

THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERGENERATIONAL FAITH FORMATION

John Roberto
Vibrant Faith

Throughout Scripture there is a pervasive sense that all generations were typically present when faith communities gathered for worship, for celebration, for feasting, for praise, for encouragement, for reading of Scripture, in times of danger, and for support and service...

To experience authentic Christian community and reap the unique blessings of intergenerationality, the generations must be together regularly and often—infants to octogenarians.

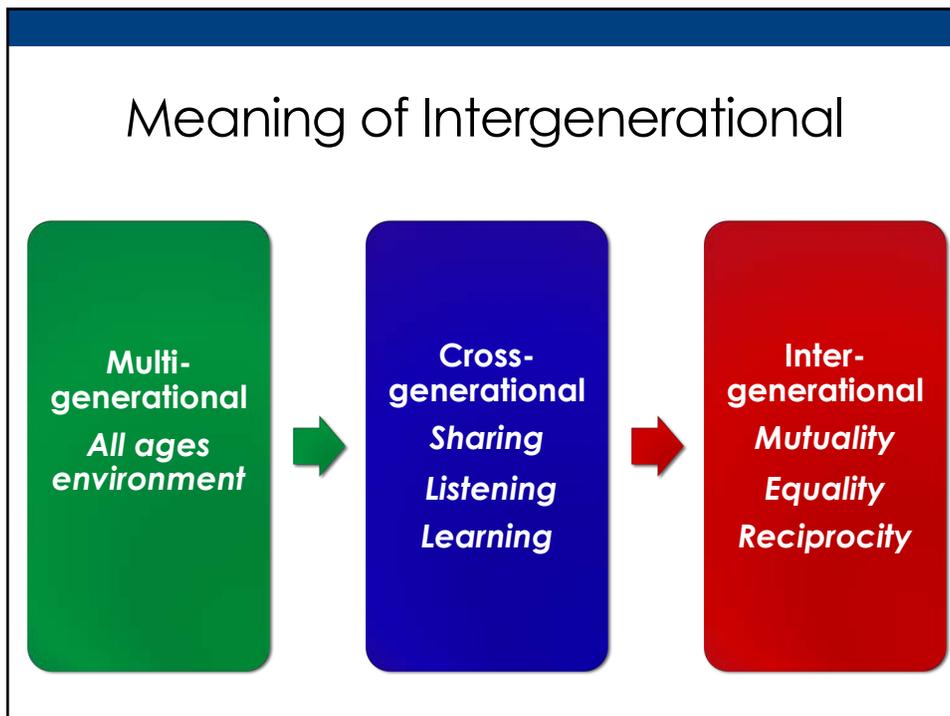
(Intergenerational Christian Formation, Allen and Ross, 84)

. . . . The best curriculum for forming children, youth, and anyone else in Christian faith is guided participation in a community of practice where people are vibrantly, passionately risking themselves together in lives of faith in a world crying out for the love of Christ.

(Joyce Mercer)

Guided participation in a community of practice puts a premium on both participation and practice. . . . We become Christian, taking on the identity of one who is a disciple of Jesus, by acting the way Christians act, and by talking the way Christians talk. Over time through practice, even our hearts and minds are formed in this way of life.

(Joyce Mercer)



Intergenerational Impact

Churches engaged in . . .

- ◆ Intergenerational learning:
monthly, bi-weekly, weekly, seasonal/occasional
- ◆ Intergenerational service projects or mission trips
- ◆ Intergenerational retreats or camps
- ◆ Intergenerational mentoring
- ◆ Intergenerational Bible study

Intergenerational Impact

1. Strengthens relationships among people of all ages, enhances their sense of belonging to the faith community, and increases participation in church life.
2. Has a positive effect on both the older and young populations involved by creating intentional opportunities for young and old to meet together, to share stories, or to create something together.
3. Affirms each person's value in the total community (regardless of age), and promotes understanding of shared values and respect for individuals in all stages and ages of life.

Intergenerational Impact

4. Creates a welcoming and safe environment conducive to promoting faith sharing, group participation, mutual support, and care for one another.
5. Supports families by surrounding them with a community of faith and engaging the whole family in learning and practicing their faith.
6. Helps people learn the beliefs and practices of the Christian faith as they participate with more experienced members of the church community.

Intergenerational Impact

7. Promotes a community where generational differences can be transcended rather than reinforced, where generational understanding and positive intergenerational relationships can be experienced.
8. Forms and strengthens Christian commitment.
9. Provides parents with opportunities to learn from Christians who are practicing their faith.
10. Incorporates real-life application of learning.

