

Faith Formation in 2023

(and, Beyond)

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THE NETWORK FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION



“Now we are in a time of movement toward a broader, more inclusive, and more complete understanding of what it means to educate. Such education includes education to and by teaching, to and by worship, to and by community, to and by proclamation and prophetic speech, to and by service.”

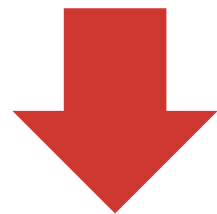


Maria Harris, Fashion Me A People, 1989

Six Shifts Happening in Faith Formation

Knowledge

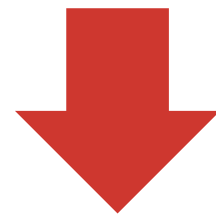
Information flows one direction: teacher to student



Mutual learning, wisdom in community

Model

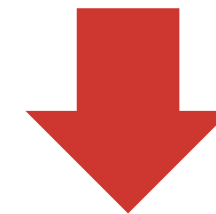
Christian education happens through programs



Faith formation takes many forms: worship, relationships, serving, etc.

Age Groupings

Most aspects of church life are age segregated



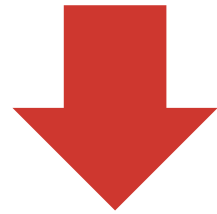
Many more aspects of church life intentionally intergenerational

Six Shifts Happening in Faith Formation



Families

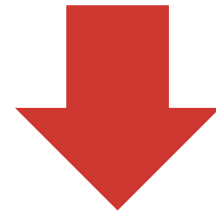
Parents formed through their children's experience



Parents offered formation opportunities related to their own spiritual growth

Location

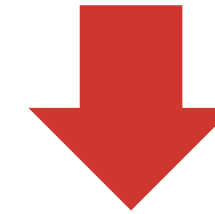
Faith formation happens at church



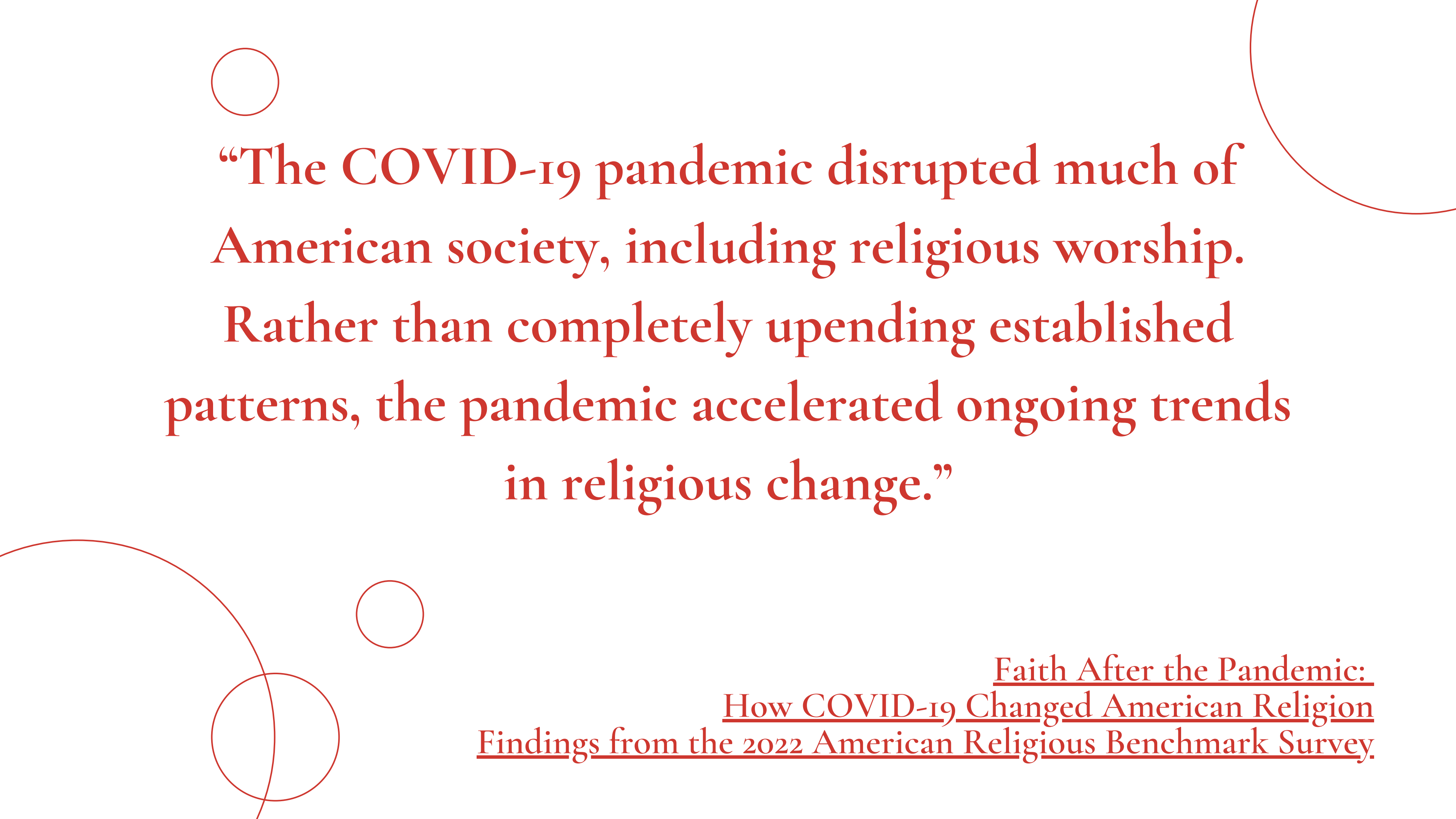
Supporting faith in the home and everyday life

Participation

Most people attend church most weeks



Many people more likely to fully commit to a series or event than weekly worship



“The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted much of American society, including religious worship. Rather than completely upending established patterns, the pandemic accelerated ongoing trends in religious change.”

Faith After the Pandemic:
How COVID-19 Changed American Religion
Findings from the 2022 American Religious Benchmark Survey.

Momentum

Including patterns of attendance and leadership recruiting/training

Attendance

“Nearly all [who] no longer attending religious services at all were those who infrequently attended before the pandemic.”

~Faith After the Pandemic

Creativity

Including the use of technology and hybrid programming

Trauma

Collective trauma, impacted groups of people in different ways, acceleration of grief

Pandemic Impacts



What is Forma?

Formation

We equip the saints for ministry by forming Christian leaders who will shape the Church.

Advocacy

We actively work for the advancement of lifelong, holistic, Christian formation across the Episcopal Church and advocate for justice in the vocation of Lay professionals.

Networking

We connect individuals and organizations for the sharing of work, wisdom, and community.

Collaboration

We partner with formation leaders, our members, dioceses, and mission-aligned organizations to accomplish our mission.