

TheSeasonsofAdultFaithFormation.com



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

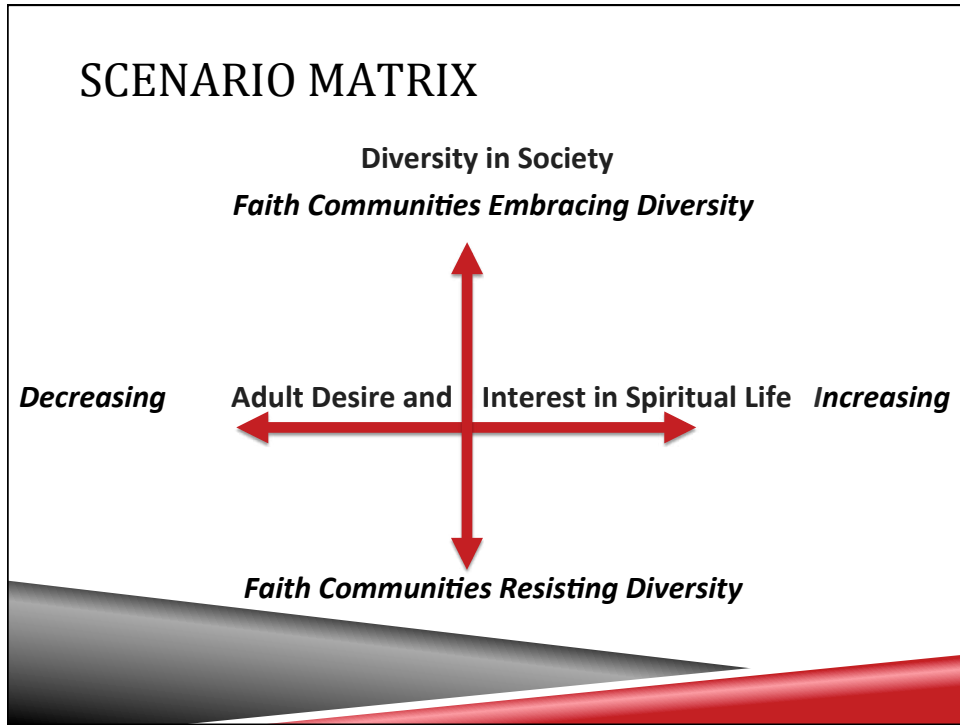
Decreasing-----Increasing

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



FUTURE OF AFF SCENARIOS

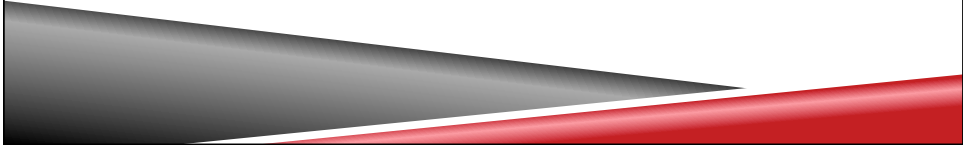
Diversity in Society
Faith Communities Embracing Diversity

Faith Communities Embracing Diversity & Adult Desire & Interest in the Spiritual Life Decreasing	Faith Communities Embracing Diversity & Adult Desire & Interest in the Spiritual Life Increasing
<i>Decreasing</i> Adults Desire & Interest in the Spiritual Life <i>Increasing</i>	
Faith Communities Resisting Diversity & Adults Desire & Interest in the Spiritual Life Decreasing	Faith Communities Resisting Diversity & Adults Desire & Interest in the Spiritual Life Increasing

Faith Communities Resisting Diversity

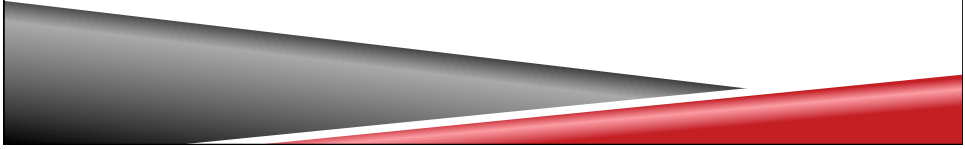
SCENARIO 1

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.

