremental adjustments to how you manage and strategize, no matter how clever, are not up to the job. You need something very new to stay ahead in a age of tumultuous change and growing uncertainties.

(John Kotter, Accelerate: Building Strategic Agility for a Faster-Moving World)
Life Span Diversity

Five Generation Diversity

- Relationship to Institutions
- Relationship to Authority
- Family Relationships
- Work-Life Balance
- Communication Style
- Technology Usage
- Learning Style
- Spiritual Expression
- Worship Style
Family Diversity

Spiritual-Religious Diversity

- The Unaffiliated
- The Spiritual
- The Occasional
- The Active
Decline in Religious Transmission

Internet-Mobile-Social Media Transformation
Responding to the Challenges

Technical Challenges can be solved with the knowledge, skills, and tools already in hand. Requires change in one or two places.

Adaptive Challenges can be solved through experimentation, innovation, adjustments throughout the organization. Requires changes of heart, mind, and practice.
Imagining a New Future

IMAGINE a Faith Forming Ecosystem

MISSIONAL

• Digitally enabled & connected

INTERGENERATIONAL

• Digitally enabled & connected

LIFE CYCLE: children, youth, young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, older adults

FAMILY

• Digitally enabled & connected
Eight Faith Forming Processes

- Caring Relationships
- Praying
- Rituals & Milestones
- Learning the Tradition
- Church Year Seasons
- Reading the Bible
- Serving Working for Justice Caring for Creation
- Worshipping

Intergenerational

Connect the generations
Infuse intergenerational relationships & experiences
Create intergenerational experiences
Family

God in Everyday Life
Faith Practices at Home
Milestones
Seasonal Events

Intergenerational Connection
Strong Family Life
Parents & Grandparents as
Faith Formers

Life Cycle

Eight Faith Forming Processes
  Immersive
  Participatory
  Experiential
  Multi-Media
  Multi-Sensory
  Highly Visual
  Multiple Environments
  On Demand & Mobile
  Digitally-Enabled & Connected
## Lifelong Faith Formation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Children &amp; Families</th>
<th>Adolescents &amp; Family</th>
<th>Young Adults</th>
<th>Midlife Adults</th>
<th>Mature Adults</th>
<th>Older Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caring Relationships</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Year Feasts &amp; Seasons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning the Tradition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer &amp; Spiritual Formation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading the Bible</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituals &amp; Milestones</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service &amp; Working for Justice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missional</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Issues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Missional - Outreach
Missional - Pathway

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith, in a friendly, open and informal environment.

Digitally Enabled & Digitally Connected

Blending gathered community settings with online learning environments and utilizing the abundance of digital media and tools for learning and faith formation.
Building a Faith Forming Ecosystem

MISSIONAL

INTER-GENERATIONAL

LIFE CYCLE: children, youth, young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, older adults

FAMILY

• Digitally enabled & connected

• Digitally enabled & connected

• Digitally enabled & connected

• Digitally enabled & connected

IMAGINE Networks of Formation

imean learner

museums

libraries

after school

home

online

schools
We know that . . .

- People have the technology for learning and know how to use it.
- People are connected with each other and reachable.
- People have time in their busy lives to connect, participate, and interact in online experiences and communities.
- People are already engaged in learning online.
- People are already engaged with others online in spiritual experiences.
- People have access to an abundance of content – in all types of media formats – on demand, just in time, available 24x7, and often free!

Now - how would you design faith formation?

We design using. . .

1. A **variety** of relationships, content, experiences, and resources
2. New **methods**: immersive, multimedia, multi-sensory, highly visual, participatory, experiential
3. New **formats**: episodic, micro-learning, on demand, mobile, 24x7,
4. New **digital** media and digital platforms: websites, apps, video, podcasts, social media
5. Multiple **environments**: self-directed, mentored, at home, in small groups, in large groups, church-wide, in the community, and in the world.
Family Network

Family Faith Formation Network
**Acute Living**

Find resources for being a caregiver and an invitation for joining our caregiver support group.

**Discover Faith**

Discover Jesus and the Christian faith with two of our invitational experiences:
1. The Basics of Christianity - explore the basics of the faith on your own: a 10-session program, monthly at church.
2. Explore the Christian faith through the ten-session Alpha course with a small group of inquirers.

**Faith Enrichment**

Grow deeper in your Christian faith with one or more of our offerings:
1. A yearlong journey into the Christian faith - a 10-session program, monthly at church.
2. Livestreamed Bible study program.
3. A small group study program.
4. Practicing Our Faith - self-study or group study for growing in the practice of the Christian faith.
5. Sacraments 101 - a video-based introduction to the Catholic sacraments.

**Scripture**

The focus for each season of Scripture enrichment is one Gospel - Matthew, Mark, or Luke. We are offering a variety of ways for you to study and read the Gospel:
1. Participate in a Gospel presentation series.
2. Participate in a small group Gospel study.
3. Explore the Gospel On Your Own.
4. Take an Online Course.
5. Develop a Gospel Study Plan using a Bible app.
6. Discover Online Devotions and Bible Studies.

---

**Seasons**

Deepen your understanding and celebration of the seasons of the year at home during Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

**Service & Mission**

The focus for the year is poverty in our community & country. Get involved with an outreach project and learn more about poverty.

Action:
1. Build a Home
2. Participate in Serve the Community Day
3. Support the Education of Children
4. Assemble backpacks for refugees

Learn:
1. Explore the Christian practice of transforming the world.
2. Explore poverty in the U.S.
3. Explore stories of poverty in the U.S.
4. See who’s poor in the U.S.

**Spiritual Life**

Develop your spiritual life through a variety of spiritual enrichment experiences:
1. Participate in our 10-week Spiritual Practice Course.
2. Join a Book Study for Spring, Falling Forward by Richard Rohr.
3. Explore Prayer Practices - experience a variety of prayer, practice with online resources.
4. Take time for Daily Devotion - select a daily prayer resource from the variety of online daily devotions.
5. Take an Online Course or Make a Retreat with a Spiritual Director.
6. Make an Online Retreat using the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises.

**Sunday Worship**

Bring Sunday worship home with you and make it a seven-day experience:
1. Read the Daily Scriptures & Watch a Video Reflection
2. Watch a Video Reflection on the Sunday Readings
3. Retell the Sunday Readings with Lectio Divina
4. Learn More About the Sunday Scripture Readings
5. Live Sunday All Week Long
Whole Community Network

Welcome to a Life Worth Living
A Community-Wide Yearlong Faith Formation Experience

Curating & Creating

Balancing Both Roles

**Current Roles**

- Developing religious content
- Designing programming
- Managing programming
- Teaching/Facilitating programming

**Emerging Roles**

- *Designing* faith forming environments—architecture
- *Designing Digital Platforms* for faith forming content
- *Curating* religious content and experiences
Lifelong Faith Books

Book Discount: $5  
Coupon: Deep2016

www.LifelongFaith.com
Join the Mailing List

jroberto@lifelongfaith.com