What new ways of learning and faith formation is the digital transformation making possible?
The Print Era (1500s - )

The Multimedia Era (1960s - )
The Digital Era (2000s -)
What is the Digital Transformation Making Possible?

1. Mobile faith formation – anytime, anyplace, 24x7
2. An abundance of high quality digital content for faith formation – audio, video, print, websites, digital learning platforms, apps, etc.
3. Personalizing faith formation – putting the person at the center of faith formation – not the program
4. Provide multiple ways to learn
5. Develop content in smaller units (micro-learning) that connect together
6. Content and tools to extend and expand faith formation in multiple environments
7. Self-organizing communities of learning and practice

#1. Multi-Environment Faith Formation

![Diagram showing Faith Formation at Church, Home, Online, Community, and Daily Life environments](image-url)
Digital Faith Formation Strategies

Digitally Enabled & Digitally Connected Faith Formation

- Fully Online Faith Formation
- Mostly Online with Regular Interaction in Gathered Sessions
- Online Faith Formation & Gathered Sessions (Flipped Classroom)
- Gathered Program with Online Components beyond the Program
- Gathered Program with Supportive Online Content
#2. Blended Models of Faith Formation

1. Extend a church event or program
2. Design one event or program, offer it in multiple platforms
3. Prepare for and follow-up an event or experience
4. Flip a gathered program
5. Integrate online and gathered
6. Create online only experiences
7. Use webinars, Facebook live, podcasts, etc. to deliver programming directly to people

Extend the Event

- Church Event or Program
- At Home & Daily Life
Sunday Worship

- Learning
- Praying
- Reading the Bible: Daily Readings
- Living

Tri-Saints Lutheran
Hardy, NE
One Event/Program, Multiple Formats

Multiple Formats
- Gathered
- Small Group
- Independent
- Online

Event/Program
- Digital Content to Extend & Provide New Ways to Experience

Website
- Interaction
- Connection
- Communication
- Demonstration

Social Media

Build on an Event/Experience

Preparing
- What types of experiences, programming, activities, and resources will you develop to prepare people for the event?

Experiencing
- How will you design the event?
- How will you engage age groups, families, and the faith community?

Living
- How will you sustain/extend the event?
- What types of experiences, programs, activities, and resources will you offer people?
Our Confirmation preparation program has two components: Once a month in-person classes and an online study. The online study is a place for students to develop their faith weekly by completing multi-media lessons which include videos, reading, Saint reflections, multiple-choice questions and online small group discussions. Each small group has their own online space to discuss faith topics, ask questions, and pray for one another. By having both in person classes and an online study we hope to help families learn more about their faith while respecting the many demands for their time.
Integrate Online and Gathered

CHURCH WITH A CLEAN SLATE

WHAT'S NEW

The Slate Project is a new kind of Christian community that gathers both on-line and face-to-face in Baltimore, Maryland.

We are a movement to change the church from inside out.

We are committed to following the way of Jesus together, into our local and digital neighborhoods and discerning in community how to be the church in the 21st century.

Connect with The Slate Project on-line and face-to-face:

Mondays
What: #BreakingBread (Dinner Church)
Where: 4E University Pkwy Bmore, MD 212
When: 6 PM EST

Wednesday
What: #SlateReads (Live Tweet Chat: Book/ Discussion)
Where: Twitter -- use the digital bookmark: #SlateReads
When: 8 PM EST

Thursdays
What: #SlateSpeak (Live Tweet Chat: new topic each week)
Where: Twitter -- use the digital bookmark: #SlateSpeak
When: 8 PM EST

#BreakingBread

Our weekly face-to-face worship experience happens on Monday nights with a ‘Dinner Liturgy’ we call #BreakingBread.

Starting at 6pm, everyone is invited to participate in transforming our ‘borrowed space’ graciously offered to us by the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation and Diocese of Maryland into an intimate dinner setting for thirty or so people.

#SlateReads

#SlateReads is our on-line book study that happens on Twitter every Wednesday night at 8PM EST.

There is a reading for each week and the conversations is informed by these readings.

Follow the hashtag #SlateReads to participate!
Integrate Online and Gathered

Discussing Creativity at God on Tap Tomorrow Night!

Join us for God on Tap tomorrow night, July 21st at 5:30pm at Honest & More Brewing Company. Our topic: creativity.

When the universe seems to be sending you signals, be bold to pay attention.

Lately, I’ve been hearing a lot about creativity—how it works, what fuels it, what inspires it, and what prevents it.

