

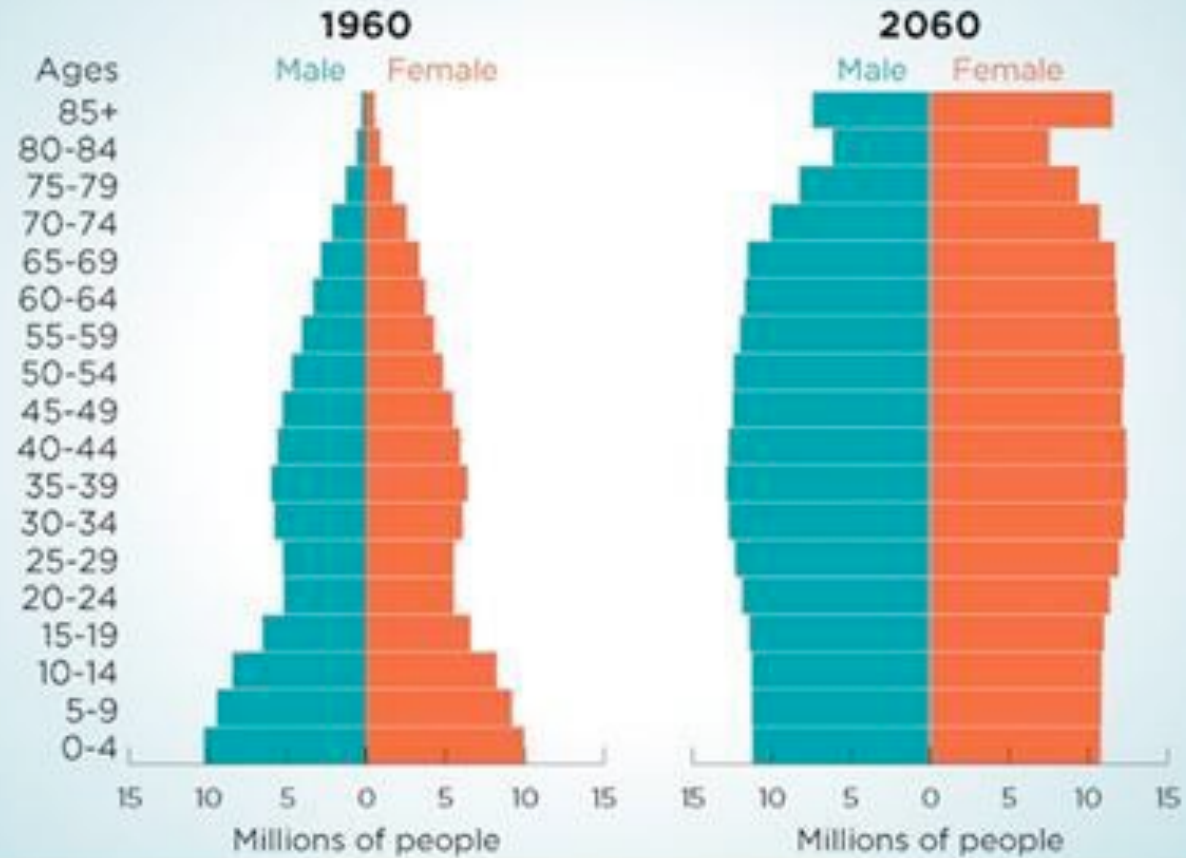


What Does Early Old Age Ministry Mean for My Congregation?

