



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY

BEING

AN INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH
A Commitment. A Vision. An Invitation.

Caring
Celebrating
Learning
Praying
Serving

... Growing in Christ Together



FOREWORD

At the heart of the Uniting Church's understanding of what it means to belong to the Church is an affirmation that every member, of every age, from every culture, no matter their gender, is called to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to be a follower of the way of Jesus. Through the gift of the Spirit, every member is equipped for their discipleship and expected to use those gifts for ministry in the world, (Basis of Union, paragraph 13).

As a Christ-centred community, the Uniting Church is called to be a place where our gathered life, our discipleship practices, our governance and our missional engagement reflect and embrace all generations. Caring, celebrating, learning, praying, serving, growing and using our gifts as followers of Jesus – together - is what becoming a more Intergenerational Church is all about.

This new document, Being an Intergenerational Church, comprises an expression of commitment, a statement of vision, an invitation to act and resources to explore. For individuals, Congregations, Presbyteries, Synods and the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia, it is an important opportunity to learn more about and to act more intentionally in becoming an Intergenerational Church.

This resource flows from the work of the Assembly Resourcing Unit and ministry specialists from around the country. Particular thanks go to Chris Barnett, Wendy Lewis, Tracie Mulia, Melissa Neumann and Jess Pinkerton for their input.

I commend this document to you and to your congregations and faith communities, to Presbyteries, Synods and the Assembly as we aim to be intergenerational communities of worship, witness and service.

Rev Sharon Hollis

President of the Uniting Church in Australia

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The Uniting Church in Australia Assembly acknowledges the sovereign First Peoples of the lands and waters where we work in locations across the country. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and to all their descendants who have cared for this place since creation.

A COMMITMENT

OUR COMMITMENT TO BEING AN INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH

“A body is made up of many parts, and each of them has its own use. That’s how it is with us. There are many of us, but we each are part of the body of Christ, as well as part of one another.” Romans 12:4,5

The Uniting Church is a community of people who are shaped by Jesus’ teaching and example, by Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be followers of the way of life Jesus demonstrated and called his disciples to. Through the Bible we hear the Word of God, our faith in Jesus is nourished and our commitment to God’s Church and God’s mission is renewed.

We believe all people are made in the image of God and deeply loved. As members of the Church, we make up the one body of Christ in which everyone’s gifts can be used to build up the Church, serve the world and witness to Christ. We encourage one another to learn and grow in connection with God, to care for each other and God’s creation, to seek justice and to live lovingly in the world.

Together we take risks, experiment and shape our Church to respond to the needs of today and those of the future. We learn from and enable diverse cultural groups within the Church to flourish together. We welcome, equip and unite the different generations in the life, ministry, decision-making and leadership of the Church.

- Our commitment to being an Intergenerational Church will be shaped by our covenantal relationship with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.
- Our commitment to being an Intergenerational Church is intrinsically related to our commitment to being an Intercultural Church.
- Our commitment to being an Intergenerational Church will honour the differing needs of ages and stages of life and provide spaces for exploring with those of similar age, as well as deliberately and intentionally seeking to build relational, holistic, intergenerational community.
- Our commitment to being an Intergenerational Church will always evidence our other fundamental commitments — being centred on Christ, being a safe place for all, a commitment to justice, mutuality and equality in the sight of God, participation in ministry of all people, valuing questions and an informed faith, connecting with ecumenical, interfaith and other partners.

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A VISION

OUR VISION FOR BEING AN INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH

Our vision is to be an Intergenerational Church where every generation is engaged together in active discipleship, growing and sharing faith in Jesus. We nurture, equip, and encourage faith and discipleship intergenerationally as communities where...

All ages are welcomed and valued equally. Faith and life are intentionally shared as all ages travel together, bringing healing, hope and reconciliation across all generations and to the whole of creation.

Relationships between different ages are intentionally created, deepened and encouraged. Relationships are marked by mutual giving and receiving. Respect and humility mark our journeying in faith together.

Safe and empowering spaces are created where the experiences, voices, and ideas of all can be listened to and valued, where transformative relationships of empathy, trust and genuine love can flourish amongst all ages.

