

Planning for the Future

Recommendations for Moving into the Future: Projects, Activities, Initiatives

Advocacy for the Vision & Approach

1. Generational literacy: use values and understand others; be respectful of differing values, ways of thinking
2. Stress that doctrine and Bible truths can be explored and experienced in different ways
3. Storytelling: they're important, use them, help to reveal/display values
4. Help people experience intergenerational; provide opportunities
5. Uncovering and understanding roadblocks
6. Share! Share! Share!: keep the conversation going; cross denominational
7. Build a team: shared vision, self-renewal and self-advocacy is important
8. Meet with church leadership (pastors, council head), share the vision, explain the why
9. Use scripture and research to back-up intergenerational
10. Incorporate heart, head, hand in the ways we communicate
11. Short elevator speeches via video (online)
12. Learning circles/focus groups; provide references online with key questions; growing change agents
13. Tools for staff development/formation
14. Asking key leaders to witness/participate
15. Sharing stories at the denominational level, e.g., national conferences
16. Develop and modeling shared language
17. Respond to cultural trends
18. Embrace and incorporate technology
19. Celebrate successes
20. Listen to people's stories
21. Turn the numbers around: "We only had 20 people here" to "We had 7 generations here"
22. Point out the problem – change can't come without crisis
23. Honor each generation's contributions and gifts
24. Recognize that if you change the median age, you can (and must) change the culture
25. Magnify the value of relationships
26. Utilize the digital shift (Americans spend more time on phones than on TV now)
27. Celebrate what's going right
28. Allow people to consider what their legacy of faith will be
29. Model fruitful intergenerational conversation
30. Let go of what doesn't matter
31. Create the needs (awareness) for lifelong faith growth
32. Share our stories/Jesus stories across the lifespan
33. Draw-in key community leaders to advocate
34. Tie spiritual hungers to spiritual life of the church community
35. Lifting up inspiring models of ministry – regionally; modeling intergenerational session at large scale in-service workshops

Developing Intergenerational in a Faith Community

1. Start small, invite, natural growth: encourage those who are in to share impact stories – to others, to leaders
2. Bold decision to change model, eliminate classroom style
3. Geographic intergenerational clusters – by neighborhood, city, region, etc.

4. Find and affirm what is already being done – name it
5. The power of rituals – use them
6. Match material with what is being preached
7. Intergenerational retreats – specific invite by generation
8. Intergenerational conversations within intergenerational gatherings
9. Worshipful catechesis
10. Use outside voice to communicate
11. Pairing groups of varied ages to plan/implement events
12. Bigger than faith formation – helps create culture
13. Affirm what you're already doing; bring awareness to intergenerational already occurring
14. Start a conversation: Who do we include? How do we gather thoughts and spark ideas?
 - Stories, videos, data, 2 minute testimonials; identify and lift up the intergenerational aspects of congregational life; children and adult spiritual needs comparison; assessment tools, faith webbing
15. Professional and lay leadership, potential new leaders with vision, parents, and grandparents
16. Planning team/work group should represent all generations

Networking and Support Intergenerational Leaders

Networking

1. Web connections/resources
2. Shared annotated bibliography
3. Human connection; YouTube, audio, in-person sharing of stories
4. Certification standards of IFF
5. A professional association (own or presence in other organizations): unified voice, sponsor scholarship, further study/leadership
6. Mentor-mentee set-up
7. "Push" notifications: newsletters, etc.
8. Cross-denominational communications
9. Free exchange of speakers to share wisdom
10. Mining the resources that support vision: Bible, church examples, writings, etc.
11. Informal clustering: sharing joys/challenges, networking
12. Local networking: start with email list (we need to start with this); within own tradition and across denominations
13. Identify existing local and national organizations' networks to check-out; get on agenda for discussion to meet others (organizations that have related connections)
14. Uniform evaluation form for people use in different churches
15. Create document: "Top 10 Myths of IFF Debunked"

Supporting

1. Qualified dialogue with leadership at diocesan/regional/national levels
2. Alliances with similar visions
3. Mentorship / spiritual direction
4. Spiritual self-care
5. Online retreat for leadership formation
6. Building alliances with publishers
7. Regional/national leadership should walk the talk and be held accountable for supporting what they promote as the vision/mission of the church
8. More learning opportunities
9. Annual retreat

10. Foundation for support from “above” begins in seminary
11. Invite seminary to events
12. Personal testimony from participants
13. Support in job for us to take the time to connect, welcome, building relationships

Training & Educating Leaders

1. Webinars: recorded
2. Seminarians: need introduction to concept of IFF
3. Communities of practice: peer learning, experiencing, on-site and digital
4. Immersion experiences: observe, participate – in places where they practice IFF
5. Mentoring/Coaching: generate list of people willing to serve in this capacity; teams of traveling troubadours
6. Create a website specifically for this
7. Create short memos for distribution with best practices, testimonials
8. Holistic training/integrated: face to face, followed by mentoring, webinars, and resources
9. Cluster of church groups; relationship groups
10. Seminary connections: how can it become part of their culture; summer classes – Christian education
11. Network of trainers to share ideas, stories, successes/failures
12. Training leaders: identify needs/culture
13. Encouraging denominations to do their own pieces