

Innovation Cohorts:

Innovation Cohorts are six-week sprints of intense learning around a topic of interest. These will include weekly 1-hour Zoom live calls and extensive written and video content within the frame of an online course on our learning platform FaithLead.org. Participation in this program requires a higher level of commitment than the Learning Labs and consistent attendance will be expected. ***Registration for these Cohorts will be through National Capital Presbytery as invited through respective committees. The plan is for the live sessions to happen on Monday afternoons beginning at 4:00.***

There are four Innovation Cohorts to take place in 2021. The topics are ultimately the choice of the National Capital Presbytery Spiritual Formation Team. Currently, your team has identified four topics for the initial cohorts:

How to Do Hybrid Church with Rev. Jim Keet: Begins Monday April 19 through Monday May 24 at 4:00 pm

While it's tempting to "go back" to church as it was before the pandemic, most churches must explore how to engage ministry both virtually and physically. When it is safe to gather again, how will we shape our in-person ministries as well as honor those who have connected to our congregations virtually? What if regular church attendance has been forever impacted by this prolonged time of virtual connection? How will we staff our ministries? How should we think about our vision and mission within this changing landscape? In this cohort, facilitated by Rev. Jim Keet, Director of Online Innovation with Convergence and Digital Minister at the Riverside Church in NY, we will consider these questions and more as we lead our way through these disruptive and interesting days.

(Mid-September through October) Emergence Leadership in a Reframed World

As we journey through troubling, challenging, and curious days, we are living in a time that feels scary and unknown. But what if the fractures we are seeing in our social order, the ramifications of halting a global economy, and the unleashing of people of faith into a world seeking wisdom but not seeking institutional Church is actually revealing what has been true of our world for a long time? Our institutions were failing before this moment. Now it's clearly revealed. What does it mean? We are being invited to create a world on the other side of this time without many of the constraints that narrowed our imagination and options in previous ages. We now face one of the greatest opportunities ever seen in human history. What does this mean for our churches? As people of faith, what is our role to play? What will be demanded of us, and what should we be prepared to offer? Rev. Cameron Trimble, thought leader and CEO of Convergence, will facilitate this cohort as we explore together the impact of this moment on the Christian movement.

(June) Youth Ministry in the Hybrid Church with Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt

How has youth ministry changed over this past year? What can our youth teach us about being "church" in a post-pandemic, networked age? In this cohort, we will explore the opportunities for new approaches to youth ministry that use the gifts of online community to deepen spiritual formation

and mobilization for justice. All great movements of history are guided by the instincts and wisdom of youth. The question before us is: how might we help?

(August – Mid September) How to Preach Online (Hint: It's More than A Camera in A Sanctuary)

You dove into recording your sermons over the past few months, but now you wonder how to generate interesting, thoughtful sermons designed for engaging the online world. You also realize that Sunday's text is now speaking to a radically different world, one, inviting new perspectives. In this cohort with participants from across the nation, we will explore the lectionary text for the upcoming Sunday and talk about ways to engage the text in online preaching. This cohort will be a combination of "how-to" advice on technique and technology as well as an exegesis group for the next Sunday.

The Flow of Our Sessions

When we gather, here is a proposed pattern for our time:

- Opening Guided Meditation
- One Word Check-In
- Exploration of the Inquiry of the Day - Exercises and Discussion
- Recording of Our Learning
- Closing Meditation
- One Word Check-Out

Learning Labs are sponsored by to Spiritual Formation Team, Congregational Development Committee, and Committee on Ministry in partnership with Convergence



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