e-Formation 2016

FAITH FORMATION FOR EVERY ADULT
IN YOUR COMMUNITY

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ReimagineFaithFormation.com (Adults)
LifelongFaith.com (Symposium, Presentations)
FOCUSING QUESTION

What could adult faith formation in faith communities look like in five years (2016-2020)?

- How can faith communities provide vibrant faith formation to address the four seasons of adulthood—young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, and older adults—over the next five years?
- How can faith communities envision the shape of adult faith formation and design initiatives to respond proactively to the challenges and opportunities by 2020?
WORLD

Diversity in society (ethnic, households/families, gender)
Faith communities -- Faith communities
Resisting diversity -- Embracing diversity

Busy, stressed, time-crunched, overwhelmed adults
Business as Usual AFF -- Responsive & Innovative AFF

A “Design Your Own Life” Culture
Standardized AFF -- Customizing AFF
One size fits all -- One size fits one

ADULT

Adult desire/interest for developing their spiritual life
Decreasing -- Increasing

Adult openness to belonging/participating in a faith community
Decreasing -- Increasing

Adult desire/interest/hunger in being engaged in adult faith formation in a faith community
Decreasing -- Increasing
SCENARIO MATRIX

Diversity in Society

Faith Communities Embracing Diversity

Decreasing Adult Desire and Interest in Spiritual Life Increasing

Faith Communities Resisting Diversity

FUTURE OF AFF SCENARIOS

Diversity in Society

Faith Communities Embracing Diversity

<table>
<thead>
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Faith Communities Resisting Diversity
SCENARIO 1

The first scenario describes a world in which adults have a desire and interest in developing their spiritual life and faith communities are embracing the diversity in the adult population—including ethnic/cultural, sexual/gender, socio-economic, family styles, and religiosity. In this world faith communities are developing approaches, strategies, and programming that respond to diversity and engage adults in growing spiritually.

SCENARIO 2

The second scenario describes a world in which adults have a desire and interest in developing their spiritual life and faith communities are not embracing the diversity in the adult population. In this world faith communities may recognize the desire and interest of adults in the spiritual life, but provide little or no adult faith formation for any adults or provide faith formation that is focused on a particular adult population, such as active adult members of the faith community or parents or older adults. There is little recognition of the diversity of the adult population or of the uniqueness of each season of adulthood.
SCENARIO 3

The third scenario describes a world in which adults are uninterested in developing their spiritual life and faith communities are not embracing the diversity in the adult population. In this world adults experience little need for God and the spiritual life and are typically not affiliated with organized religion or established churches. Many of these faith communities have “given-up” on adult faith formation. They provide little or no adult faith formation for any adults, besides occasional opportunities directed to the active adult members of the faith community or parents with children in educational programming.

SCENARIO 4

The fourth scenario describes a world in which adults are uninterested in developing their spiritual life and faith communities are embracing the diversity in the adult population. In this world faith communities are working to develop approaches, strategies, and programming that address diversity and respond to lives of adults who are uninterested in faith and spirituality and uninvolved in the faith community.
### FUTURE OF AFF SCENARIOS

**Diversity in Society**

**Faith Communities Embracing Diversity**

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### STRATEGY IDEA

**Scenario 1: Embracing & Increasing**

**Scenario 2: Resisting & Increasing**

- Offer a wide variety of adult faith formation opportunities and experiences tailored specifically to the needs of different audiences in the faith community.
MALCOLM KNOWLES
LEARNING COMMUNITY
1970s

NETWORKS OF LEARNING
ANYTIME & ANYWHERE
2010s
ADULT FAITH FORMATION NETWORK

A network of relationships, content, experiences, & resources.

1. **Variety** of content, methods, formats, and delivery systems to address the diverse life tasks and situations, needs and interests, and spiritual and faith journeys of people.
   - Young Adult
   - Midlife Adult
   - Mature Adult
   - Older Adult

2. **Responsive** to the diverse religious and spiritual needs of people today—from the spiritually committed to the spiritual but not religious and the unaffiliated.

3. **Multiple Environments**: self-directed, mentored, at home, in small groups, in large groups, church-wide, in the community, and in the world.
ADULT FAITH FORMATION NETWORK

4. *Digitally Enabled, Digitally Connected, and Online*

- 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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION NETWORK

5. *Faith Forming Processes*

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

GROWTH IN FAITH
THREE SEASONS OF PROGRAMMING

Fall Season: September 1 – January 1

Winter/Spring Season: January 1 – May 1

Summer Season: May 1 – September 1
ADULT FAITH FORMATION PLAYLISTS

Playlists are thematic learning plans that integrate a variety of ways to learn, multiple learning environments, and online and physical spaces—from which people can create their own faith formation plan.

**Example: Spiritual Enrichment for Adults**

**Theme: “Spiritual Practices”**

1. Spiritual Practices Course (5 sessions at church in one month)
2. Spirituality Over 50 Book Group (variety of times & places)
3. Online Daily Devotion Resources
4. Online Prayer Practices Resources
5. Online Course or Retreat with a Spiritual Master
6. Online Retreat
Welcome to Adult Faith Formation
Winter-Spring 2016

http://holytrinityadults.weebly.com

Explore our Faith Formation Playlists
Events, Experiences & Resources Just for You!

