

# While you wait ...

## Preparation

Please watch the Pew Research Center's "Networked" video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clkqdrzizvY>

## Poll questions

- Did you have a chance to watch the Pew Research video on 'networked individualism'? Y/N
- What is your role?  
(a) clergy (b) faith formation (c) vestry member (d) other
- What is the size of your congregation (average Sunday)?  
(a) <75 (b) 75-140 (c) 141-225 (d) 225-800 (e) >800
- How connected is your congregation online?  
(a) lots of interaction (b) some interaction (c) no interaction



# Expanding the Circle:

Hybrid faith formation for small group learning



Slides:  
[bit.ly/hybrid](http://bit.ly/hybrid)  
[ECF](#)

Kyle Matthew Oliver ([@kmoliver](#))  
Center for the Ministry of Teaching ([@VTS CMT](#))  
Virginia Theological Seminary



## What is the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF)?

### Overview:

- Independent and lay-led organization
- ECF's mission is to strengthen the **leadership** and **financial** capabilities of Episcopal congregations, dioceses, and other institutions
- ECF carries out this mission through a wide array of programs and partnerships...



### Leadership Resources

- ECF Vital Practices (ecfvp.org)
- Vestry Resource Guide
- Fellowship Partners Program
- Educational Events
- Vital Teams
- Strategic Solutions

### Financial Resources

- Capital Campaigns
- Planned Giving
- Planned Giving on Demand
- Endowment Management
- Educational Events



## Tonight's Presenter:



The Rev. Kyle Matthew Oliver  
Digital Missioner and Learning Lab Coordinator  
Center for the Ministry of Teaching  
Virginia Theological Seminary



# Prayer

Loving God, your triune life shows us that there is no unity without diversity, no center without an encircling dance: Strengthen our mutual connections, that we may bear one another's burdens and celebrate the joys of our shared abundant life in you; in the name of the One who calls us each by name. *Amen.*

--[Collect for Interactive Communication](#)



## Outline: Form disciples with small groups meeting in person & online



**Background: How'd this get started?**

**Pilot: Who's doing it and how's it going?**



**Resources: What do you need to get started?**

# Background

How'd this get started?



**Problem: “What do you we do with the people who won’t come every week?”**



The CMT desk is a great barometer of faith formation challenges and trends.

## Solution: Work with new media ecology; combine FF networks with small groups



- “Networked individuals” starting acting like media companies
- Mobile connectivity keeps them connected anywhere
- Social networks structure those connections

To learn more about FF networks, check out John Roberto’s [Faith Formation 2020](#) project.



## Complication: How do you actually plant a church learning network?



Day Smith Pritchatt to CMT: “How would that actually work?” We decided to find out.

## **Proposal: Combine in-person meetings with connected online learning**

- identify shared interest and connect via digital “hub”
- gather for monthly in-person meetings to build community and introduce important concepts and skills
- participate in weekly activities at home and discuss them via the “hub”



## **Clarifying Questions**



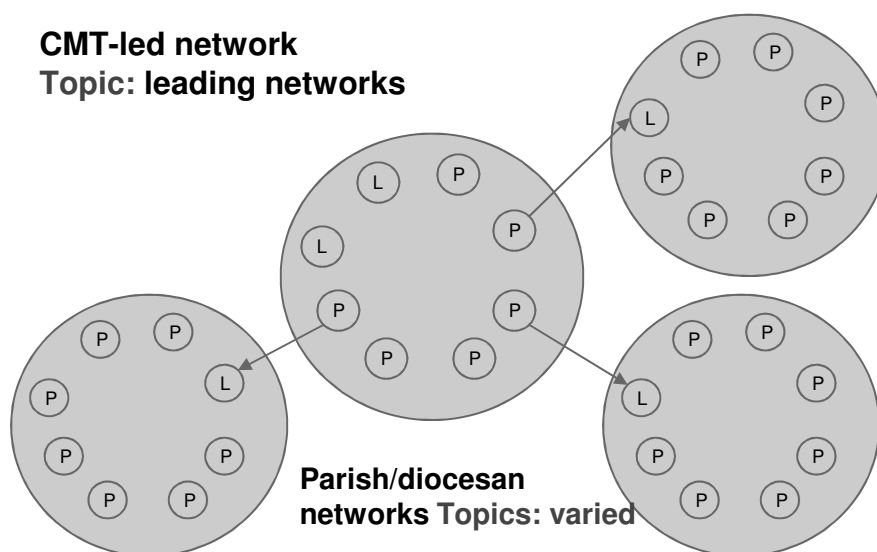
# Pilot

Who's doing it and how's it going?