Growth of Intergenerational



Moving toward Intergenerational

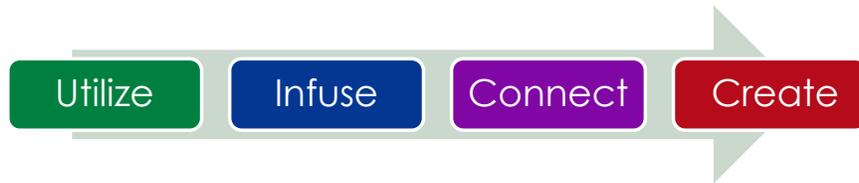
- ◆ Learning
 - seasonal
 - monthly
 - biweekly
 - weekly
- ◆ Sunday Worship
- ◆ Church Year Seasons
- ◆ Retreats
- ◆ Camps
- ◆ Service & Mission Trips
- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Community Life
- ◆ Leadership

Age Segregated

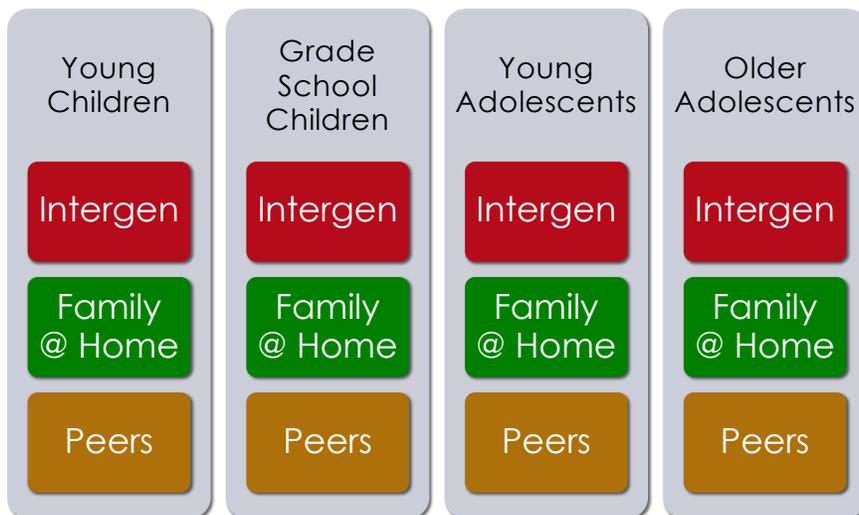
Multiple
Generations

Intergenerational

Moving toward Intergenerational



Future: Designing Faith Formation

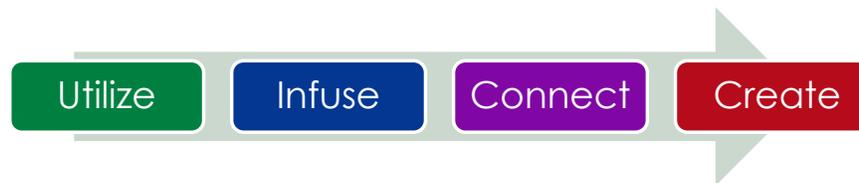


Future: Intergenerational in the Community

- ◆ Connecting the young and the old (like a preschool in a nursing home)
- ◆ Establishing a center for all generations in the community
- ◆ Fostering communication and understanding across generations
- ◆ Creating mentoring relationships

