

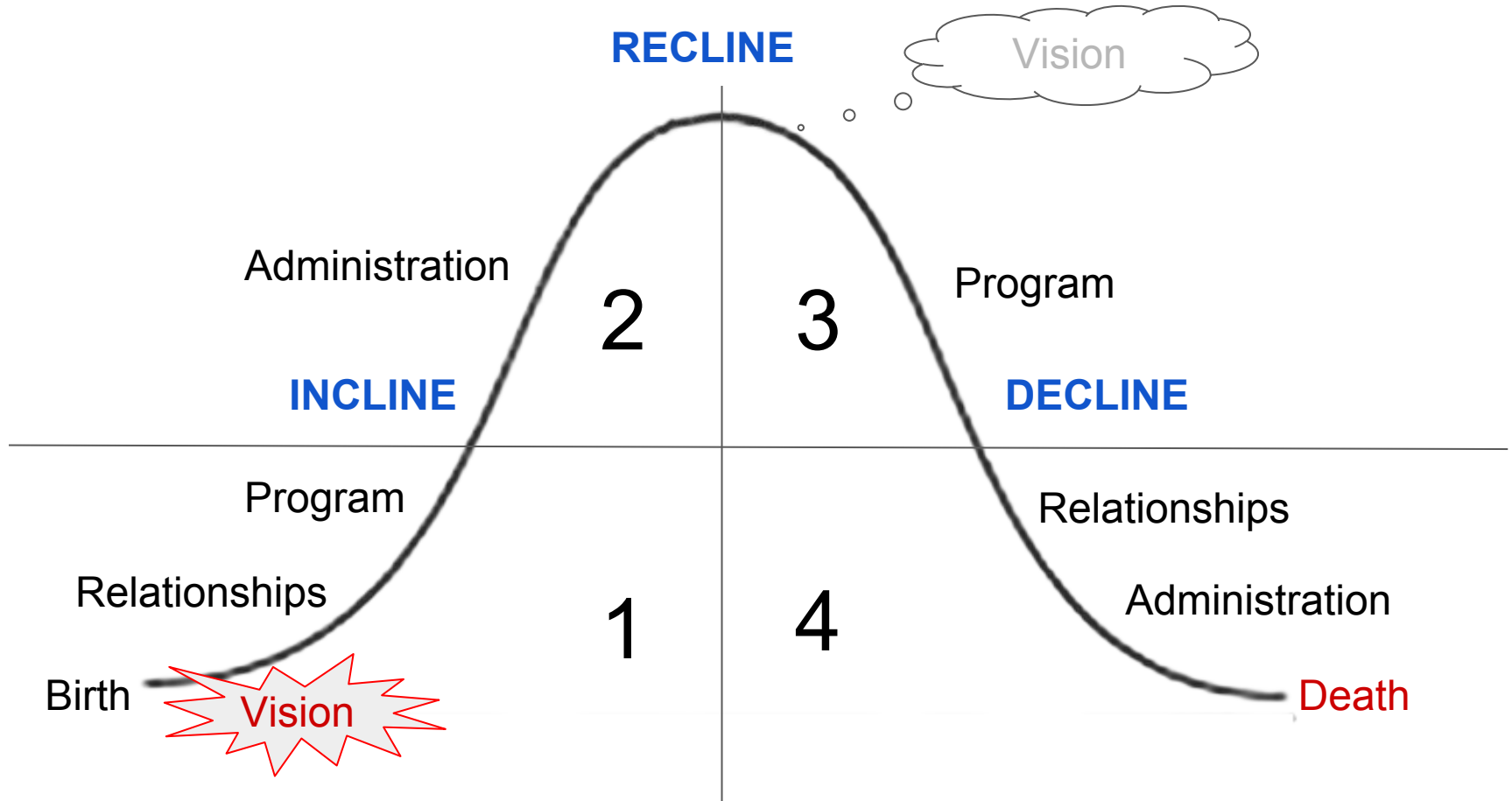
Re-Visioning: Where Do We Go From Here?