1. Scripture Enrichment
2. Spiritual Life
3. Faith Enrichment
4. Experience Lent 2015

What are you interested in?

Deepen your understanding of the death and resurrection of Jesus as presented in the four Gospel according to the New Testament:
1. Participate in a Four Session Presentation of the Gospels
2. Watch the Four Gospels in film for your own or with a small group
3. Participate in a Six-Week Small Group Scripture Study
4. Study the Death and Resurrection of Jesus of the New Testament

Developer your spiritual life through a variety of spiritual enrichment experiences:
1. Participate in a spiritual practice group on Thursdays
2. Join a small study for spring fasting (based on Richard Rohr
3. Experience prayer practices to experience a variety of ways to prepare these spiritual practices
4. Take time for daily devotion - select a daily prayer resources from the variety of online daily devotion sites
5. Take a course or make a break with a spiritual master - choose one of these excellent online resources from Spirituals & Practices
6. Make an online visioning, echoing, and spiritual exercises
STRATEGY IDEA

Scenario 3: Resisting & Decreasing
- Start with who you have. . . .
  - Grandparents – faith formers of their grandchildren
  - Mature adults (Boomers & Builders)
  - Milestones celebrations of adulthood
  - Intergenerational experiences at church, e.g., Sunday worship add-ons
  - Connecting with parents/grandparents through children’s programs, e.g., add a component to VBS

STRATEGY IDEA

Scenario 4: Embracing & Decreasing
- Move AFF off-campus, out into people’s lives
  - AFF in a café, homes, community centers
  - AFF on the go: online adult faith formation
  - Life-centered AFF
  - Community events with a spiritual theme: arts, concerts, film festivals, etc.
GATHERED WITH ONLINE CONTENT

A gathered program using online content from websites, videos from YouTube or other video sites, and blogs and other social media. With an abundance of high quality digital content, this first option is the easiest way to bring the digital world into a gathered program.
GATHERED WITH ONLINE

**Church Event or Program**

**At Home & Daily Life**

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

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<th>Church Life</th>
<th>Daily &amp; Home Life</th>
<th>Online Life</th>
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| Experience of Worship in the Congregation  
  • Sunday worship and lectionary  
  • Church year feasts and seasons  
  • Church rituals: baptism, communion, funerals, etc. | Experience of Sunday worship, rituals, and church year seasons in daily life  
  • Reflecting on the sermon and readings at home  
  • Practices: Lectio, etc.  
  • Application to daily living | Online worship, church year, and lectionary resources on the church’s faith formation website  
  • Lectionary commentaries online  
  • Video reflections and commentary  
  • Online activities and projects |
## LENT

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<th>Church Life</th>
<th>Daily &amp; Home Life</th>
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| • Ash Wednesday  
• Lenten Sunday liturgies  
• Stations of the Cross  
• Lenten prayer  
• Lenten retreat  
• Lenten service  
• Lenten soup suppers | • Fasting  
• Praying  
• Service/Almsgiving  
• Lectionary reflection  
• Family activities | • Lenten learning resources  
• Lenten calendar  
• Daily Lenten prayer  
• Weekly table prayer  
• Video resources  
• Online retreat experience |

## ONLINE AND GATHERED

“Flip the classroom or program” by creating a digital platform to provide the content that people would learn in the gathered setting in an online learning space using print, audio, video, and more. And then transform the gathered program using interactive activities, discussion, project-based learning, and practice and demonstration.
ONLINE & GATHERED PROGRAMMING
FLIPPED CLASSROOM MODEL

@ Home
Exploring the Content
- print, audio, video, activities

@ The Program
Applying the Content:
Create – Practice - Perform - Participate

“FLIP” CHRISTIAN INITIATION /
NEW MEMBER FORMATION
MOSTLY ONLINE

- Online learning resources for self-study or small group study, and gathering at the conclusion to share their insights with others who participated.
- Online Bible study where groups can meet regularly in a physical setting or virtually for sharing their learning. (Google+ Hangout, Zoom, etc.)
- Selected online courses and video conferences/webinars from colleges, seminaries, and religious organization for individualized learning (with the option for a mentor) or small group learning.
FULLY ONLINE

Programs, activities, podcasts, video programs, and more – available online

- Online prayer and spirituality center
- Online courses from seminaries/colleges
- Online retreat experiences
- “40 Days of Lent” Online

CURATION
CURATION

A Faith Formation Curator is a trusted guide who continually finds, groups, organizes, evaluates, and connects the best and most relevant content and experiences on a specific topic to match the needs of a specific audience.

EMERGING ROLES

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

Emerging Roles
- Designing learning environments—architecture
- Curating religious content and experiences
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
BUILD A CURATION SUPPORT SYSTEM

1. Develop trusted expert curators to assist.
2. Develop a list of high quality online resource centers.
3. Subscribe to faith formation blogs and newsletters.

RESEARCH CHECKLIST

1. Community programs: churches, agencies, organizations,
2. Educational institutions: colleges, seminaries, organizations
3. Retreat and spiritual life centers, monasteries
4. Regional/national denominational programs, events, websites
5. Museums
6. Books (with study guides) & E-books
7. Apps
8. Audio podcasts & audio learning programs
9. Videos & Video learning programs
10. Online courses & online activities
11. Television shows
12. Organizational websites
13. Resource center websites
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: Incorporated into daily/home life

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