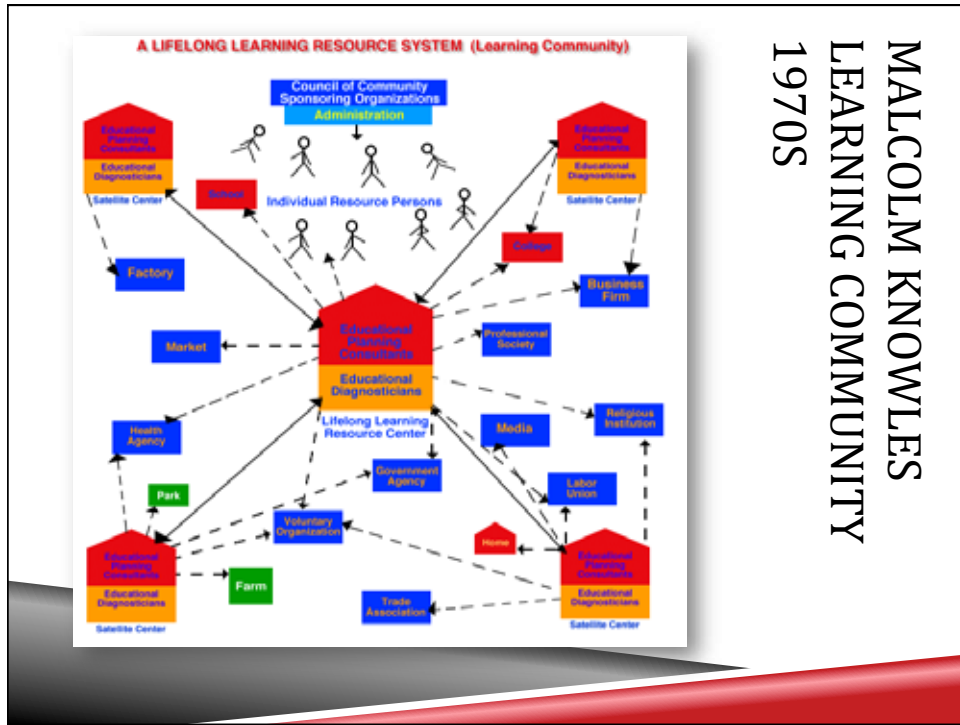
<h2 style="margin: 0;">FUTURE OF AFF SCENARIOS</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Diversity in Society Faith Communities Embracing Diversity</p>	
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<p><i>Decreasing</i> Adults Desire & Interest <i>in the Spiritual Life</i> <i>Increasing</i></p>	
<p>Faith Communities Resisting Diversity & Adults Desire & Interest in the Spiritual Life Decreasing</p>	<p>Faith Communities Resisting Diversity & Adults Desire & Interest in the Spiritual Life Increasing</p>
<p>Faith Communities Resisting Diversity</p>	

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. . . .

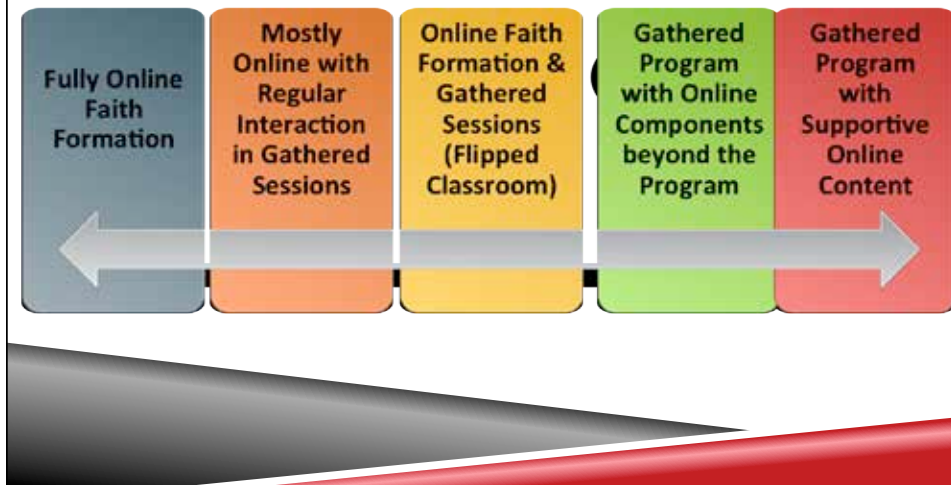
1. **Variety** of content, methods, formats, and delivery systems to address the diverse life tasks and situations, needs and interests, and spiritual and faith journeys of people.
 - ▶ Young Adult
 - ▶ Midlife Adult
 - ▶ Mature Adult
 - ▶ Older Adult

