

Building Local Church Community with Digital Tools

- 2024 -
ANNUAL COUNCIL



LEAD Conference 2024

Building Community

Traditionally

- ❖ **Activities**
- ❖ **Communication**
- ❖ **Tools**

Building Community

Traditionally

❖ Activities

- Worship services
- Small groups
- Bible studies
- Pastoral/elder visitation
- Potlucks and other fellowship
- Service and volunteer opportunities
- Ceremonies
- Mentorship/discipleship programs
- Pathfinders/Adventurers

Building Community

Traditionally

❖ Communication

- Church bulletins
- Announcements during services
- Newsletters
- Posters and flyers
- Direct mail
- Church signage
- Phone tree
- Radio
- Newspapers
- Church or community bulletin boards

Building Community

Traditionally

❖ Tools

- A/V equipment
- Postal service
- Signage companies
- Telephones
- Radio
- Typewriters/computer
- Various printing equipment

Building Community

Traditionally and with digital tools

❖ Activities

- Worship services
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Building Community

Traditionally and with digital tools

- Build digital engagement slowly
- Initially, embrace what you're comfortable with
- Use digital tools to extend, not replace, in-person ministry
- Involve volunteers and younger members

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Traditionally *and with digital tools*

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- Worship services
- Small groups
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- Pastoral/elder visitation
- Potlucks and other fellowship
- Service and volunteer opportunities
- Ceremonies
- Mentorship/discipleship programs
- Pathfinders/Adventurers
- Virtual prayer groups
- Livestreaming for both outreach and connecting with ill and housebound
- Interactivity during services: polls, quizzes for in person and virtual attendees
- Virtual Bible studies

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- Newspapers
- Church or community bulletin boards
- Website
- Social media engagement
- Email newsletters
- Instant messaging
- Digital bulletin boards and calendars
- Online sermon archives

Building Community

Traditionally *and with digital tools*

❖ Tools*

- A/V equipment
- Postal service
- Signage companies
- Telephones
- Radio
- Typewriters/computer
- Various printing equipment
- Website builder (*WordPress, Wix, Squarespace*)**
- Social media engagement (*Instagram, Facebook*)**
- Email newsletters (*Mailchimp, ConstantContact, Substack*)**
- Instant messaging (*Signal, WhatsApp, Slack, GroupMe*)**
- Digital bulletin boards and calendars (*Google Jamboard, Google Calendar, Planning Center*)**
- Online sermon archives (*YouTube, Vimeo, SoundCloud*)**
- Livestream tools (*YouTube Live, Facebook Live, OBS Studio, StreamYard*)**
- Interactivity tools (*Mentimeter, Kahoot!*)**
- Virtual meeting solutions (*Zoom, Google Meet, WebEx*)**
- Mobile apps for churches (*7me*)