PART 2. WORKSHOP

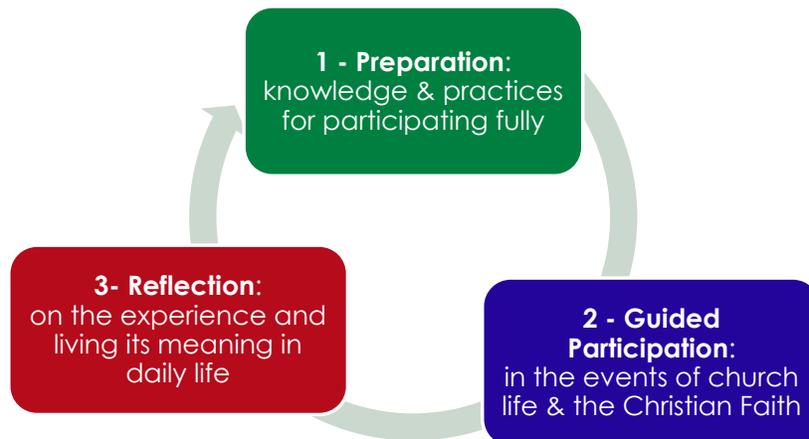
Become Intentionally Intergenerational



Intergenerational Approaches

- ✦ **Utilizing** the intergenerational events and experiences of church life (community life events, worship and the lectionary, seasons of the year, service and mission projects, prayer and spiritual formation) as a primary “content” in faith formation.
- ✦ **Infusing** intergenerational experiences and relationships into existing programs and activities.
- ✦ **Connecting** the generations through intergenerational programs and experiences that bring together all of the generations for learning, celebrating, praying, reading the Bible, serving and working for justice, and worshipping.

Utilizing Events



Infusing Intergenerational

Infusing intergenerational experiences and relationships into existing programs and activities, such as bringing mature adults into children and youth programs for interviews, storytelling, and mentoring; and transforming age-group programs (vacation Bible school, service projects) into intergenerational experiences.

- ◆ Worship
- ◆ Service projects and mission trips
- ◆ Age group learning programs
- ◆ Social / community program
- ◆ Sacramental preparation

Connecting Generations

1. Incorporate intergenerational dialogues into programming
2. Develop mentoring relationships
3. Involve the community in praying for each generation,
4. Organize social and recreational activities that build intergenerational relationships
5. “Intergenerationalize” age-group programming
6. Integrate intergenerational programming into an age-group program plan and calendar
7. Offer service projects and mission trips for all ages
8. Offer simple, one-time intergenerational experiences: arts, music/concerts, drama, social events, service projects, sports, educational experiences

Creating Intergenerational Programs

1. Intergenerational Service
 - Intergenerational Mission Trips
 - Churchwide Service Day
 - Intergenerational Monthly Project
 - Intergenerational Service Nights
 - Intergenerational Service Projects
2. Intergenerational Learning
 - Weekly or Bi-Weekly
 - Monthly
 - Seasonal
 - Small Group & Large Group

Intergenerational Learning

1. As the faith formation curriculum for the whole community
2. In Lectionary-based catechesis
3. In sacramental preparation
4. In Vacation Bible School
5. In parent-child and parent-teen programs
6. In milestone celebrations
7. In intergenerational service projects
8. In liturgical season celebrations
9. In a retreat experience or parish mission

Intergenerational Learning

Elements of LOGOS
In local churches, LOGOS teams build intergenerational relationships between young people and caring, Christian adults of all ages through a four-part weekly format:

ACTS 2:42^[NRSV]
They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers.

Bible Study: A time for each grade, or a combination of grades, to study the Bible as the model for Christ-centered living. Churches can use non-denominational curriculum developed by GenOn for LOGOS (either "Faith for Life" or our high school Bible studies) or something of their own choosing.

Family Time: The shared meal is a time to gather regular "table families" of various ages who eat together each week for the entire program year. Kitchen teams prepare dinners that are served family style—with table settings and serving dishes—practicing the art of serving one another.

Worship Skills: Choir, drama, bells, or other arts are rehearsed at LOGOS and then presented regularly in corporate worship. Each church decides the best fit with its own liturgy and worship style.

Recreation: All have great fun in a cooperative atmosphere, often drawing on the hobbies and interests of adults in the congregation willing to share their passions on a one-time basis or longer.

Elements of LOGOS

1. Bible Study
2. Family Time
3. Worship Skills
4. Recreation

GenOn Ministries

www.genonministries.org

Faith Inkubators Cross-Gen

- Model 1. Blending Worship Elements into Education
- Model 2. Blending Educational Elements into Worship
- Model 3. Creating Cross-Generational Communities around Worship
- Model 4. Creating Missional *Oikos* Communities (small communities)

www.messychurch.org.uk



Intergenerational Learning



- A flexible, relaxed arrival time with drinks and snacks
- Creative exploration of a Bible story/theme through creative experiences for people of different learning styles and of all ages. Children and adults are not separated and are encouraged to explore the story/theme together
- A short but explicit time of worship with story, music and prayers that builds on the creative exploration.
- A generous welcome and hospitality is expressed through a delicious home-cooked, sit-down meal with others

Whole Church Faith Formation



Whole Church Faith Formation

Advent	Jesus the Messiah
Christmas – Epiphany	Divinity of Jesus
Lent	Journey with Jesus
Good Friday	Death of Jesus
Easter Season	Resurrection
Pentecost	Mission of the Christian
Sunday Readings	Ministry of Jesus
Sunday Readings	Identity of Christ

