

# 15 Provocations from the Future

What will shape the future of our communities the next decade? Mark the top 3 “provocations” that you feel will most shape us by 2025, whether for good or bad.

- \_\_\_ 1. **VUCA world:** Will people turn to more religion for stabilization, in view of increasing volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity (VUCA)?
- \_\_\_ 2. **Extreme Climate:** Will the adverse impacts on society from climate change and its proposed solutions unite nations or re-ignite culture wars?
- \_\_\_ 3. **Rich – Poor Gap:** Will media images of global economic difference continue to foster social unrest, or will faith find innovative ways to level the playing field?
- \_\_\_ 4. **Personal Empowerment:** Will faith attract or repel engaged consumers, those who focus on self-empowerment, self-organization and personalization?
- \_\_\_ 5. **Grassroots Economics:** Will congregations be enriched or threatened by bottom-up consumer control expressed through vehicles like E-Bay, Craig’s List or MeetUp?
- \_\_\_ 6. **Smart Networking:** Will pervasive Internet connectivity create hybrid churches that form community focused on spiritual formation and social mission?
- \_\_\_ 7. **Polarizing Extremes:** Will moderating forces within society be able to engage self-righteous groups in their midst, and temper their narrow points of view?
- \_\_\_ 8. **Integrated Spirituality:** Will thinking religions and developmental psychology find a way to integrate faith & reason, belief & doubt, science & religion in a turbulent world?
- \_\_\_ 9. **Health Insecurity:** Will congregations address the health care crisis with mutual exchanges and faith-based solutions to close the gap between the healthy & unhealthy?
- \_\_\_ 10. **Body Hacking:** Will faiths embrace or chase away the ‘enhanced’—those who make informed choices regarding their body’s repair, augmentation & extension?
- \_\_\_ 11. **Boomers Reinvent Aging:** Will congregations meet the rising needs of aging Boomers, while Boomers themselves work longer & postpone retirement?
- \_\_\_ 12. **Digital Youth:** Will congregations be able to accommodate themselves to digital natives, or multi-tasking emerging generations?
- \_\_\_ 13. **Urban Wilderness:** Will faiths engage swelling ethnic populations in massive urban centers, which face infrastructure strain, unemployment, and public health crises?
- \_\_\_ 14. **Digital Physical Blend:** Will people be able to maintain their spiritual identity (maybe serenity) in the face of ‘always-on’ digital lifestyles?
- \_\_\_ 15. **Dilemmas of Difference:** Will clergy and laity engage others outside their own religious tradition, or just listen more exclusively to those within whom they agree.