A Report to the Congregation
December 11, 2016

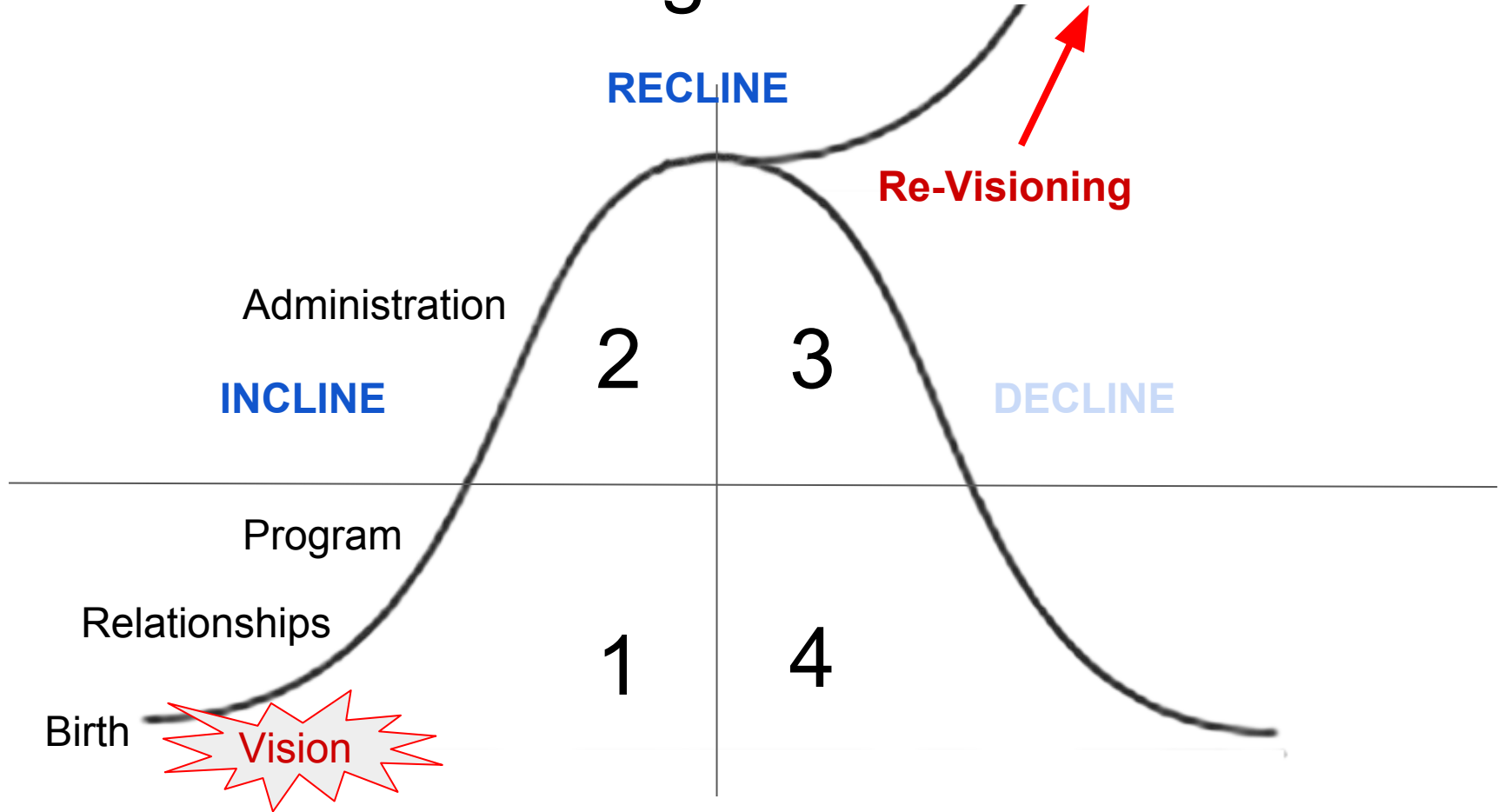
Re-Visioning Chronology

- **5/12/15:** Pew Research Center Report:
“America’s Changing Religious Landscape”
- **10/20/15:** Meeting with Rev. Bonnie Bates, EOA/WRA
- **10/27/15:** MLC Follow-Up & Fast Food Potluck
- **1/9/16:** Discussion at MLC Retreat
- **1/17 - 2/28/16:** “Stick Up for Faith” Exercise
- **4/17/16:** Report to Congregation
- **7/12/16:** MLC decision to postpone AI process until 2017
 - Wait for Rev Gene to return from Sabbatical leave
 - Formulate a more lightweight version of the process
 - Focus on Capital Improvements & Community Involvement

