

The Digital Transformation of the Church: Best Practices for Digital Education

Breakout Discussion facilitated by R. John Robertson. 29th May 2020. (https://digitalcommons.spu.edu/churchdx_covid19/summit_2020/)

Welcome

This session is a chance to share some tips from SPU's experience of digital education (both in general and in response to COVID-19), share lessons we've learned, discuss responses, and ask questions that you'd like the project to address or consider.

Video conferencing tips.

Tips for teaching using Zoom: <https://wiki.spu.edu/display/ETMH/Zoom+Tips>

Tips for thinking about online security <https://wiki.spu.edu/display/ETMH/Zoom-Bombing>

Many of these tips apply to any platform. Remember, nearly every security choice makes your activity less accessible or harder to join.

Online design principles

Backwards design – What are you trying to achieve? SMART goals. Working to make sure that what you do and how you do it aligns with what you're trying to achieve.

Explain your plan in detail before and alongside any live event. Create scaffolding. Be as clear in your directions as you can be and give people something to refer to alongside what you say or do.

Develop three forms of interaction: student – teacher; student – content; student – student.

Education in church context

There's always a tension between sharing information and communal activities. How do we best promote formation?

Online feels pressured (both prep time and contact time). This can lead to you feeling pressure to prioritize content over discussion and interaction, but it doesn't have to be this way. Transformation, though an act of grace, is often prompted by interpersonal interaction, sharing context, and telling stories. Expertise is a part of this, but people also need a chance to process and talk.

SPU's remote quarter

Things we think we've learned in SPU's remote quarter:

- Clarity helps, clarity helps A LOT! We knew this, but one of the things we've heard from students is the value of a framework, objectives, and task lists for the week.
- Community, community, community. Online education tends to prioritize flexibility. In the context of this shift to remote learning, students have often chosen opportunities for community over flexibility.

Discussion

- What have you tried?
- What has worked?
- What do you have questions about?