Redefining Older Adult Ministry

From Pyramid to Pillar: A Century of Change

Population of the United States

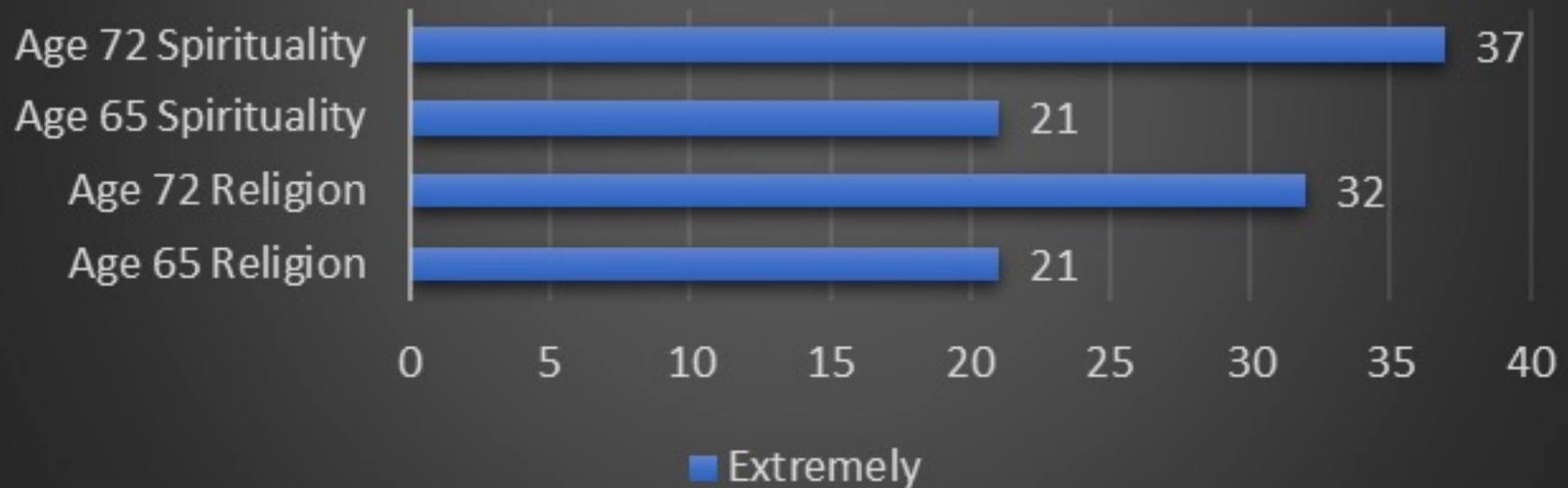


How EOA is a Game Changer

1. “Robust elderly” – 65 to 80
2. New Cultural Phenomenon
 1. Health
 2. Time Affluence
 3. Spiritually Sensitive Season
3. “Done’s”
 1. Religiously socialized
 2. Disaffiliated at highest rate
 3. Institutional suspicion



% Who Say Spirituality or Religion are Extremely Important in Their Lives

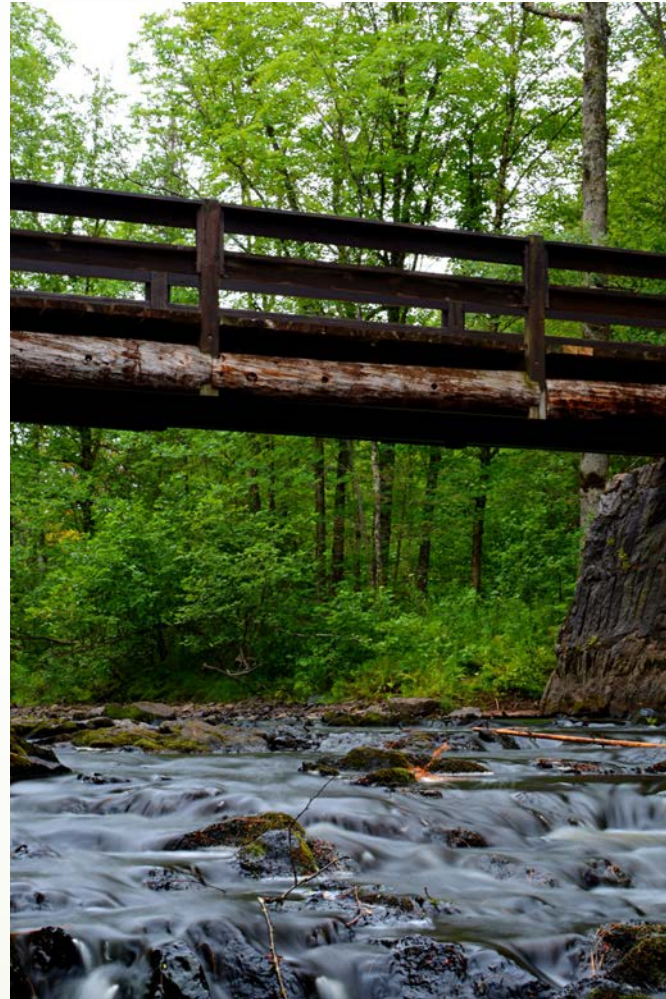


What Are Churches Doing to Reach EOA's?