All people, across the ages and generations, are generously invited and enabled to use their gifts and leadership to shape the community and its communal life of worship, witness and service.

Generational and cultural differences are recognised and appreciated. Respectful listening, grace-filled truth-speaking and openness to learning from one another are clearly evident.

Opportunities for age-specific gatherings and activities are considered important, especially when intergenerational engagement is encouraged within and alongside them.



AN INVITATION: DISCOVER PERSPECTIVES ON INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY

“Core to intergenerational ministry is creating, encouraging and deepening intergenerational relationships.”

Chris Barnett, National Intergenerational Consultant, UCA Assembly

“Intergenerational ministry is a way of being rather than doing. It is not a new program to be added to what the congregation is already doing, rather it is a culture change that can be effectively woven into the fabric of a congregation’s current ministry.”

Grow Ministries, Lutheran Church of Australia

“Intergenerational ministry nurtures Christ-centred community by bringing together two or more generations in planned and purposeful settings, where all are mutually invested.”

GenOn Ministries

“The aim of intergenerational ministry is to nurture spiritual growth through bringing the congregation together in ministry, worship, service and community. It is much more than simply bringing the generations into proximity with one another.”

Grow Ministries, Lutheran Church of Australia

“Intentional intergenerational strategies are those in which an integral part of the process of faith communities encourages interpersonal interactions across generational boundaries and in which a sense of mutuality and equality is encouraged between participants.”

Allan Harkness, Religious Education: Vol 95

“Intergenerational Christian formation happens when a congregation intentionally brings the generations together in mutual serving, sharing or learning within the core activities of the church in order to live out being the body of Christ to each other and the greater community.”

Holly Allen and Christine Ross, Intergenerational Christian Formation

“The practice of becoming an intentionally intergenerational and intercultural church, like any other aspirational objective in the church, has its challenges. It is critical that when we engage in intergenerational ministry, we do so with an intercultural lens and framework in mind, so that we can journey through life and ministry together. There is no hierarchy of power in God’s family.”

Rev Charissa Suli, Deputy Executive Minister, Uniting Church Presbytery, Sydney

“Every church can become intentionally intergenerational in its life, ministry, and faith-forming experiences. Five essential components of congregational life...

*Caring
Celebrating
Learning
Praying
Serving*

... are at the heart of every Christian community. When a congregation commits itself to building a culture of intergenerationality through these five elements, each element becomes a sign of and instrument for the full experience of the body of Christ by all ages and generations.”

John Roberto, Generations Together

AN INVITATION: DISCOVER

THE 'WHY' OF INTERGENERATIONAL

Why Intergenerational?

An intentionally intergenerational environment is more likely to encourage and sustain lifelong discipleship for all ages

It's about **discipleship**, learning from and following Jesus, the living out of God's good ways of justice, love and care. It's about **lifelong discipleship**, discipleship that can begin at any age and flourish for a lifetime. It's about **sustaining lifelong discipleship**, disciples of all ages encouraging one another on the discipleship journey.

Why Intergenerational?

A biblical pattern, seen in both the Old and New Testaments, theologically grounded in the relational nature of God and the church as the Body of Christ

The intergenerational nature of feasts and other significant community moments in the Hebrew Scriptures. The household/clan structures in the Old Testament and the household/church structures of the New Testament. Romans 5:12 "So we, who are many, are one body in Christ and individually we are members one of another."

Why Intergenerational?

Every generation gives, every generation receives, every generation benefits

It promotes understanding of, and respect for, people in all stages and ages of life. It uses the strengths of one generation to meet the needs of other generations, in the church community and beyond. It enhances faith formation in each generation as generations engage together in growing and expressing discipleship.

Intergenerational ministry is built upon a solid biblical and theological foundation, also taking into account key formational, educational and sociological principles and theories

Key Sources

Intergenerational Christian Formation, by Holly Allen, Christine Ross & Cory Seibel

Generations Together, by Kathie Amedi, Jim Merhaut & John Roberto

WHAT INTERGENERATIONAL IS AND ISN'T

Being intergenerational involves at least two different generations intentionally engaging together, NOT everyone being together all the time!