The Life Cycle of a Typical Organization



Renewing the Vision

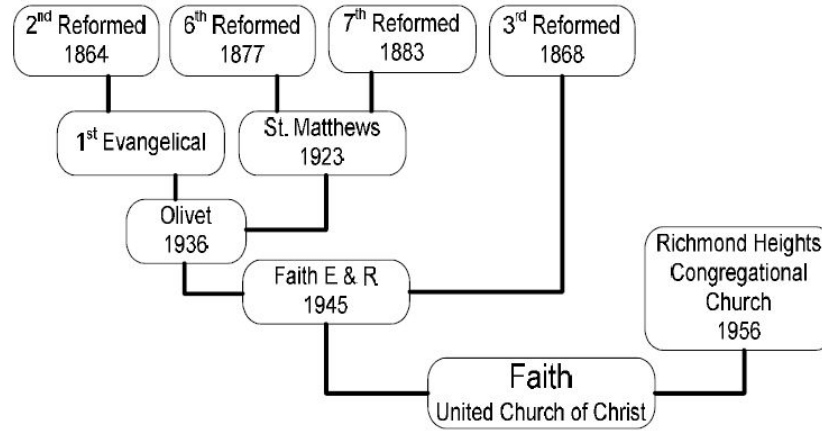


1957: A Witness-Oriented Vision

“We, the members of the Faith Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Richmond Heights Community Church (Congregational), ... acting under the divine compulsion of a new awareness that **God has thus appointed us for a special witness in these days and in this city**; do hereby testify to our oneness in spirit and purpose and our willingness, with mutual trust, imaginative courage and loving zeal, to form one Church **dedicated to the glory of God, the honor of Christ and the service of man.**”

Source: Jean Sinzinger, “A History of Faith, 1956-2007,” <http://www.faithucrrhoh.org/about-us/our-history>

67 Years of Growth by Merger 1923-1990



- **1956:** First church to be organized in Richmond Heights (Community Congregational Church)
- **1957:** Union with Faith Evangelical & Reformed Church
- **1967:** Union with Ninth UCC (formerly Ninth Reformed)
- **1983:** “Alignment” with Trinity Congregational Church
- **1990:** Union with Hope Congregational Church

1997 - An Inward Vision

“We are born of God and abide in Christ’s Love;
we are called to worship, to minister,
and to discover and share gifts of the Spirit.”

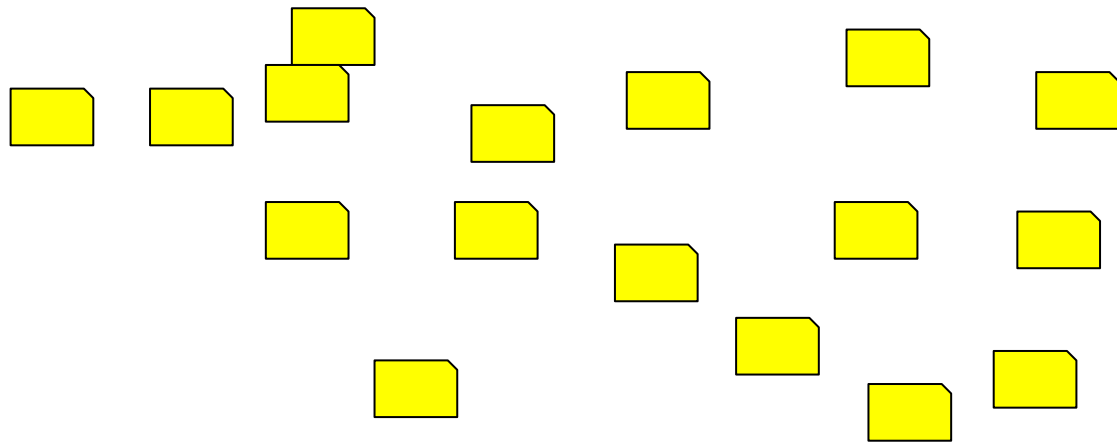
Stick Up for Faith!

“Stick Up” a word or two to tell us what you love about Faith UCC!

What keeps you coming back for more?