Whole Church Faith Formation

Baptism	Celebrations of Baptism, Baptism of the Lord, Easter Season
Confirmation	Celebration of Confirmation, Pentecost
Eucharist	Sunday, First Eucharist, Holy Thursday, Corpus Christi
Reconciliation	Lent, Reconciliation Services
Anointing of the Sick	Celebration of Sacrament, February Lectionary Readings (Cycle B)
Marriage	World Marriage Day, Holy Family Sunday
Orders	Vocations Day

Intergenerational Learning

Intergenerational Learning Model

(James White)

1. In-Common All Ages Experiences
2. Parallel Learning
3. Contributive Occasions
4. Interactive Sharing

Intergenerational Learning Process

Meal and Community Building

Part 1. Gathering and Prayer

Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience

Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience

Option 1. Whole Group (together)

Option 2. Age Group (parallel)

Option 3. Activity Center

Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and

Home Application

Part 5. Closing Prayer

Liturgically-Centered St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Acton, MA

1. September: Stewardship - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Luke 16: 19-31)
2. October: Pray Always - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Luke 18: 1-8)
3. November: Last Things and Heaven - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Luke 21: 5-19)
4. December: Mary - Immaculate Conception (Luke 1: 26-38)
5. January: The Baptism of the Lord (Matthew 13-17)
6. February: You are the Salt of the Earth - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Matthew 5: 13-16)
7. March: The Temptation of Jesus - First Sunday of Lent (Matthew 4: 1-11)
8. April: Palm Sunday (Matthew 26: 14-27)

Thematic Holy Infant Catholic Parish, Durham, NC



Navigating Life with GPS – God's Proven System

Gatherings for 2009-2010

<i>Rules of the Road – God's Commandments</i>		
Wednesday	September 9	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	September 10	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	September 11	5:45-8:30pm
<i>Respect and Protect All Life</i>		
Wednesday	October 14	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	October 15	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	October 16	5:45-8:30pm
<i>Give Way with Mercy and Forgiveness</i>		
Wednesday	November 18	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	November 19	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	November 20	5:45-8:30pm
<i>Stay on the Straight and Narrow Path of Fidelity</i>		
Wednesday	February 3	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	February 4	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	February 5	5:45-8:30pm
<i>Navigating with Integrity and Honesty</i>		
Wednesday	March 10	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	March 11	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	March 12	5:45-8:30pm
<i>Be a Good Steward of All God's Gifts</i>		
Wednesday	April 14	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	April 15	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	April 16	5:45-8:30pm

*Wednesday & Friday Gatherings are for all ages.
Thursday Gatherings are for adults & teens.*

Christian Practices

1. Caring for the Body
2. Celebrating Life
3. Discernment
4. Dying Well
5. Eating Well
6. Forgiving
7. Hospitality
7. Keeping Sabbath
8. Managing Household Life
9. Participating in Community
10. Praying
11. Reading the Bible
12. Transforming the World.

WIDER COMMUNITY

The Atlantic
The Preschool Inside a Nursing Home

For the elderly residents, interacting with the kids is a jolt back to the world of the living.



A still from Evan Briggs's documentary, *Present Perfect* shows an elderly resident doing a puzzle with preschoolers.
Evan Briggs

TIFFANY R. JANSEN | JAN 20, 2016 | EDUCATION

Community Center



KidStreet
PlayCenter

"Have fun & make memories!"
Monday - Saturday 9am - 4pm
Holiday Hours: Thanksgiving 11/21 9am-4pm, 11/22 & 11/23 closed
Christmas 12/24 & 12/25 closed
New Years 12/31 & 01/01 closed