Being intergenerational involves valuing and respecting each generation, NOT simply focusing more on younger generations!

Being intergenerational involves different generations engaging together in respectful relationships marked by mutuality (all benefit), reciprocity (all give and receive) and the recognition that God equally values all, NOT just being in the same space at the same time!

Being intergenerational involves intentional action, the modelling and deliberate cultivation of the values, attitudes and behaviours that enhance intergenerational engagement, from all those in leadership and who have influence, NOT just those in specific roles!

Being intergenerational is primarily about creating, encouraging, and deepening relationships across generations, NOT predominantly activities, programs or style of worship!

AN INVITATION: EMBRACE

A STRATEGIC FOUNDATION FOR BEING A MORE INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH

There is no one-size-fits all plan for becoming a more intergenerational community. Each individual within a community is different. Each Congregation, each Presbytery and each Synod is unique in terms of its culture, context, resources and vision. Each will be at a particular point on the journey to becoming a more Intergenerational Church. The next steps will need to be carefully discerned for each specific context.

Being and becoming a more Intergenerational Church requires intentional action on the part of the whole Church – those in recognised positions of leadership, those who are not; those who are part of formal governance processes, those who are not; those who are acting individually, those who are acting collectively; those who are very young, those who are very old and those who are in-between.

Being and becoming a more Intergenerational Church requires a way forward that can be embraced and enacted across the smallest of Faith Communities, the breadth of Congregations, the diversity of Presbyteries, the complexities of Synods and the spread of the Assembly.

Being and becoming a more Intergenerational Church requires an approach that is simple enough to adopt, robust enough to make a difference, flexible enough to cover a range of situations and readily contextualised to a particular context...



AN INVITATION: EMBRACE

A STRATEGIC FOUNDATION FOR BEING A MORE INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH

Being and becoming a more Intergenerational Church involves...



Being and becoming a more Intergenerational Church involves...



* community in this context may mean Congregation, Presbytery, Synod or Assembly

** whilst a key responsibility of leadership teams, the whole community is ultimately responsible for its life together

AN INVITATION: ACT

BEING MORE INTENTIONAL IN BECOMING AN INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH - FIELDS AND FOCUS

Fields of action and responsibility differ across the Church. This means specific plans, processes and actions need to be uniquely contextualised by and for each of Assembly, Synods, Presbyteries and Congregations as part of being and becoming a more Intergenerational Church.

Focusing intentionally and strategically on implementation of a more intergenerational approach across each of the Focus areas of Leadership and Governance, Gathered Life, Discipleship Practices and Missional Engagement is the responsibility of Congregations, Presbyteries, Synods and Assembly, and will assist in being and becoming a more Intergenerational Church.

In each Field of Action and in each Focus Area, Growing in Understanding, Practicing Behaviours and Embedding into Processes are important...

Growing in Understanding might involve

- engaging with the resources provided in this document
- including resourcing as part of regular meetings/gatherings
- providing, or participating in, other equipping opportunities

Practicing Behaviours might involve

- intentionally connecting with generations apart from your own
- proactively creating opportunities for mixing of generations
- seeking to understand issues from the perspective of different generations

Embedding into Processes might involve

- reviewing existing processes through an intergenerational lens
- systematically refining processes to make them more intergenerational
- celebrating the positive missional and discipleship outcomes from changes

However, the most important starting point for becoming a more Intergenerational Church is becoming more intentionally intergenerational as individuals.



AN INVITATION: ACT

BEING MORE INTENTIONAL IN BECOMING AN INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH - INDIVIDUALS

Whilst the intergenerational adventure is best not taken solo, it does begin with you. Whatever your age or stage of life, whatever your place or role - official or otherwise - in the life of the church, you are a person of influence. Your attitudes, your behaviours, your interactions with others matter. You can make a difference wherever you are.

As an individual you can...