ADULT FAITH FORMATION NETWORK

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*



ADULT FAITH FORMATION NETWORK

5. *Faith Forming Processes*



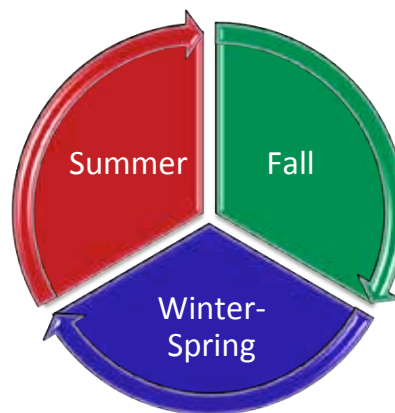


THREE SEASONS OF PROGRAMMING

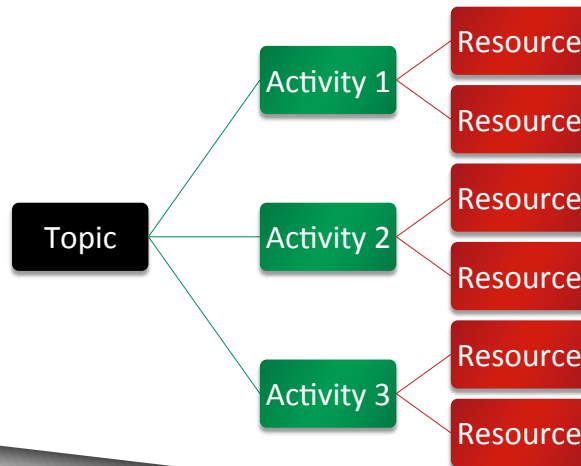
Fall Season: September 1 – January 1

Winter/Spring Season: January 1 – May 1

Summer Season: May 1 – September 1



PROGRAMMING



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

HOLY TRINITY ADULTS

[HOME](#)
[WORSHIP](#)
[LENT](#)
[SCRIPTURE](#)
[SPIRITUAL LIFE](#)
[STUDY](#)
[DISCOVER FAITH](#)
[LIFE ISSUES](#)
[GRANDPARENTS](#)







**Holy Trinity
Adult Faith Formation**

Welcome to Adult Faith Formation
Winter-Spring 2016

<http://holytrinityadults.weebly.com>

What are you interested in?

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

Scripture Enrichment	Spiritual Life	Faith Enrichment	Experience Lent 2016
 <p>Deepen your understanding of the death and resurrection of Jesus, as presented in the four Gospels as we prepare Holy Week 2016.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in a Four-Session Presentation Series at Church 2. Watch the Four Video Presentations on 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 Our Own 	 <p>Develop your spiritual life through a variety of spiritual enrichment experiences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in our Spiritual Practices Course - Five Thursdays, April 6-May 4 2. Join a Book Study for Spring: <i>Falling Upward</i> by Richard Rohr 3. Explore Prayer Practices - experience a variety of ways to pray with these online resources 4. Take Time for Daily Devotion - select a daily prayer resources from the variety of online daily devotions 5. Take a Course or Make a Retreat with a Spiritual Master - choose one of these excellent online courses/retreats from Spirituality & Practice 6. Make an Online Retreat using the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises 	 <p>Explore our faith tradition through these study programs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monthly Theology Enrichment Series 2. Faith Practices Small Group Book Study 3. Online Courses in Theology 4. Resources for Personal Study 	 <p>Experience Lent 2016 with these resources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Getting Ready for Lent 2. Explore "What is Lent?" 3. Living Lent - A Lenten Calendar 4. Pray through Lent - A Lenten Devotional