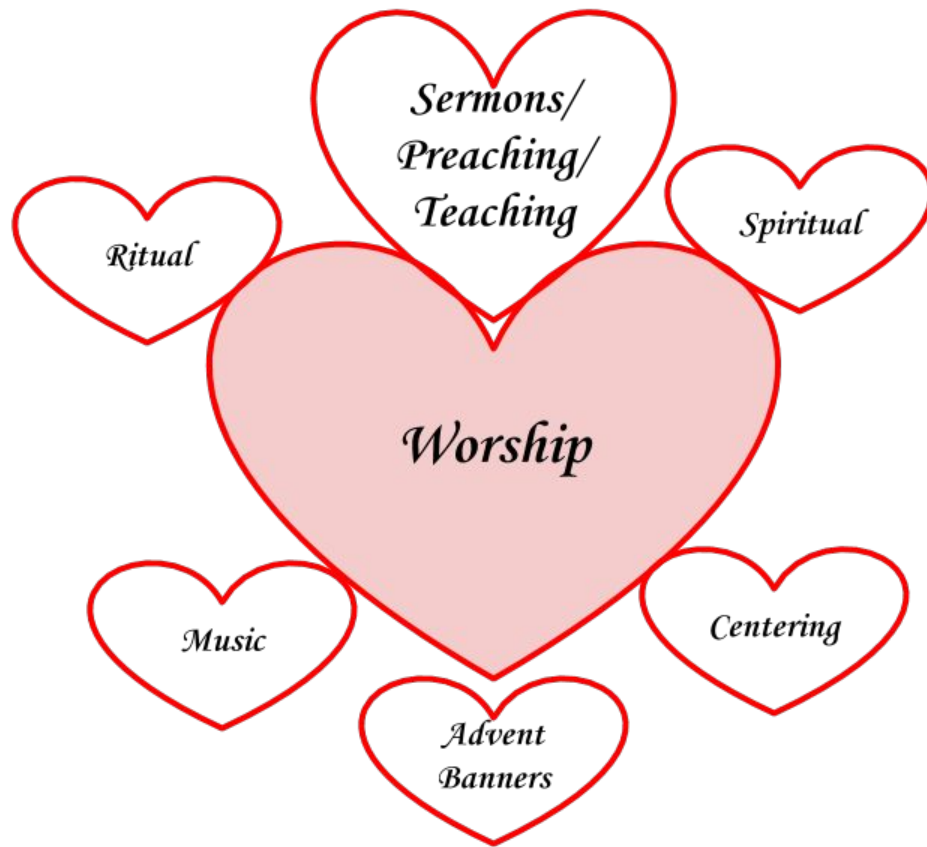
You can “like” a word that’s already stuck up by adding an “x” mark to its sticky.

We’ll be using these words to identify our strengths as we “re-vision” our future as a Christian community.

