Faith Formation 101
WORK IN PROGRESS
SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE CAUSED
I. Identity
Identity
malleable

Identity
malleable

Identity

fluid
malleable

dynamic

Identity

fluid
Identity

malleable

dynamic

multi-faceted

fluid
Narrative - the story we tell ourselves about ourselves.
Narrative - *the story we tell ourselves about ourselves.*
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Behavioral - *the activities and practices in which we engage.*
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Exodus 12
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Behavioral - *the activities and practices in which we engage.*
Alleviating cognitive dissonance is a powerful motivator.
1. Identity

Our behavior profoundly shapes identity
2. Church Decline

Has nothing to do with...

...failure of leaders
...failure of people
...political tilt to left or right
...irrelevance of the message
2. Church Decline

Has everything to do with...

...massive cultural change.
The culture is no longer invested in...
The culture is no longer invested in...

1. Helping us tell our story.
The culture is no longer invested in...

1. Helping us tell our story.

2. Whether we go to church.
The culture is no longer invested in...

1. Helping us tell our story.  
(narrative)

2. Whether we go to church.
The culture is no longer invested in...

1. Helping us tell our story. *(narrative)*

2. Whether we go to church. *(behavioral)*
3. The curse of abundance.
The curse of abundance.

So many choices
So little time!
The curse of abundance.

There are multiple options for compelling stories to tell yourself and meaningful activities in which to engage.
2. Church Decline

We’ve never lived at a time when forming a Christian identity was more important and we have less help than ever in doing that.
Great Performances

Critically Acclaimed Recordings of the Basic Repertoire

Mr. Stern and Mr. Perlman gave an astonishing demonstration of musical sympathy and seemingly clairvoyant collaboration on Bach's Double Concerto in D Minor. — The New York Times

BACH

"DOUBLE" CONCERTO

FOR TWO VIOLINS IN D MINOR

PERLMAN / STERN

MEHTA / NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC

VIOLIN CONCERTOS NOS. 1 & 2

STERN / SCHNEIDER

MEMBERS OF THE LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
We have trained a generation of Christians who appreciate the faith but do not know how to play.
3. The Nature of Congregations
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3. The Nature of Congregations

Cultural Christianity: Christendom
3. The Nature of Congregations

Cultural Christianity: Christendom

Post-..... Christianity
3. The Nature of Congregations

Cultural Christianity: Christendom

Post-.... Christianity
We need to shift from performative ministry to formative ministry.
Performative Ministry
Performative Ministry
Formative Ministry
Formative Ministry
Formative Ministry
Formative Ministry
3. The Nature of Congregations

Congregations are the places where the faith is taught, practiced, and played in order to fashion a vibrant Christian identity for our life in the world.
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3. The Nature of Congregations

Congregations are the place we learn to play the faith with confidence and joy.
Two Convictions
Two Convictions
Two Convictions

1. Nobody knows quite how to do this.
Two Convictions

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Two Convictions

1. Nobody knows quite how to do this.

2. This is a time for experimentation and innovation.
Suggested Faith Formation Experiments

1. Talking about Faith

2. Prayer
1. What outcome do we want?
2. What does it look like? (How will we know?)
3. What do we need to be able to do to get there? (Moving backwards to the first steps.)
A brief warning....
A brief warning....
A brief warning....
A brief warning....
The earliest Christians weren’t called Christians...
The earliest Christians weren’t called Christians... 

...They were called “the People of the Way.”
The earliest Christians weren’t called Christians...

...They were called “the People of the Way.”
The earliest Christians weren't called Christians...

...They were called “the People of the Way.”
Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we can not see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.