## Learning community: Parishes/dioceses connected with the CMT

**CMT-led network**  
**Topic: leading networks**



## Curriculum: Leader network focused on pedagogical, digital, logistical concerns



## Participants: We had a wide variety of parishes/dioceses, topics in 2013\*

| Position  | Gender | Lay or Ordained? | Context  | Network Convened  |
|---|--------|------------------|--|---|
| Minister for families (staff)   | Female | Lay              | Pastoral-sized suburban parish                                 | <a href="#">Faith at home for families</a>                                |
| Former leader of Christian education committee and current parish council officer (volunteer) | Male   | Lay              | Urban parish making transition from pastoral- to program-sized | Spiritual practices for participants in parish fellowship dinners program |
| Faith formation officer (staff)   | Female | Lay              | Mid-sized Mid-Atlantic judicatory                              | Skills for digital faith formation for leaders in parishes                |

\*Read more about the pilot program [here](#) (general audience) and [here](#) (academic).





## Participants: We had a wide variety of parishes/dioceses, topics in 2013

|   |        |          |                                 |  |
|---|--------|----------|---------------------------------|--|
| Assistant pastor (staff)                | Male   | Ordained | Corporate-sized suburban parish | Group bible study for individuals; general online learning program for individuals |
| Minister for youth (staff)              | Female | Lay      | Program-sized suburban parish   | Idea exchange for parish teachers; faith at home for Sunday School parents         |
| Assistant pastor (staff)                | Male   | Ordained | Program-sized suburban parish   | Faith at home for families   |
| Minister for children and youth (staff) | Female | Lay      | Corporate-sized suburban parish | Faith at home for families   |



## Participants: 2014 cohort larger, more denominationally diverse, more active

- nine leaders from four denominations
- revamped [learning outline](#) has more structure, more variety, lower time requirement
- 2013 “star participant” Day Smith Pritchett now a cohort co-leader

Read more about [last year's big success story](#) and about [this year's plans](#).

# Clarifying Questions



# Resources

What do you need to get started?



## Content ideas: Choose content that gets people talking, thinking, doing

- [Vibrant Faith at Home](#)
- [ChurchNext](#)
- [Spiritual practices](#)
- [Video programs from SSJE](#)
- Adapting traditional curricula ([ECC](#), [LtGN?](#))
- Book or Bible study
- Podcast ([God Complex](#), [On Being?](#)) or video ([Soul Pancake](#), [Jason Chesnut](#), [TED Talks?](#))
- conversation

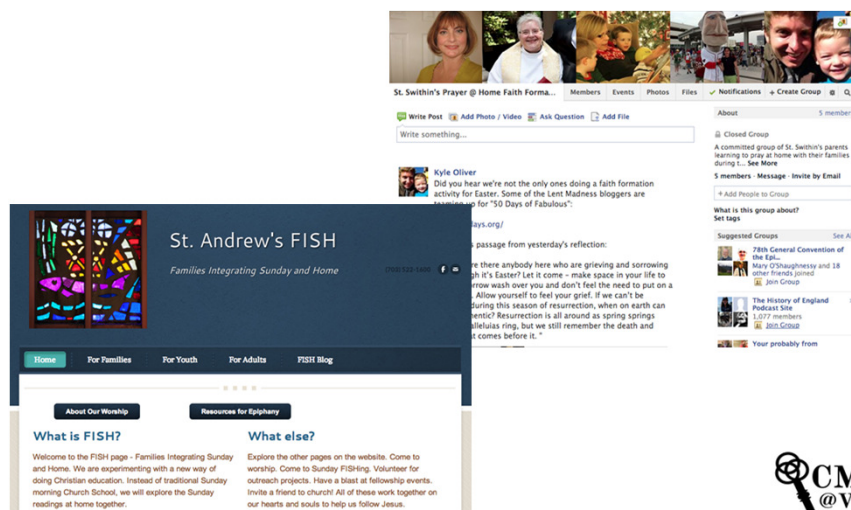


## Research and best practices: Work to build buy-in, enthusiasm

- Choose a network hub that's appropriate for your people—and help them get connected.
- Make the most of your gathered events.
- Be mindful of varieties of learning styles and generational differences (see [Gould](#)).
- Don't worry if it doesn't take off right away—but do your best to invite engagement.
- Find the “sweet spot” of clear structure and simple expectations.



## Tech demo: Three good options to build your hub are groups, blogs, listservs



## Next steps: Curate the content and the learning experience

- Start small: Identify a small group who want to learn together
- Design your network: Choose a hub, learning goals, and realistic activities
- Find a partner: Facilitating a network is much easier when two can share the load
- Evaluate often: Launch your network, model the participation you seek, collect feedback constantly



## Questions & Conversation



**Follow the Center for the Ministry of Teaching for HFF news & invites.**

- [www.vts.edu/cmt/connect](http://www.vts.edu/cmt/connect)
- [www.keyhallonline.org](http://www.keyhallonline.org)
- [facebook.com/VTSCMT](https://facebook.com/VTSCMT)
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