- Start wherever you are, whatever your place in your community
- Try new things, being comfortable when things don't go as planned
- Grow in your own understanding through books, websites and podcasts
- Encourage others to grow in their understanding, sharing learning together
- Find allies, collaborate together, support one another, strategically work for change
- Proactively connect with generations apart from your own, being open to different perspectives
- Be an influencer amongst those you can influence, an advocate for other generations in your context
- Engage intentionally and strategically with the structures, processes and leadership of your community

Challenging as this may sound, there is no need to go-it-alone when it comes to becoming a more intergenerational community. The United Church is blessed with a long history of what we are now naming as "intergenerational". The blessing of our long-term engagement with intergenerational ministry is that there are many people throughout our Assembly, Synods, Presbyteries and Congregations who are ready, willing and resourced to assist you with your next steps. Find out who they are in your context and engage with them!



AN INVITATION: ACT

BEING MORE INTENTIONAL IN BECOMING AN INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH - CONGREGATIONS, PRESBYTERIES, SYNODS, ASSEMBLY

Becoming a more intergenerational community requires deliberate action. In the Uniting Church context, each part of the church – Congregation, Presbytery, Synods Assembly – is primarily responsible for its own life and has particular responsibilities to fulfill. Assembly can directly influence the Assembly, each Synod can direct its own action as a Synod, each Presbytery can make decisions as to how it functions as a Presbytery and each Congregation chooses how it will live out its calling in its unique context. Becoming a more intergenerational church involves each part of the church *becoming more intentionally intergenerational in the areas it can directly influence.*

For example, in terms of *Growing Understanding*, Assembly, Synods, Presbyteries and Congregations can intentionally and strategically influence the people who are part of their own...

Membership	Staff/Leadership
Circles/Working Groups/Teams/Committees	Agencies/Entities/Programs

In terms of *Embedding Intergenerationality*, Congregations, Presbyteries, Synods and Assembly can intentionally and strategically influence the processes around their own...

Meetings-in-Council	Other Meetings	Worship Gatherings
Ministry & Mission	Planning & Decision-making	



AN INVITATION: ACT

Whilst each part of the Church is primarily responsible for its own life, each individual component is connected to the larger whole. Areas of responsibility may overlap, with each part having a different role in the process. This means collaboration and working together in partnership are essential in the life of the Uniting Church. Becoming a more Intergenerational Church involves each part of the church becoming more intentionally intergenerational collaboratively in the areas where responsibilities interconnect.

For example, regarding **Safe Church** where the Assembly has a role in establishing the overall framework, Synods collectively develop resources, Presbyteries support implementation and Congregations put policies and procedures into practice.

For example, regarding **Theological Education** where the Assembly has a responsibility for standards and policy, Synods have responsibilities in relation to Ministerial Education Boards, Presbyteries have responsibilities in relation to oversight of Candidates and Congregations have a role to play as well.

For example, regarding **Resources** for ministry and mission where the Assembly has a role in providing direction and support, Synods have a responsibility for producing and distributing, Presbyteries have a responsibility for encouraging take-up and Congregations have the opportunity to use.

Our pathway to becoming a more Intergenerational Church begins with us becoming more intentionally intergenerational as individuals and requires Assembly, Synods, Presbyteries and Congregations to become more intentionally intergenerational in the areas they directly influence and in the spaces where their responsibilities interconnect



EXPLORE: RESOURCES FOR A MORE INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH

Resource Papers: Becoming an Intergenerational Church

A collection of 1-2 page resource papers that will assist in Understanding Intergenerationality, Growing Generational Intelligence, Embedding Intergenerationality and Developing Intergenerational Practice are available at <https://uniting.church/being-an-intergen-church-papers/>.