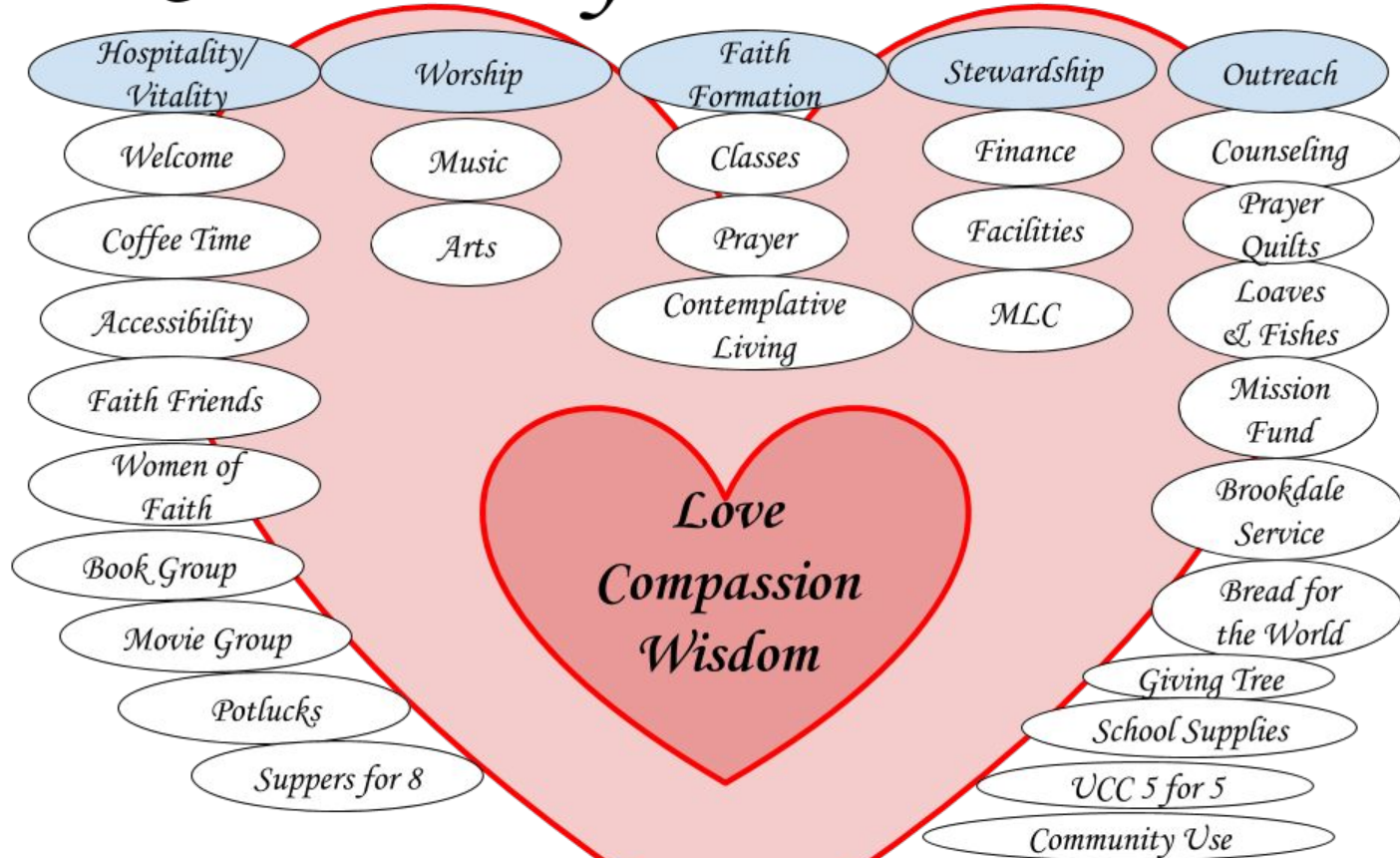


73 Stickies!



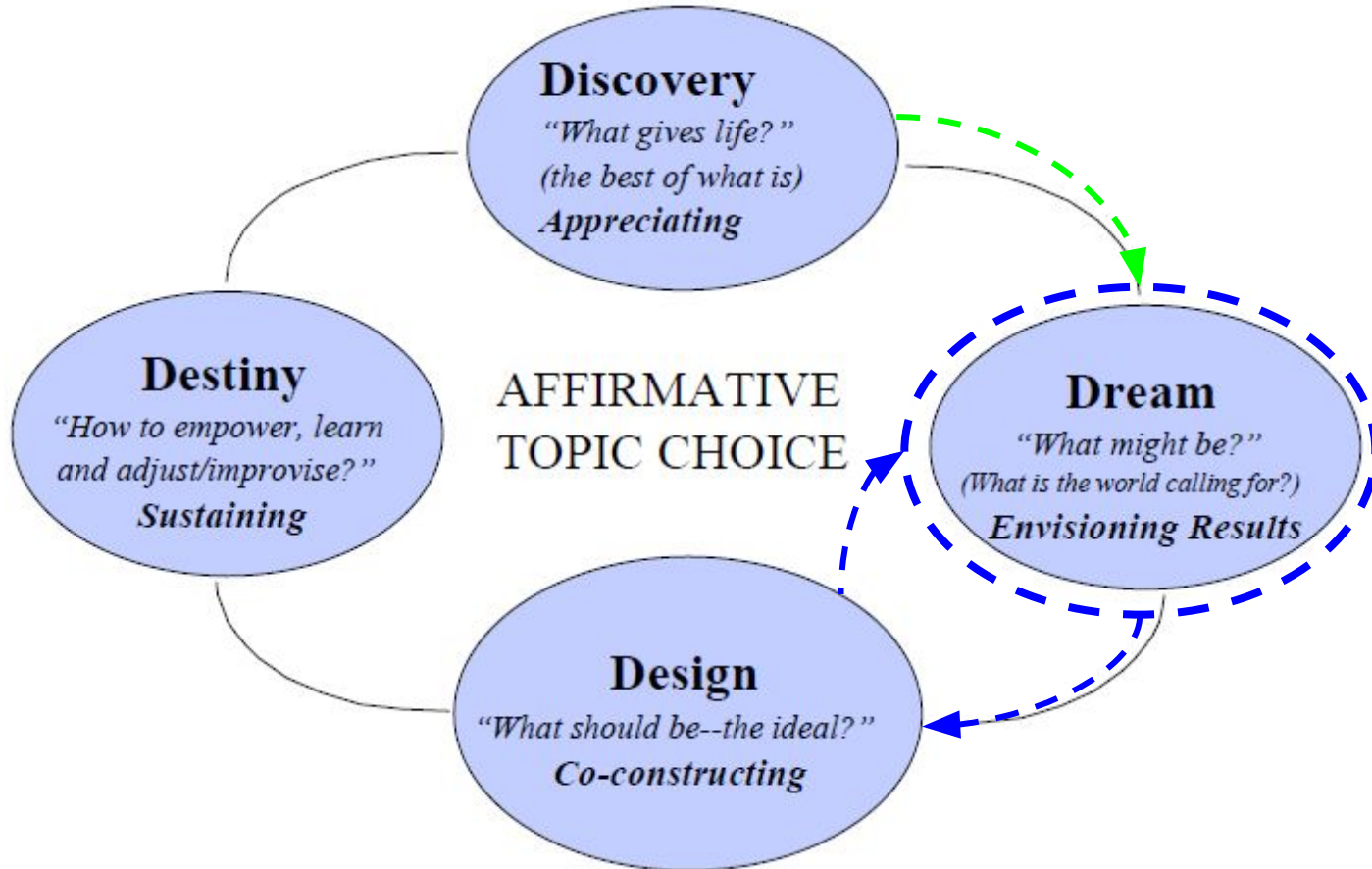


Sustained by our Ministries...



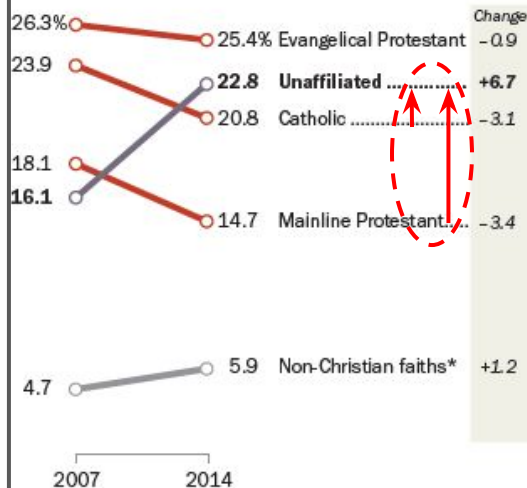
...enlivened by the Spirit

The Next Phase(s): Dream and Design



Changing U.S. Religious Landscape

Between 2007 and 2014, the Christian share of the population fell from 78.4% to 70.6%, driven mainly by declines among mainline Protestants and Catholics. The unaffiliated experienced the most growth, and the share of Americans who belong to non-Christian faiths also increased.



* Includes Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, other world religions and other faiths. Those who did not answer the religious identity question, as well as groups whose share of the population did not change significantly, including the historically black Protestant tradition, Mormons and others, are not shown.

Source: 2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The Challenge: Dramatic Growth of "Nones"

Generational Replacement Helping Drive Growth of Unaffiliated, Decline of Mainline Protestantism and Catholicism

	Silent generation (born 1928-1945)	Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964)	Generation X (born 1965-1980)	Older Millennials (born 1981-1989)	Younger Millennials (born 1990-1996)
	%	%	%	%	%
Christian	85	78	70	57	56
Protestant	57	52	45	38	36
<i>Evangelical</i>	30	28	25	22	19
<i>Mainline</i>	22	17	13	10	11
<i>Historically black</i>	5	7	7	6	6
Catholic	24	23	21	16	16
Other Christian groups	3	3	4	3	3
Other faiths	4	5	6	8	8
Unaffiliated	11	17	23	34	36
Don't know/refused	1	1	1	1	1
	100	100	100	100	100

2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014. Figures may not add to 100%, and nested figures may not add to subtotals indicated, due to rounding.

The "other Christian groups" category includes Mormons, Orthodox Christians, Jehovah's Witnesses and a number of smaller Christian groups.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Re-Visioning for the Next 10 Years

