

# Future Faith

Challenge #10:  
Saving This World  
November 24, 2019



Facilitator: Dr. Greg Smith

# Agenda

- Announcements, Attendance, & Prayer
- Saving This World
- Future Faith Wrap Up

# American Protestant Approaches

	Evangelical	Mainline
Historic Black Churches	Religious Right	Religious Left
Often Evangelical with an Emphasis on Social Justice	Emphasis on Personal Conversion	Emphasis on Social Justice
	Theologically Conservative	Theologically Liberal

Pentecostalism

Often included in Evangelical yet Distinct

# Saving This World – Alternative Approaches

## Either/Or

Binary choice  
between either  
personal conversion  
or social justice

## Both/And

Both a personal  
conversion and a  
commitment to  
social justice

## Beyond

New starting point:  
What does God love?  
And How?

Future Faith, p. 223-235

*“Future faith will be marked by followers of Jesus who are grasped by a love that compels their participation in God’s salvation of this world” (Future Faith, p.235).*

# Future Faith:

## 10 Challenges Reshaping Christianity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



Revitalizing  
Withering  
Congregations



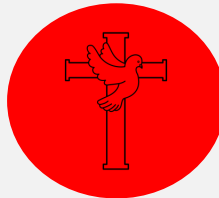
Perceiving the  
World as Sacred



Defeating  
Divisive  
Culture Wars



Embracing the  
Color of the  
Future



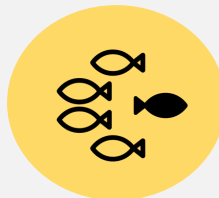
Affirming Spirit-  
Filled Communities



Belonging  
Before  
Believing



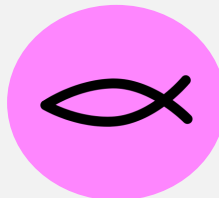
Seeing through  
Non-Western  
Eyes



Rejecting the Heresy  
of Individualism



Saving  
*This*  
World



De-Americanizing  
the Gospel

# Future Faith: 3 Shifts

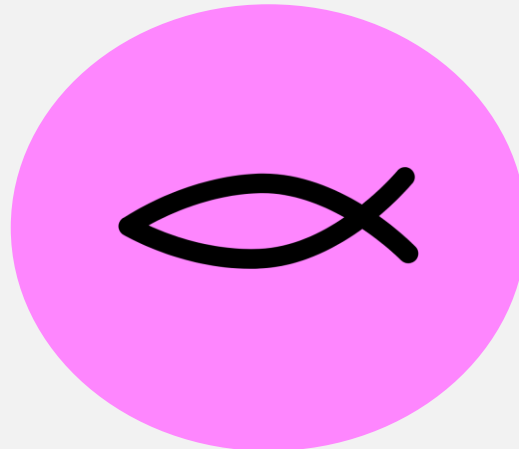
More Global (Less American and Less Western)



Seeing through  
Non-Western  
Eyes



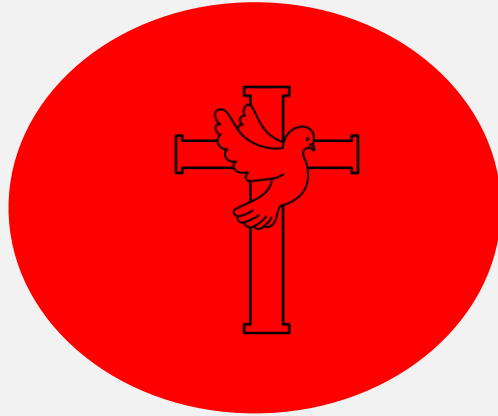
Perceiving  
the World  
as Sacred



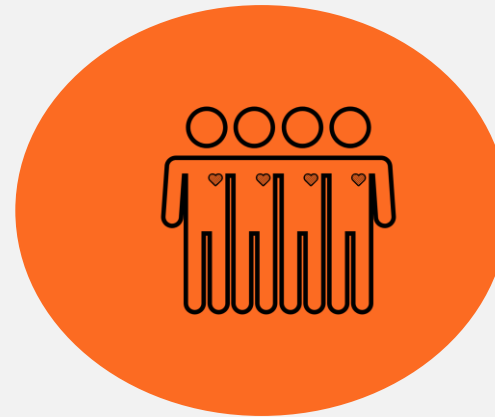
De-Americanizing  
the Gospel

# Future Faith: 3 Shifts

More Experiential & Community Focused  
(Less Intellectual & Less Individualistic)



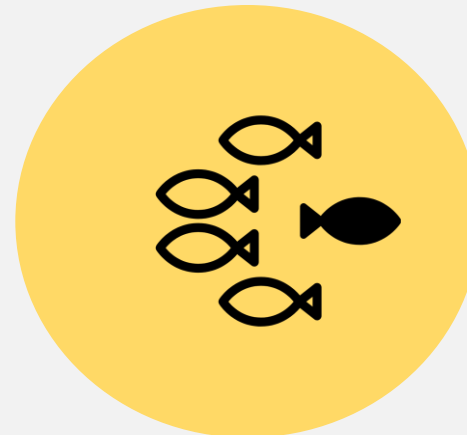
Affirming  
Spirit-Filled  
Communities



Belonging  
Before  
Believing



Saving  
*This*  
World



Rejecting the  
Heresy of  
Individualism

# Future Faith: 3 Shifts

More Inclusive & Dynamic (Less Exclusive & Declining)



Embracing  
the Color of  
the Future



Defeating Divisive  
Culture Wars



Revitalizing  
Withering  
Congregations



# Future Faith:

Evaluating FPC's Readiness to Contribute to Future Faith

- #1 More Global  
(Less American & Less Western)
- #2 More Experiential & Community Focused  
(Less Intellectual & Less Individualistic)
- #3 More Inclusive & Dynamic  
(Less Exclusive & Declining)

# So What? Continuing the Conversation



- ✓ Reflect on what you learned about the Future Church (10 Challenges & 3 Shifts).
  
- ✓ Commit to specific actions based on your new knowledge.
  - Conversations.** Who am I committed to talking with? What is my plan to ensure these conversations happen?
  - Church.** How will I help other FPC groups I belong to become more aware of some of these trends and challenges?
  - Changes.** What will I do differently as a result of participating in Future Faith?
  - Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service  
Baker Chapel AME Church (Fort Worth, TX)  
January 21, 2019