- #1 [Toward a Common Understanding](#)
- #2 [Multi-, Cross- & Inter-generational](#)
- #3 [Eastern and Western Perspectives](#)
- #4 [Generational Intelligence](#)
- #5 [Embedded Intergenerationality](#)
- #6 [Intergenerational Discipleship](#)
- #7 [Intergenerational Worship](#)
- #8 [Intergenerational Preaching](#)
- #9 [Intergenerational Mission](#)
- #10 [More than Worship, More than Sunday](#)
- #11 [Helpful Websites](#)
- #12 [Recommended Reading](#)

Helpful Resources:

Books

Intergenerate: Transforming Churches through Intergenerational Ministry
Holly Catterton Allen (Abilene Christian University Press, 2018)

Intergenerational Christian Formation: Bringing the whole church together in Ministry, Community and Worship
Holly Catterton Allen, Christine Lawton, Cory L. Seibel (IVP Academic, 2023)

Generations Together: Caring, Praying, Learning, Celebrating, and Serving Faithfully
Kathie Amedi, Jim Merhaut, John Roberto (Lifelong Faith Associates, 2014)

A Gospel for All Ages: Teaching and Preaching with the Whole Church
David M. Csinos (Fortress Press, 2022)

Engage All Generations: A Strategic Toolkit for Creating Intergenerational Faith Communities
Cory L. Seibel (Abilene Christian University Press, 2021)

Websites

Being an Intergenerational Church (UCA)
<https://uniting.church/intergenerational>

Intergenerate (Intergenerate AUS)
<https://www.intergenerate.com.au/>

Strandz (Anglican Dioceses of New Zealand)
<https://www.strandz.org.nz/intergenerational.html>

Intergenerational Equipping Sheets (Grow Ministries)
<https://www.growministries.org.au/product/01-intergenerational/>

Intergenerational Faith Formation (LifelongFaith Associates)
<https://www.lifelongfaith.com/intergenerational.html>

Intergenerational Ministry (GenOn Ministries)
<https://www.genonministries.org/pages/why-intergenerational>

Intergenerational Toolkit (Christian Reformed Church in North America)
<https://www.crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits/intergenerational-church-toolkit>



Worship Websites

Bible Explore
<https://www.bibleexplore.nz/>

Intergen
<https://intergen.org.au/>

Mustard Seeds
<https://seedstuff.blogspot.com/>

Worship: All-Age Worship Resources
<https://www.allageworshipresources.org/>

Worship: Worshiping with Children
<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/>

Podcasts (Intergenerate Aus/NZ)

Beth Waldron Anstice: An Intergenerational journey (Intergenerate Aus/NZ)
<https://www.intergenerate.com.au/podcast/episode/1af14862/beth-waldron-anstices-intergenerational-journey>

Dave Csinos: Intentional vs. Organic (Intergenerate Aus/NZ)
<https://www.intergenerate.com.au/podcast/episode/ecdbc9b8/bonus-intentional-vs-organic-with-dave-csinos>

Christina Embree: Moving Beyond Stereotypes (Intergenerate Aus/NZ)
<https://www.intergenerate.com.au/podcast/episode/cd923a8c/bonus-moving-beyond-stereotypes-with-christina-embree>

Angela & Dion Blundell: Embracing an Intergenerational Focus (Intergenerate Aus/NZ)
<https://www.intergenerate.com.au/podcast/episode/3b04c711/embracing-an-intergenerational-focus-with-dion-and-angela-blundell>

More Intergenerate Aus/NZ Podcasts
<https://www.intergenerate.com.au/podcast>

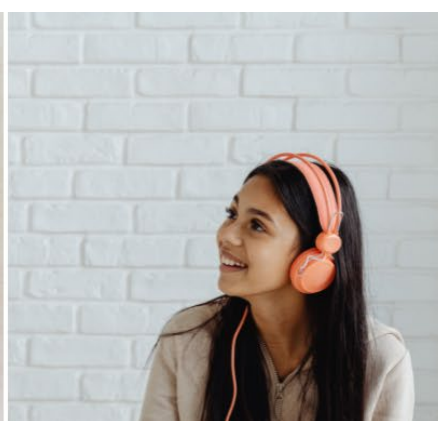
Podcasts (Effective Ministry)

Beginners guide to intergenerational ministry (Effective Ministry)
<https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/03-beginners-guide-to-intergenerational-ministry/id1470626845?i=1000552676922>

Postcards from Nashville Part1: Mimi Larson, Jason Brian Santos & Darren Phillip (Effective Ministry)
<https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/24-postcards-from-nashville-part-1-with-mimi-larson/id1470626845?i=1000618537070>