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

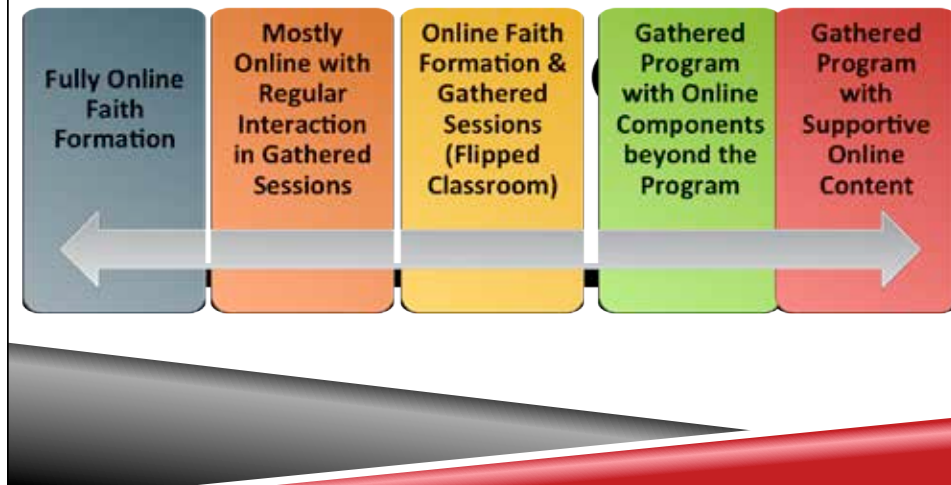
STRATEGY IDEA

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.



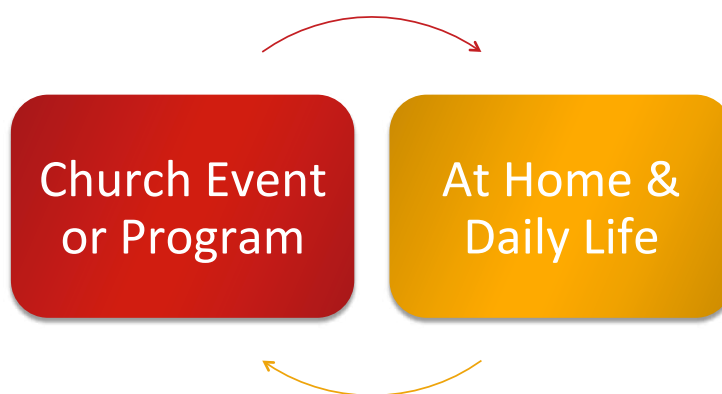
DIGITALLY ENABLED & DIGITALLY CONNECTED



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



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Church Life →	Daily & Home Life	← Online Life
Experience of Worship in the Congregation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectionary commentaries online • Video reflections and commentary • Online activities and projects

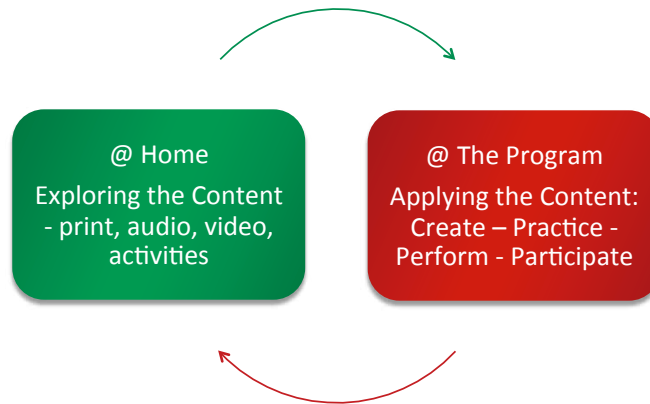
LENT

Church Life →	Daily & Home Life	← Online Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash Wednesday • Lenten Sunday liturgies • Stations of the Cross • Lenten prayer • Lenten retreat • Lenten service • Lenten soup suppers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fasting • Praying • Service/Almsgiving • Lectionary reflection • Family activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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



“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.