- Giving Voice to Spiritual Pathways
- Challenge Not Chaplaincy
- Rituals Not Institutions
- Proxemics Not Programs



1. Giving Voice to Spiritual Pathways



Faith Stories™

<https://aloaserves.org/faith-stories/>

BEGINNING

Who first told you about faith?

What was your church experience like growing up?

What do you remember about confirmation class? Confirmation day? etc.

MIDDLE

What do you pray about?

How/when have you seen God at work in your life?

When were you disappointed at God? Mad at God? What happened afterwards?

END

How do you feel about your relationship with Jesus right now?

Why did you choose to tell your faith story?

What do you want people to remember about your faith story?

Genealogy to Spiritual Genogram



Genealogy to Spiritual Genogram

Peter Scazzero

<https://www.emotionallyhealthy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/GENOGRAM-WORKBOOK.pdf>



2. Challenge Not Chaplaincy

But starts with Losses Not Gains

Gains



Losses



Challenge Not Chaplaincy

Ministry With Not To for Long Term Belonging

Point of Reconnection



Challenge



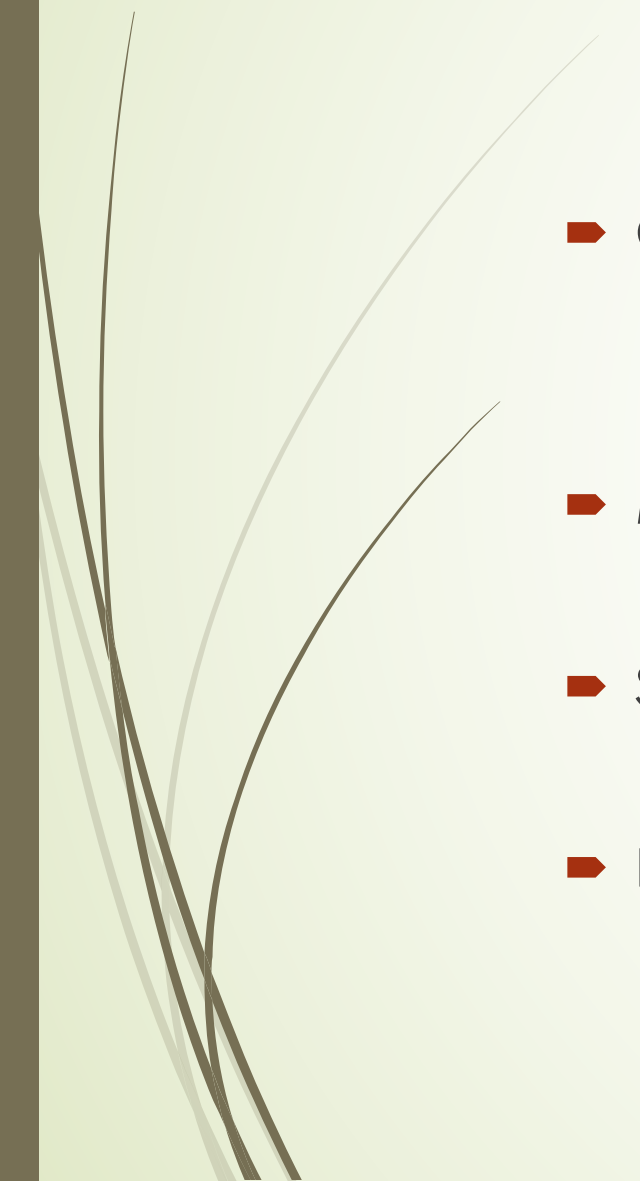


Hunger for Purposeful Belonging

- ▶ “While only one-quarter of Americans and one-third of Canadians have volunteered in retirement, 89% of Americans and Canadians agree that there should be more ways for retirees to help in their communities.”
 - ▶ <https://agewave.com/the-four-pillars-of-the-new-retirement/>
 - ▶ Based on research by Edward Jones and Age Wave. Nine-month study of 9,000 adults in the U.S. and Canada, including qualitative research of nearly 100 working and retired adults. (August 2020)
- 



