

# Faith Formation with a New Generation

2 CEUs

Roberto, John

with Lisa Brown, Tanya Eustace Campen, Lynn Barger Elliott and Lee Yates.

Faith Formation with a New Generation. Cheshire, CT: Lifelong Faith Associates, 2018.

# New Generation READ

- Read Introduction
- **Purpose:** a proposal to transform the way to envision and design faith formation
- **Design:**
  - Something Old - centrality of intergenerational faith community and family
  - Something New - 21<sup>st</sup> century approaches and methods for engaging GENZ



# New Generation READ

- Read Chapter 1 - New Vision
- Key Points
  - 85% of young adults who have committed their lives to God appear to have made their first commitment before age 14.
  - Religious commitments and orientations of most people appear to be set early in life.
  - What matters is what happens religiously before the teenage years.

# New Generation READ

- This New Generation
  - Tech savy; inclusive & individualistic; racially, religiously & sexually diverse; concerned with professional success & financial security; family not central to identity; faith and church life irrelevant
- Their Preferred Ways of Learning
  - Authentic learning EXPERIENCES using methods such as project-based learning, active learning, and activities that utilize their creativity, such as artwork, video presentation, and more.



# New Generation READ

- New Approach to Faith Formation
  - Fostering faith growth in the intergenerational community
  - Fostering faith growth in the family
  - Fostering faith growth in age groups
  - Personalizing faith formation
    - Pathways: guide people in discerning their faith growth needs
    - Playlists: content and experiences that address their needs and interests
  - Integrating digitally enabled faith formation strategies
  - Developing new leadership roles and skills
    - learning architect, digital platform designer; curator

# New Generation REFLECT

## Traditional Leader

### Roles & Skills

- Developing religious content
- Designing programs/activities
- Managing programs
- Teaching/facilitating programs

## New Leader

### Roles & Skills

- Learning architect
- Digital platform designer
- Curator

QUESTION: What do you see as your strong suit and soft spot in each category above? What ideas do you have for expanding your capabilities as a leader?



# New Generation READ

- Read Chapter 2 - Intergenerational
- Key Points
  - Intergenerational learning provides a way to educate the whole community, bring all ages and generations together to learn with and from each other, build community, share faith, pray, celebrate, and practice the Christian faith.
  - The best curriculum for forming children, youth, and anyone else in Christian faith is *guided participation* in a community of practice.

# New Generation READ

- Three Strategies for Enhancing Intergenerational Faith Formation
  - Utilize intergenerational events and experiences of church life
  - Infuse intergenerational experiences into current programs and activities
  - Connect the generations through new intergenerational programs and experiences

***PREPARE ---- EXPERIENCE ---- REFLECT***



# New Generation REFLECT

- QUESTIONS:
  - How can you better utilize the intergenerational events and experiences in your Chapel faith communities as the primary “content” of faith formation?
  - How can you infuse more intergenerational experiences into your existing programs and activities?
  - How can you connect the generations through *new* intergenerational programs and experiences sponsored by your Chapel?

# New Generation READ

- Read Chapter 3 - Family
- Key Points
  - Family-centered faith formation, parent engagement, and parent formation need to be central in faith formation with children & adolescents.
  - Faith formation strategies need to be inclusive of and responsive to the variety of family forms that children & adolescents experience and the ethnic-cultural traditions of families.
  - Strategies also need to be designed and targeted to the distinct spiritual-religious identities of parents and families: Engaged, Occasionals, Spirituals, Unaffiliated.



# New Generation READ

- Five Strategies for Developing Family & Parent Faith Formation
  - Nurturing family faith practices
  - Celebrating milestones
  - Celebrating the seasons of the year
  - Reading the Bible through the year
  - Equipping parents and grandparents as faith formers

# New Generation REFLECT

- Questions:
  - How does/can your Chapel provide developmentally appropriate experiences, activities, and resources to nurture family faith practices?
  - How does/can your Chapel help families to celebrate milestones at Chapel and/or at home?
  - How does/can your Chapel engage families in celebrating the church year and calendar seasons of the year?



# New Generation READ

- Read Chapter 4 - Age Groups
- Key Points
  - Today's younger generations learn best in environments that are interactive, participatory, experiential, visual, and multisensory.
  - We can dramatically improve our effectiveness in promoting faith growth and learning by using these new practices.

# New Generation READ

- Learning in New Ways
  - Immersive learning environments - VBS, retreats, mission trips, etc.
  - Blended learning - physical & online
  - Microlearning - short term (5, 10, 15 minutes)
  - Multiple ways of learning - 8 multiple intelligences
  - Multisensory learning - multimedia for “content creators”
  - Project based learning - leads to a product, event or presentation
  - Collaborative learning - small, noncompetitive groups
  - Visual learning - interpret images + communicate through images
  - Practice oriented learning - real life applications
  - Storytelling - exchanging stories, using case studies



# New Generation REFLECT

- Question:
  - Which of your current Chapel programs could be improved by incorporating one or more of the learning practices described in this chapter? Describe what that redesigned program would look like?

# New Generation READ

- Read Chapter 5 - Designing Faith Formation
- Key Points
  - The new approach to faith formation is more community centered, while at the same time being more person centered..... A personalized approach to faith formation.
  - This is a transformation from a program-centered (or content-centered) approach to a person-centered approach.



# New Generation READ

## Pathways Guide

- To personalize faith pathways for people
- A process to help people *discern* where they are & chart a path for faith growth

## Playlist

- To personalize faith formation offerings
- A plan to offer a *variety* of content, experiences, and activities tailored to different growth needs of people

# New Generation READ

- Curating resources for faith formation
  - Step 1: Research and organize the resources - develop a multimedia checklist
  - Step 2: Evaluate resources - develop evaluation criteria
  - Step 3: Select resources for Playlist



# New Generation REFLECT

- Questions:
  - What is your current annual planning process & timeline? What tools do you use? How could your process be improved?
  - How do you incorporate new resource research into your ongoing work as a DRE? Describe one of your recent resource finds that excites you?

# New Generation RENEW

2 CEUs

- Complete short answer (5-7 sentence paragraph minimum) responses to the questions for reflection supplied during your reading of the text.
  - Slides 6, 9, 12, 15, 19

\* \* ALSO \* \*

- Choose and complete one of the following activities?
  - Using the “Generations of Faith” model on p. 35 write a 1.5 hour intergenerational learning experience plan based on one of these themes: 1) Body of Christ, 2) Fruit of the Spirit, 3) Love One Another, 4) Psalms of Joy.
  - Based on the resource research list on p. 96 create a Playlist of resources/learning opportunities for parent education that includes input from at least 10 of the 15 categories.