HOME ABOUT WHAT'S INSIDE OUR PROGRAMS MEMBERSHIP & RATES BIRTHDAYS CONTACT US

TEACHING FAMILIES HOW TO PLAY AND GROW TOGETHER

DAILY ACTIVITIES

Cross-Generational Relationships

Generational Storytelling



Generational Communication

<p>MODULE 1. UNDERSTAND <i>why generational trends matter</i></p> <p>In this eye-opening 2-hour session, you'll get to know each of the generations in the workforce and learn how to engage them. Takeaways include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How and why demographics are disrupting the workplace • How the unique journey of each generation has impacted its perspective - and where those perspectives synergize and misalign. • How to respectfully communicate with, lead, and motivate members of all generations <p>TOOL Generations at a Glance Guide</p>	<p>MODULE 2. APPRECIATE <i>and leverage generational diversity</i></p> <p>In this 2-hour session, you'll learn and apply practical strategies to harness the collective strengths of all generations in the workplace. Takeaways include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard questions your organization should ask • How to evaluate and shift bias and see others in a more positive light • How to leverage generational diversity and create a culture where everyone thrives • What others are doing to create intergenerational advantage <p>TOOL Generational Fluency Mindset Guide</p>
<p>MODULE 3. COMMUNICATE <i>so everyone can hear and understand</i></p> <p>In this 2-hour session, you'll learn how to translate your message clearly across generational and cultural lines. Takeaways include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies to ensure your personal effectiveness as a communicator • Targeted messaging, channels, and visual approaches to reach each generation • Universal communication and messaging techniques that engage all generations <p>TOOL Generational Translation Guide</p>	<p>MODULE 4. ADAPT <i>and transfer knowledge among generations</i></p> <p>In this 2-hour session, you'll use demographics to forecast the future and evaluate where you need to adapt to ensure a flourishing organization. Takeaways include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divergent thinking and change readiness mapping for the future • Knowledge transfer best practices • Practices to honor established generations, empower emerging generations, and ensure your company's legacy <p>TOOL Knowledge Transfer Guide</p>

PRINCIPLES & PRACTICES

Principles: Christian Identity

1. Through IFF Christian commitment is formed and strengthened as persons develop relationships and actively participate in intergenerational faith communities that teach, model, and live our the communities' beliefs.

Principles: Christian Identity

2. Through IFF people learn the ways of the community of practice as they participate authentically and relationally with more experienced members of the culture; people learn Christian ways from more experienced members of the culture through intergenerational Christian communities.

Principles: Christian Identity

3. Through IFF people identify with their community of practice as they are allowed to participate legitimately in the activities to be learned – as children and new believers (and others) participate in relational community doing “Christian” things with those further down the road, they come to identify with the believing community.

Principles: Community

4. IFF strengthens and creates new relationships among people of all ages, enhances their sense of belonging in the faith community, and increases participation in church life.

5. IFF promotes a community where generational differences can be transcended rather than reinforced, where generational understanding and positive intergenerational relationships can be experienced.

Principles: Community

6. IFF affirms each person's value in the total community (regardless of age), and promote understanding of shared values and respect for individuals in all stages and ages of life.

7. IFF fosters a climate that includes valuing, nurturing, and employing the gifts of every person from young to old.

Principles: Community

8. IFF creates a welcoming and safe environment – of warmth, trust, emotional safety, acceptance, and care – conducive to promoting faith sharing, group participation, mutual support, and care for one another in the congregation and in the community.

Principles: Developmental

9. IFF addresses the social and developmental needs of age groups, and speaks to the relevant concerns and challenges people face today within the context of intergenerational community and experiences.

Principles: Developmental

10. IFF addresses the variety of faith styles and religious experiences of people in the congregation by engaging people of all ages in a variety of activities that are developmentally-appropriate, experiential, multi-sensory, interactive, and participatory.

Principles: Developmental

11. IFF settings are authentic, complex learning environments, made up of individuals at various stages in their faith journeys, teaching some and learning from others as they participate in their community of believers.

Principles: Learning & Growing

12. IFF encourages faith growth and practice in all generations and provide “up close and personal” formation in faith as children, teens, young adults, middle-aged adults, and older adults engage in sharing faith, teaching, learning, serving, celebrating, and praying for one another.

Principles: Learning & Growing

13. IFF has a positive effect on both the older and young populations involved by creating intentional opportunities for young and old to meet together, to share stories, to create something together or merely to talk which can be mutually beneficial and bless the whole body of Christ.

Principles: Learning & Growing

14. IFF supports families by surrounding them with a community of faith and engaging the whole family in caring, celebrating, learning, praying, and serving together; and providing parents with opportunities to learn from Christians who are practicing their faith and raising faithful children.

15. IFF equips people to live their faith in daily life, and engages them in service to others, locally and globally.

Principles: Leadership

16. IFF is led by congregational leaders who embrace a collaborative, team-based, and empowering style of leadership; and have a shared vision of an intergenerational church.

17. IFF ministries and programming is facilitated by teams who work collaboratively in designing and conducting programming, and are well-prepared and supported in their ministry.