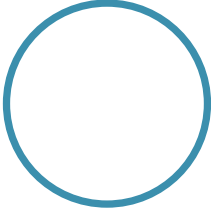


# SURFACE TO SOUL

Live Well | Lead Well | Coach Well

## A Vision for Forming Lifelong Faith

### 1 | PEOPLE MATTER



Life-giving relationships play a critical role in the faith forming process. The term “familying” is used to describe the relational process the Spirit uses to create and sustain people in life and faith. Faith communities strive to create a web of support where individuals are cared for, encouraged, challenged, and empowered with new possibilities for forming faith every day.

The *circle* serves as a reminder that thriving faith communities always make room for others. It reflects the importance of being an inclusive, intergenerational community where people commit to following in the way of Christ while encouraging others to do the same.

### 2 | PRIORITIES MATTER



The *triangle* suggests that Christians gather as a community to 1) Connect with God, 2) Connect and care for **each other**, and 3) Connect with **people in our community**. The *triangle* points people 1) toward being **AWARE** of God’s presence in our lives, 2) toward creating an atmosphere of **BELONGING** where people experience grace-filled, life giving relationships, and 3) toward providing opportunities for people to **CONTRIBUTE** to God’s transforming work in the world. Thriving churches engage peoples’ **heads, hands, and hearts** in faith forming experiences that help people to gather, grow, give and go.

### 3 | PRACTICES & PLACES MATTER

Viewing faith as a verb, churches offer faith forming experiences that include prayer, learning, service, and celebration opportunities. The *compass* symbolizes the **4 practices** (Pray | Learn | Serve | Celebrate) and the **4 places (below)** where faith is practiced in daily life:



**1-Congregation:** During worship and large group experiences, people are introduced to Jesus, interpret the Christian life, learn Bible stories and biblical concepts, celebrate milestones, and are taught renewing faith practices.

**2-Households:** Understanding that the home can also be church too, spiritual practices are taught in the congregation that can be replicated at home. Homes are learning laboratories for faith formation.

**3-Online:** Online platforms serve as connecting points to share life and faith stories, learn spiritual practices, and pray for and encourage one another. They provide opportunities for independent study, reflection, and dialogue. They allow people to learn what they want and when they want.

**4-On the Go:** Churches find ways to partner and dialogue with community organizations, local congregations, and other learning institutions. Tapping into community resources expands faith forming capacities to grow exponentially.

### KEY QUESTIONS

1. How might you surround people with caring disciples who model a vibrant faith?
2. Which faith forming priorities influence the decisions you make related to forming faith?
3. Which spiritual practices are we emphasizing? When and where are they practiced?



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