Youth Ministry For Early Old Age

- Challenge: desire to impact next generations
 - Including grandchildren(ish)
 - Many churches have intentional design for youth
 - Silver Mission Churches intentionally design for EOA volunteers
 - How can we disciple EOAs through Youth Ministry?
- 

Zucchini Missions in Community and Abroad: Not Being Used, But Stewarding Their Gifts

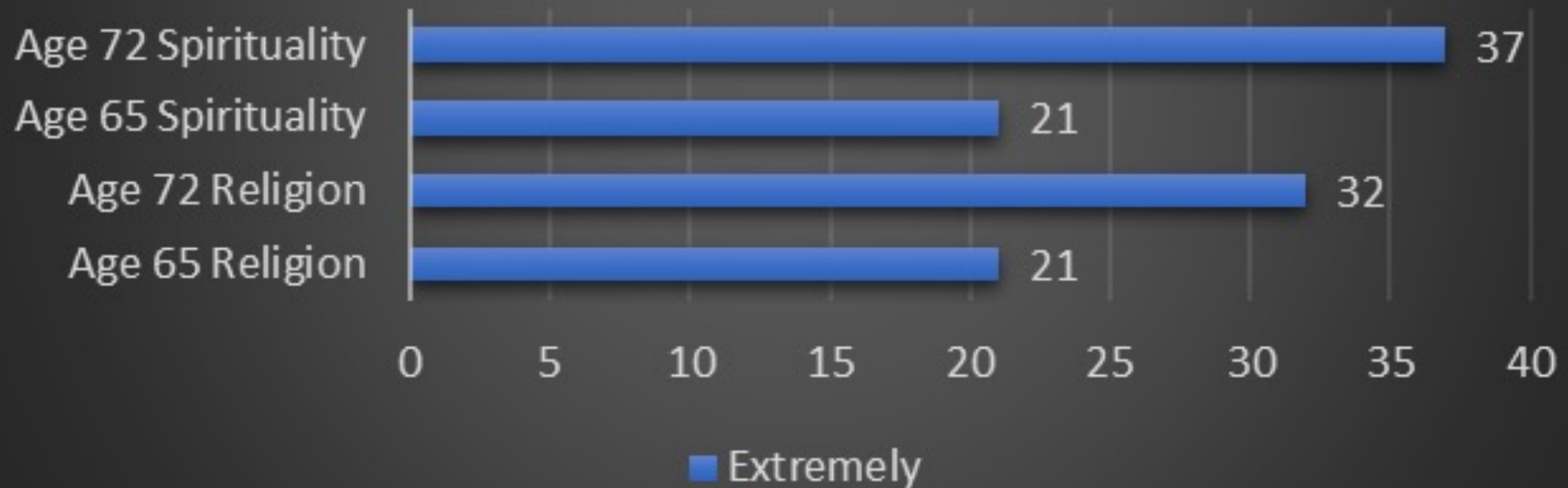


3. Rituals Not Institutions

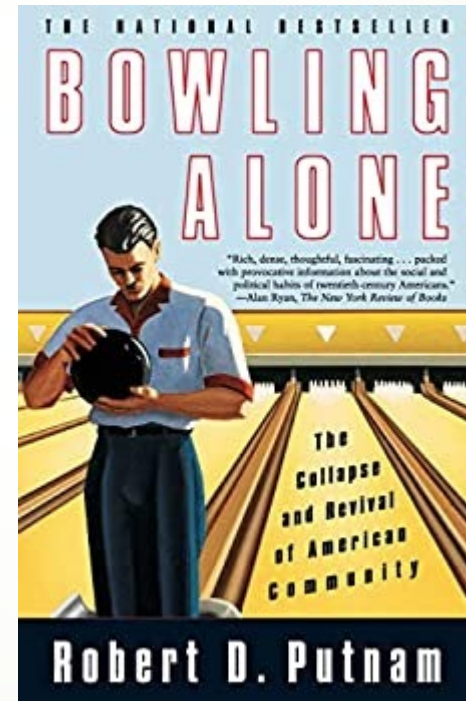
Goal is not making people thankful for what was



