Scenario Matrix for Faith Formation 2020 (Version 1.0)

Dominant Cultural Attitude toward Organized Religion

Receptive to Organized Religion

Scenario #4. Participating in Church Activities, but Faith and the Spiritual Life Are Not Important

The fourth scenario describes a world in which people attend church activities, but are not actively engaged in their church community. They may participate in significant seasonal and sacramental celebrations; some may even attend worship regularly. Their connection to the church is more social than spiritual. Churches recognize that belonging (engagement) leads to believing (commitment) and a more vibrant faith, and seek ways to increase engagement with the community and the religious tradition to develop more spiritually committed members.

Scenario #1. Vibrant Faith and Active **Engagement in the Church Community**

The first scenario describes a world in which people of all ages and generations are actively engaged in a Christian church, are spiritually committed, and growing in their faith. People have found their spiritual home within an established Christian tradition and a local faith community that provides a variety of ways for them to grow in faith and live their faith in the world.

People's Hunger for God and the Spiritual Life

Low

Scenario #3. Unaffiliated and Uninterested

The third scenario describes a world in which people experience little need for God and the spiritual life and are not affiliated with organized religion and established Christian churches. The task of the church is to be incarnational—placing itself in the midst of the culture and the gathering places of people—and be a witness to the Christian faith in the world today.

Scenario #2. Spiritual, but Not Religious

The second scenario describes a world in which people are spiritually hungry and searching for God and the spiritual life, but not usually involved with organized religion and established Christian churches. Churches recognize that they need to establish a presence in the world of people who are spiritually hungry but not attracted to an established Christian church. While not all people in Scenario #2 are in the Post-Boomer generations, a large majority are.

Resistant to Organized Religion

High