Postcards from Nashville Part2: Christina Embree, Tony Souder & Gene Roehlkepartain (Effective Ministry)
<https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/26-postcards-from-nashville-part-2-with-christina/id1470626845?i=1000620821144>

Postcards from Nashville Part3: Stacey Davis, Amy Yu & Steve Case (Effective Ministry)
<https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/28-postcards-from-nashville-part-3-with-stacey-davis/id1470626845?i=1000622326169>



EXPLORE: RESOURCES FOR A MORE INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH

Congregational Resource: More than Worship, More than Sunday

These pages are based on the original More than Worship, More than Sunday resource written by Chris Barnett, Melissa Neumann and Emma Parr.

“Intergenerationality is relevant for the whole life of the whole church. It could be thought of as a core value (something fundamental to who we are and who we are aspiring to be), an attitude or disposition (the way we approach “other”, in this case those who are different to us in age) or as part of our philosophy of ministry/ethos (the way we do the things we do). It can encompass all aspects of our life together.”

More than Worship, More than Sunday is a practical resource that offers some ideas, process and planning tips to consider as possible on the intergenerational ministry journey. It contains...

- Practical ideas
- Helpful processes
- Stimulating questions
- Thought provoking reading

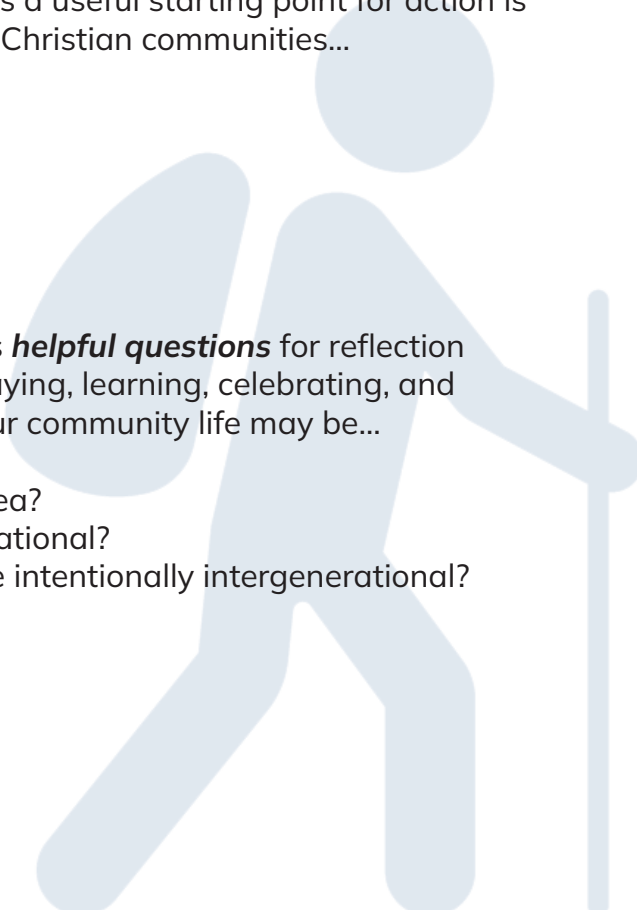
More than Worship, More than Sunday provides encouragement for ***intergenerational endeavours*** that build upon, and go beyond, the gathering of the community for worship. The key to a faith community becoming more intergenerational is the development of the value of intergenerationality across the whole life of the community. For this to become reality requires intentionality, modelling and deliberate action, especially on the part of church leadership.

More than Worship, More than Sunday suggests a useful starting point for action is in the area of shared activities common to many Christian communities...

- Caring
- Celebrating
- Learning
- Praying
- Serving

More than Worship, More than Sunday includes ***helpful questions*** for reflection and action. For each of these areas of caring, praying, learning, celebrating, and serving, some good initial questions to ask of your community life may be...

1. What is currently happening in this area?
2. To what extent is it already intergenerational?
3. How could the current activity be more intentionally intergenerational?



