Queensland Clergy Conference 2018
Reimagine Faith Formation for the 21st Century

Session 5. Missional

Missional Faith Formation

THE DiGiITAL CATHEDRAL
Networked Ministry in a Wireless World

KEITH ANDERSON
Foreword by Elizabeth Bretholz
A Diversity of Spiritual Religious Identities

- Not Spiritual, Not Religious
- The Spiritual but Not Religious
- Faith & Engagement – one among many priorities
- Faith & Engagement at the Center of Life

Missional Faith Formation

Expand and extend the church’s presence through outreach, connection, relationship building, and engagement with people where they live—moving faith formation out into the community.
Outreach: Expand the Campus

Move off-campus, out into people’s lives
- Café, homes, community centers
- Faith formation on the go: online faith formation
- Life-centered, life-issues, life-transitions faith formation
- Community events with a spiritual theme: arts, concerts, film festivals, etc.

Ritual Design Lab: Pop-Up Rituals

RITUAL
intentional, architected human activities that carry values & meaning

DESIGN
tools & methods to create human experiences that are useful, usable & engaging

where we are working
Wesley Playhouse UK

Lifetree Cafe

A gathering space in the community, offers hospitality, builds relationships, hosts spiritual conversations, provides programs and activities, and nourishes the spiritual life of people.
PLANT A LIFETREE CAFE

What if you could create a comfortable place and time for people to gather weekly to explore life and faith?

What if it looked and felt like the kind of place you typically meet a friend for food and drinks and fun? What if the atmosphere encouraged conversations, questions, and personal stories? What if the conversations about life somehow led to an anointing of God’s real presence and his genuine love?

Those questions led to the creation of Lifetree Cafe. Now each week people gather in cozy venues to explore life and faith. The hour-long Lifetree Cafe experiences feature real stories of real people, guided conversation, time to build relationships with new and old friends, laughter, fun, spiritual insights, and opportunities to serve.

Lifetree Cafe offers a casual physical environment, warm hospitality, a safe place for questions and doubts, and an encouraging atmosphere for participants to share their own stories.


“I felt welcomed the minute I walked in the door…and my opinions were welcomed too. Thank you Lifetree Cafe.”

“I found myself sharing things I’ve never shared with anyone before.”

“My wife and I like to come here as a date night out.”

Learn more about planting a Lifetree Cafe in your community by visiting DiscoverLifetreeCafe.com.
God on Tap Blog

We post news and updates about God on Tap and discussion topics for sparking gatherings. Feel free to leave a comment and sign up to receive new posts by email!

Discussing Creativity at God on Tap Tomorrow Night!

Join us for God on Tap tomorrow night, July 16th at 7:30pm at Forest & Main Brewing. 

Our topic: creativity.

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

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

Poets, painters and other artists have long extolled the importance of finding what fuels creativity, 

to leading authors like Stephen King and Anne Lamott describe their writing process. 

to Elizabeth Gilbert’s TED talk about her adventures in creativity,

a conversation just this past week with my friend like: Lisa

Kast-Keil about how he creates great projects like his Thirty Seconds or Less videos.

(He describes his creative process as something akin to throwing spaghetti against a wall and seeing what happens.)

Creativity, its a common thing. We create all kinds of art, theater, music, school lessons plans, woodworking, gardens, beer, designing, writing, business plans, you name it. We step out on created ourselves, and yet we do create and craft our lives as we tend to our relationships, work, and callings.

SAINT LYDIA’S

Welcome.

St. Lydia’s is a church where life is lived out around the table.

A progressive, LGBTQ-affirming congregation in the Gowanus neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York, we are working together to dapple isolation, strengthen neighbors, and subvert the status quo.

You are welcome here.

The Step Right Up Campaign: we’re almost there!

Like what we’re up to? SUPPORT ST. LYDIA’S

St. Lydia’s, 344 Bond Street, Brooklyn, New York, ©2015 St. Lydia’s
The Slate Project

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: 9 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 conversation is informed by these readings.

Follow the hashtag #SlateReads to participate!
Pathways to Discipleship

Missional faith formation provides *pathways* for people to consider or reconsider the Christian faith, to encounter Jesus and the Good News, and to live as disciples in a supportive faith community.

Entry Points

- Marriage
- Baptism
- Sacraments and Milestone Rituals
- Christmas, Easter, Ash Wednesday
- Vacation Bible School / Camp Programs
Messy Church

- A flexible, relaxed arrival time with drinks and snacks
- Creative exploration of a Bible story/theme through creative experiences for people of different learning styles and of all ages. Children and adults are not separated and are encouraged to explore the story/theme together
- A short but explicit time of worship with story, music and prayers that builds on the creative exploration.
- A generous welcome and hospitality is expressed through a delicious home-cooked, sit-down meal with others
Pathway: Alpha Course

Alpha: Pathways to Christian Faith

Introduction Dinner: Is there more to life than this?
Week 1: Who is Jesus?
Week 2: Why did Jesus die?
Week 3: How can we have faith?
Week 4: Why and how do I pray?
Week 5: Why and how should I read the Bible?
Week 6: How does God guide us?
Week 7: How can I resist evil?
Week 8: Why & how should we tell others?
Week 9: Does God heal today?
Week 10: What about the Church?
Weekend: Who is the Holy Spirit?
Pathway: Our Lady of Soledad Parish

Mini-Retreat 101: “Catholics Alive!”
• “What does it mean to be a follower of Christ?”

Mini-Retreat 201: “Alive and Growing Spiritually!”
• Maturing in the Catholic faith

Mini-Retreat 301: “Alive and Gifted!”
• Discerning how to serve God in ministry

Mini-Retreat 401: “Alive in the World!”
• Living as witnesses for Christ, as contagious Catholic Christians

Mini-Retreat 501: “Alive to Praise God!”
• Catholic worship and the sacraments

Unbinding the Gospel

1. Step 1. Prepare church leaders
2. Step 2: 40-day preparation for community members (study, prayer, worship, small groups)
3. Step 3: Invitation to one person & four-week small group experience with “taste & see” church experiences
1-1 Community Evangelism

Step One: Church Leader’s Study: *Unbinding the Gospel*

Step Two: All-Church Saturation Study: *Unbinding Your Heart: 40 Days of Prayer & Faith Sharing.*
- six-week, church-wide, small group Event!
- pray each day’s scripture and prayer exercise and work with a prayer partner
- study a chapter of the book with their small group
- worship with sermons, music, and prayers centered on the week’s chapter

Step Three: An Experiment in Prayer and Community: *Unbinding Your Soul.*
- a no-obligation experience of substantial spiritual discussion, prayer and community for people who aren’t connected with a church
- church members invite their friends into a four-week small group experience with short study chapters, an individual prayer journal, prayer partner activities, and group exercises.
Social Networks

Our social network is made up of all the people we’re connected to, all the people they are connected to, all the people they are connected to, and so on.

Our social networks tend to have clear boundaries, from people we care a lot about (in the center) to people we loosely know (on the periphery).

- 500 – Weak Ties (you know but don’t feel close to)
- 150 – Stable Social Relationships (know each of these people and which of them know each other)
- 50 – Communicate Group (aware of what’s going on in their lives)
- 12-15 – Sympathy Group
- 5 – Inner Circle (advice, emotional support, times of trouble)
Most of our communication is with people closest to us – at the center of our social network.

- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- At least once every few months
- At least once a year
- Not guaranteed in any given year