% Who Say Spirituality or Religion are Extremely Important in Their Lives



Cultural Shift Away From Formal Organizations





Silver Mission Churches Build on Ritual Rather Than Organization Membership

- What are important rituals in your church?
 - How do you explain them?
 - How do you connect them to religiously socialized?
- What practices do you highlight as a community?
- What are low attendance meetings that you are frustrated with?
 - Can they be changed to purpose oriented activities?
 - Can they be changed to experiential mission work?

4. Proxemics Not Programs

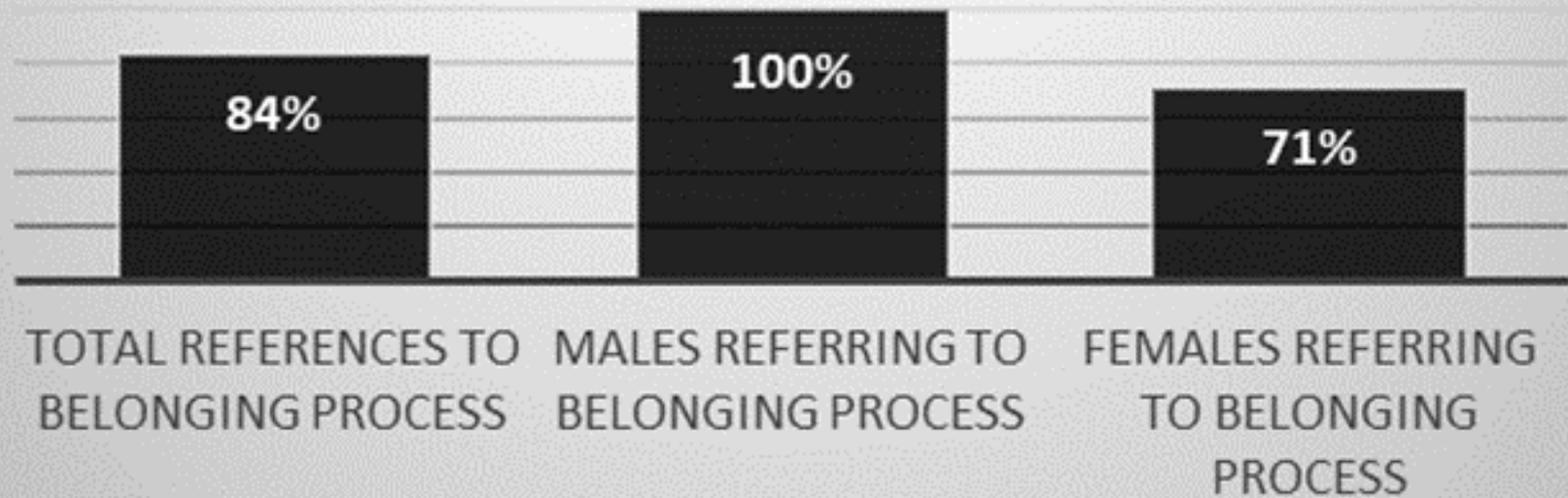
Not All Ministry Spaces Are Alike




Invitation to Belong Was Intentional

The Key is Inviting to the Right Space

Baby Boomer References to Belonging Process





	Safe Places	Challenge Over Chaplaincy	Informal Design	Storytelling	Relationships
Worship	Trust	Authentic Ritual	Norms	Narrative	Linking
Small Groups	Thick Trust	Issue Based	Horizontal Reciprocity	Sense Making	Bonding
Service Groups	Thin Trust	Religious	Vertical Reciprocity	Testimony	Bridging

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Adult Lutherans Organized for Action

