

GAP 8: CHURCH FORMS IN A DIGITAL AGE

Driving Question for Collaborative Design

How might Christians in the church, parachurch, and workplace collaborate to reach and disciple others through innovative and deeply formative ways of being the church in a digital age?

Description

The majority of the global population lives in an increasingly digital world. This digital turn became a strategic avenue for churches and mission organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic, with many organizations moving to remote/broadcast church services. This first large-scale experimentation into church online produced many innovations and just as many questions on what it means to be the church. Whatever the platform, it must serve the giving and receiving of love and practise of one-another ministries for the life of the world God loves, rather than reinforcing consumerism. From worship to discipleship, community formation to missional outreach, connecting our gathered and scattered expressions, church forms in the digital age continue to explore the intersection of digital technique and theological grounding, aiming to reflect God in both people's online and everyday lives.

Acknowledging the global digital turn, and reflecting on innovations and learnings in a wide variety of sectors (business, medicine, technology, education, etc.), this conversation prayerfully explores:

Collaboration Questions

- What are the effects of the digital realm on the way people are formed, make decisions, and grow together in community? What have we learned to inform wise church forms in this digital age?
- How do these church forms enhance/augment or inhibit/diminish evangelism and discipleship?
- How might worship be expressed online, where our online gathering empowers our missional scattering?
- Is there need for organizational collaboration to promote/develop/enhance these activities?
- What are the tools needed to successfully accomplish this?

Sub-Topics

- Digital tools for church in a digital age
- Organizational collaboration for church forms in a digital age
- Wise practices for digital church forms

Preparation before Seoul 2024

Please read these sections of the State of the Great Commission Report:

- Introduction from the Theology Working Group
- Part I, on the State of the Great Commission globally, captured by text and graphics
- Part II, with the article on 'Church Forms in a Digital Age'
- Part III for your particular region in which you primarily work or serve in church or parachurch