The screenshot shows a webpage for ChurchNext with the heading "Enrich Your Spiritual Life" and a "Start Learning" button. Below this is an advertisement for N.T. Wright Online, featuring the text "RENEWING MINDS THROUGH BIBLICAL TEACHING" and a portrait of N.T. Wright. The ad includes a date of 28 March 2015 and a list of courses such as "Simply Good News", "Paul and His Letter to the Galatians", and "Hebrews: the Bible and the Bookman".

CHURCHNext

Enrich Your Spiritual Life

[Start Learning](#) Explore hundreds of online courses that can invigorate your life – and your congregation's. Scroll down to [learn more](#) >

N.T. WRIGHT

— ONLINE —

RENEWING MINDS THROUGH BIBLICAL TEACHING

28 March 2015
 Course availability: Very soon

Welcome to N.T. Wright Online! This is your official site for information regarding the courses that are being developed by Prof. N.T. Wright of St. Andrews University, Scotland. It is our hope that you would have the best on-line learning experience (learning centers) based on the teaching of N.T. Wright. Courses are in development stage right now. We have encountered some difficulties that have delayed the release of the courses, but we expect them to be completed soon. If you have signed up on the part of the first wave of learners, look for an email with further information, including a list of recommended readings.

We expect the following courses to be available very soon:

- Simply Good News
- Paul and His Letter to the Galatians
- Hebrews: the Bible and the Bookman

The courses that will be available in the future include:

- Paul's Epistle to the Philippians – Available Fall 2015
- Paul's Epistle to the Romans – Available Fall 2016
- Paul and the Resurrection of Christ – Available Spring 2017

The courses will contain video lectures, written material to support the videos, and other recommended resources (e.g., articles, and discussion articles) or you can dialogue on-line with fellow students. This will help us to be transformed by the teaching of the Word.

There are [additional videos](#) from N.T. Wright, a brief description of Paul and his letter to the Galatians, and a brief description of Hebrews, the Bible, and his letters.

If you wish to be on a list to be part of the first wave of learners, simply email ntw@churchnext.org with your name and the subject: "to be in the first wave".



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

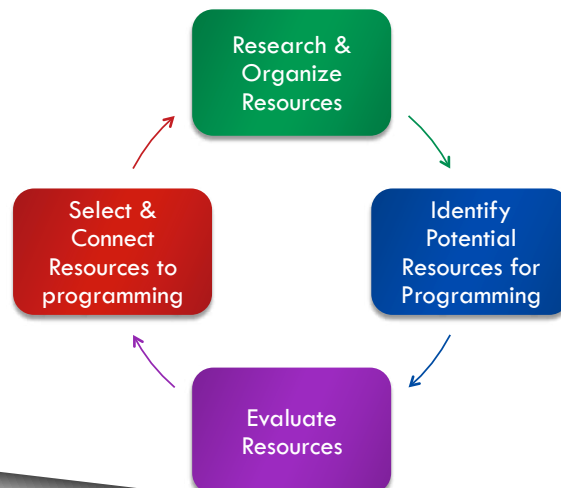
- ▶ **Designing** learning environments—*architecture*
- ▶ **Curating** religious content and experiences

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



BUILD A CURATION SUPPORT SYSTEM

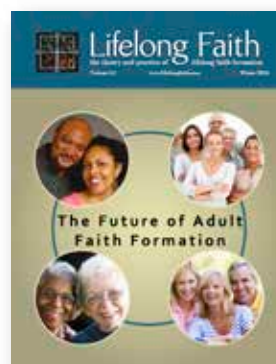
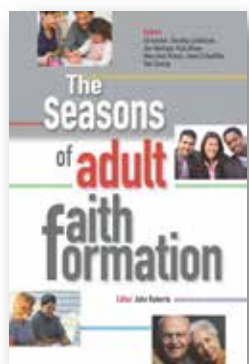
1. Develop trusted expert curators to assist.
2. Develop a list of high quality online resource centers.
3. Subscribe to faith formation blogs and newsletters.

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



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