More than Worship, More than Sunday offers a ***simple way forward*** for becoming more intergenerational across the life of a community - be more proactive in involving a number of different people from a range of generations in the shaping and leading of community activities, and be more intentionally inclusive when it comes to participation.

Shaping what happens

Who decides? Which generations are being listened to?

Leading what happens

Which generations are being seen/heard?

Participating in what happens

How is the activity intentionally inclusive of different generations?

How are the different generational expectations being considered?

Download More than Worship, More than Sunday for...

- Tips on planning ministry that is more intentionally intergenerational
- Practical examples in relation to how churches could be more intergenerational in relation to shared Caring, Praying, Learning, Celebrating and Serving
- Useful Tools that include a Planning Worksheet and a What's Intergenerational Ministry? Handout to use as the basis for discussion within the community

DOWNLOAD: [More than Worship, More than Sunday](#)



MORE THAN WORSHIP, MORE THAN SUNDAY DISCUSSION HANDOUT

These pages are based on the original More than Worship, More than Sunday resource written by Chris Barnett, Melissa Neumann and Emma Parr.

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY IS ABOUT BUILDING AND DEEPENING INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

It is characterised by people across the generations doing life together – sharing, learning, growing, serving – in relationships marked by mutuality (we all benefit), reciprocity (we all give and receive) and equality (we are all valued equally).

Intergenerational ministry isn't something all that new. It is a re-emphasis on community, on building good relationships no matter our age, gender, culture, background or anything else. As we explore what intergenerational ministry means, we are actually exploring what living as God's people means. Being intergenerational is when people of different generations, for example from different decades, build and deepen relationships together.

AN INTENTIONALLY INTERGENERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT IS MORE LIKELY TO ENCOURAGE AND SUSTAIN LIFELONG DISCIPLESHIP FOR ALL AGES.

Being Intergenerational is...

- Not just about children, it's about people of all ages
- Not about what we do, it's about who we are
- Not something that just happens, it requires intentionality



"Generations Together" by Amedei, Merhaut and Roberto

HAVE A GO

Ask 5 people of different ages at your church:

- What do you like about church?
- Why do you attend church?
- Who do you like to see or catch up with at church?

Even better if you can have this conversation as a group!

HAVE A GO

With a few people of different ages, brainstorm ideas about how each of these areas could be more intergenerational in your church community?

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY IS FAR MORE THAN WORSHIP AND IT'S FAR MORE THAN JUST CHILDREN.

To be truly intergenerational requires the generations to be genuinely interacting and engaging together. Simply having multiple generations in the same space does not make the experience intergenerational. It might be meeting the needs of different ages, abilities and types of learners, but not actually developing intergenerational connections.

Intergenerational ministry requires specific action from those in **leadership**. It requires modelling and deliberate cultivation of the values, attitudes and behaviours that enhance intergenerational engagement. It requires leadership that is intentional in developing its understanding and practise of intergenerational ministry.

IN INTENTIONALLY INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH COMMUNITIES EVERY PERSON IS BEING ENCOURAGED TO WORSHIP GOD WITH THEIR WHOLE LIFE AND TO GROW IN FAITH.

HAVE A GO

Questions for reflection:

- What intergenerational ideas are exciting for you?
- What have you found challenging / confronting?
- What is the next step for your church community?

It's helpful to remember that people worship and serve God in different ways - we all have different gifts and needs. How do we show grace and love, and create space for the needs of others of any age, particularly those who don't know God or who are just beginning to learn about following Jesus?

HAVE A GO

Ask yourself and your ministry team:

- To what extent are multiple ages being engaged together?
- To what extent are new relationships being created and developed?
- To what extent is there diverse, embracing and collaborative leadership?
- To what extent is the environment conducive to a variety of gifts, needs and learning styles?

These questions from John Roberto¹ can be confronting. Let's ask them, though, and seriously reflect on how we could improve things on Sundays and throughout the week. Be affirmed by the good things already happening, consider what else could be done. Not in a 'change everything' way, rather a 'what's the next step?' kind of way.

[1] (John Roberto, "Best Practices in Intergenerational Faith Formation" Lifelong Faith (Fall/Winter 2007)