**Ask your conference/mission, union, division, or General Conference if any solutions are available/provided*

***No endorsements implied; examples only*

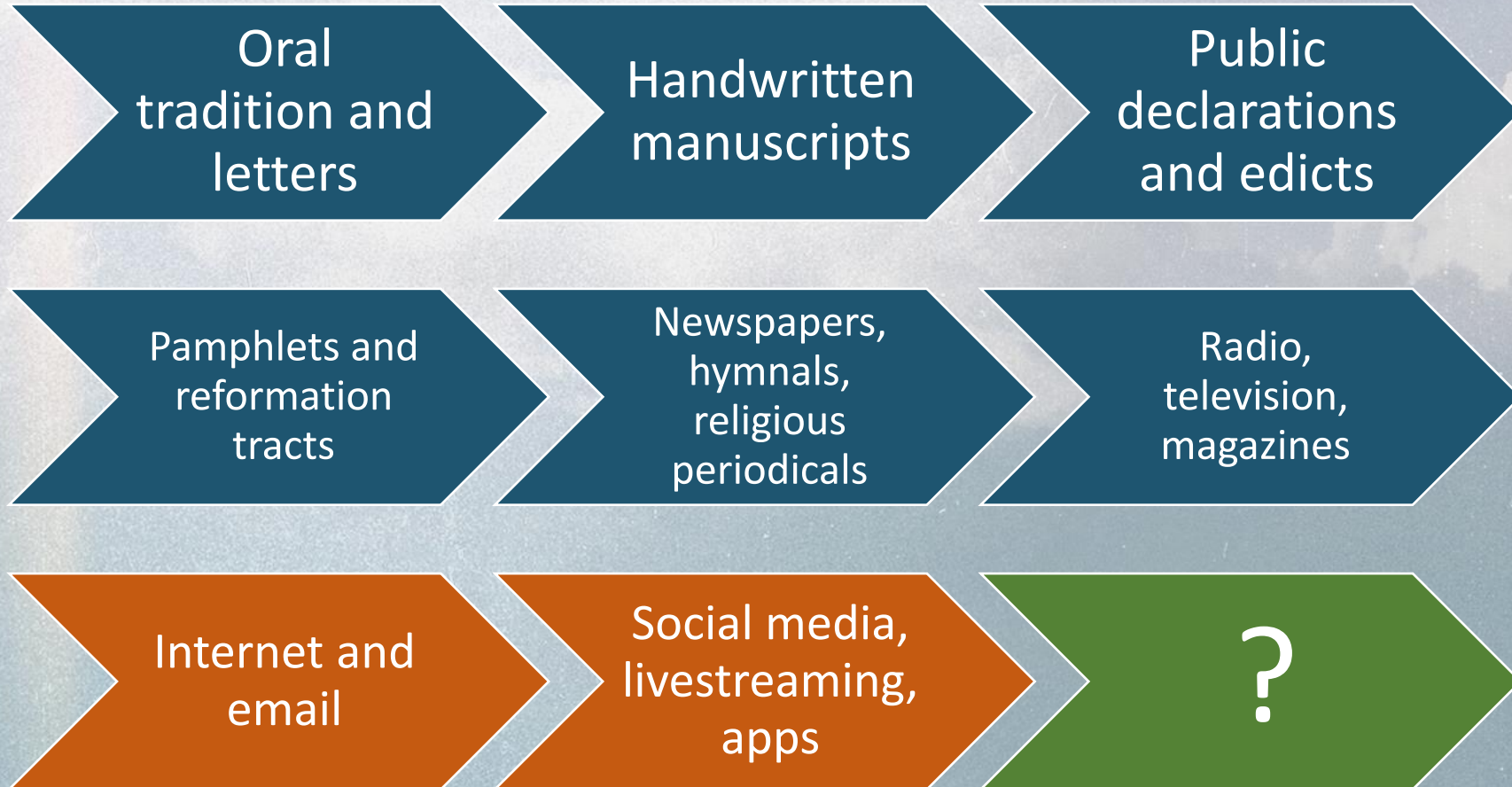
Building Community

Traditionally and with digital tools

Why?

Building Community

Traditionally *and with digital tools*



16% of U.S. adults are 'heavy users' of religious technology

% of U.S. adults who are ...



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. The survey asked how often respondents engage in six kinds of religious technology use, including using prayer apps; using apps to read scripture; watching religion-focused online videos; searching for religious information online; listening to religion-focused podcasts; and participating in online prayer/scripture study groups. “Heavy users” are those who engage in at least two forms of religious technology use weekly or more often. “Moderate users” are those who engage in one form of religious technology use weekly or more often. “Light users” indicate they use technology in these ways at least occasionally, but do not engage in any of them weekly or more often. “Non-users” do not use technology in any of these ways.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 16-27, 2022, among U.S. adults.

“Online Religious Services Appeal to Many Americans, but Going in Person Remains More Popular”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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"Online Religious Services Appeal to Many Americans, but Going in Person Remains More Popular"

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One-in-five U.S. adults use apps or websites for scripture reading

% of U.S. adults who say they do each of the following ...



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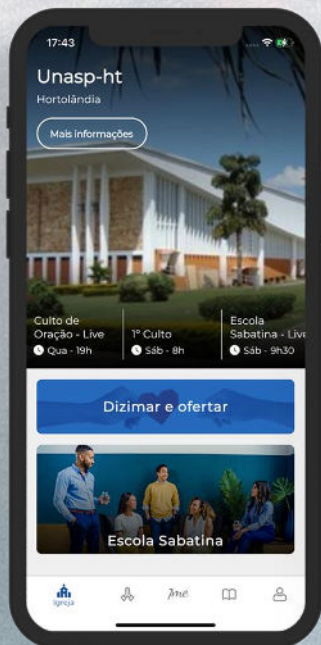
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