From a podcast reminding us of the importance of boredom for creativity, to reading authors like Stephen King and Anne Lamott discuss their writing process, to Elizabeth Gilbert’s TED talk about your daily creative practice, to a conversation just this past week with my friend, Jen,

Creativity is a common thing. We create all kinds of art, music, school lessons plans, woodwork, gardens, beer, designing, writing, business plans, you name it. We may not have created ourselves, and yet we do create and mold our lives as we tend to our relationships, work, and outings.
#3. Online Models of Faith Formation

1. Create online-only experiences
2. Use webinars, Facebook live, podcasts, etc. to deliver programming directly to people

Advent or Lent Online “Curriculum”
Webinar
Live Presentation
Upper Dublin Lutheran Church

Teens and Digital Media: Our First Facebook Live Event!
Join us for our first Facebook Live event from the comfort of home or while you’re out and about on your smartphone as Pastor Keith is joined by Bethany Stolle, who will present on what parents need to know about teens and digital media. Tune into the UDLC Facebook page at 8pm Eastern Time on November 6th to watch and share your ideas and questions. This is open to everyone. Please forward this email or share our Facebook event with a friend! - Keith

Program Description
The mall. Public parks. Friend’s houses. The lunch room. The physical spaces that were central to socialization, extracurricular learning, and identity formation for many of us have increasingly shifted to digital spaces. And there are implications for parents, teachers, ministry leaders and anyone else who works with young people. This workshop will explore digital media trends among kids and teens, the diversity of experiences when it comes to youth and social media, how adolescents are working out their identities through “networked publics,” and considerations for faith formation with a tech-connected generation.

#4. Personalizing Faith Formation
Virtual Learning Academy

VLACS provides full-time and part-time online virtual learning opportunities for both Middle & High School students. Our new online Adult Education program will be available in 2016.

Choose Your Path

Middle School & High School
VLACS is an online virtual middle and high school offering students the opportunity to learn at their own pace, full or part-time.

Adult Education
Learn something fun, develop new tech skills, learn a second language, and more at VLACS Adult Ed. Now accepting enrollments!

Summit Schools

Summit’s PERSONALIZED SCHOOLS

A personalized school is designed to meet the needs of each & every individual student.

At Summit, we focus on four key elements of college and career readiness, and empower students to drive their learning and own their success.
Personalizing Learning

Personalized learning is tailoring learning for each student’s strengths, needs and interests—including enabling student voice and choice in what, how, when and where they learn—to provide flexibility and supports to ensure mastery of the highest standards possible.

Two Ways to Approach Personalizing

**Approach One: Personalize the Pathway for People**
- Develop pathways of faith maturing
- Develop playlists of content and experiences tailored to the pathways
- Upload playlists to a digital platform

**Approach Two: Personalize the Offerings**
- Identify important life and religious needs of target audience(s) OR develop a pathways model
- Develop a digital platform with content to address the needs
- Format the content tailored to different spiritual-religious identities
Approach 1.
Personalize the Faith Pathways

A Pathways Model

• A Pathway is a process for helping people discern where they are in their faith journey and to chart a path for faith growth—to get from where they are to a closer relationship with Jesus and a deeper practice of the Christian faith.

• A Pathway is life-centered, reaching into every area of a person’s life.

• A Pathway is holistic incorporating the whole person: head, heart, and hands.

• A Pathway focuses on faith maturing.
Spiritual Religious Identities

Not Spiritual, Not Religious

Faith & Engagement at the Center of Life

The Spiritual but Not Religious

Occasionals

Uninvolved

Actives

Designing a Pathways Model

1. Identify a target audience(s)
2. Describe their life stage & religious-spiritual characteristics.
3. Identify how/where you will use the Pathways model
   • Sacraments/milestones
   • RCIA, evangelization, and new member processes
   • Gathered adult faith formation programming
   • Affinity groups
   • On-ramps where people might start the discipleship journey
4. Develop the content for the Pathways
5. Develop a “discernment continuum” that gives people a way to reflect on their current growth
Designing Steps 1 & 2
Target Audience & Description

- Surveys
- Focus Groups
- Interviews
- Research Reviews

Sample Themes – Mature Adults

1. Dealing with retirement
2. Making life plans, finances, health
3. Becoming a grandparent
4. Making a difference in the community and world
5. Incorporating family changes and transitions
6. New ways of living and relating as a married couple
7. Caring for aging parents
8. Taking time to read the Bible and learn more about my faith
9. Growing spiritually and exploring spirituality for the 2nd half of life
10. Connecting with people my age; talking about things that matter to us
11. Dealing with loss
Designing Step 3 - How & Where

Identify how/where you will use the Pathways model
- Sacraments/milestones
- RCIA, evangelization, and new member processes
- Gathered adult faith formation programming
- Affinity groups
- On-ramps where people might start the discipleship journey

Designing Step 4 – Content

Develop the content for the Pathways
- Life and faith characteristics of the target audience
- Characteristics of mature faith

Develop a ‘discernment continuum” that gives people a way to reflect on their current growth
- Inquiring--Getting Started--Making Progress--Going Deeper
- How true: 1= not true from me, 3=somewhat true for me, 5=very true for me
Approach #2. Personalize the Offerings

The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation
A Network of Adult Faith Formation Experiences, Programs, Activities, & Resources

Personalize

- For Life Stage Needs
- For Spiritual-Religious Identity
- For Adults’ Interests
- For Time People Have for Activities
Playlists for Faith Formation

Personalized Pathways of Faith Growth

- Playlist of Experiences & Activities
- Playlist of Experiences & Activities
- Playlist of Experiences & Activities
- Playlist of Experiences & Activities
Learning Playlists

- A learning playlist is a curated group of digital and local learning experiences and resources (e.g. videos, websites, books, games, articles, etc.).
- A playlist weaves together these learning experiences into a sequenced pathway centered on a common theme.
- Playlists broaden opportunities to engage in cohesive, interest-driven connected learning experiences that combine a variety of ways to learning: peer settings, family settings, intergenerational settings, community/world settings, and online settings.
- Playlists create a rich network of experiences for learners.

Curating Playlists

- Books
- Audio / Podcasts
- Video and movies
- Apps and digital programming
- Website content and activities
- Courses, programs, workshops at church and online
- Church life, ministries, and events
- Small groups at church, home, community settings
- Art, drama, music
- Service and action projects, mission trips
- Retreats
- Field trips
- Mentoring
Transforming Our Role

**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

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New Leadership Roles

- We are becoming **learning architects** who design and/or identify environments which can become settings for faith formation, e.g., homes, workplaces, coffee shops, online communities, and more. We can design content and experiences to “deliver” to that setting.
- We are becoming **designers of digital platforms** (websites, social media) where people can connect with each other, access content, engage in learning activities, and more. These platforms provide 24x7 faith formation.
- We are becoming **curators** of religious content and experiences. When there is an abundance of content, our role shifts from creator to curator. Curators are engaged in finding and identifying high quality content in all formats, matching it with the needs of people, providing the content on a digital platform (and often in gathered settings), and engaging people with the content.
Curating Faith Formation

What is Content Curation (Beth Kanter)

Content curation is the process of sorting through the vast amounts of content on the web and presenting it in a meaningful and organized way around a specific theme.

- The work involves sifting, sorting, arranging, and publishing information.
- A content curator picks the best content that is important and relevant to share with their community.
- It isn’t unlike what a museum curator does to produce an exhibition: They identify the theme, they provide the context, they decide which paintings to hang on the wall, how they should be annotated, and how they should be displayed for the public.
Curating Religious Content

- Research & Organize Resources
- Identify Potential Resources for Programming
- Select & Connect Resources to programming
- Evaluate Resources

Develop Trusted Sources

- Blogs
- Newsletters
- Websites
- Denominations
- Curated Websites
- Religious Organizations
- 6-8 “Expert” Resource People
Develop a Research Checklist

1. People: teachers, mentors/guides, guest presenters
2. Community programs: churches, agencies, organizations,
3. Educational institutions: colleges, seminaries
4. Retreat and spiritual life centers, monasteries
5. Denominational programs, events, websites
6. Museums
7. Books (with study guides) & E-books
8. Apps
9. Audio podcasts & audio learning programs
10. Videos & video learning programs
11. Online courses & online activities
12. Television shows
13. Organizational websites
14. Resource center websites

Develop Evaluation Criteria

✓ Biblical content and interpretation
✓ Theological content and emphasis
✓ Developmental appropriateness
✓ Ethnic-Cultural appropriateness
✓ Inclusive of diversity
✓ Respect for diverse ways of learning
✓ Appearance and visual appeal
✓ Ease-of-Use
✓ Quality of Experience
✓ Applicable: Able to be incorporated into daily and home life