

The Future of Intergenerational Christian Faith Formation

A National Symposium

October 9-11, 2014 - Avon Farms Hotel, Avon, CT

Goals

- Identify guiding principles for intergenerational ministry and faith formation.
- Explore a diversity of models of intergenerational community, learning, prayer, service, worship.
- Develop directions and strategies for the future of intergenerational ministry and faith formation.

Interviews

We will be conducting 5-minute audio interviews throughout the Symposium as part of the record of the event. If you are interested in sharing your intergenerational story, sign-up for a time.

Meeting Rooms

- Towpath Ballroom – All Sessions (Main Level, next to Atrium)
- Jackson Suite – Group Meetings (Main Level, across from Fitness Center)
- Riverdale Room – Group Meetings (Lobby Level/Front Desk)
- Northington Room – Group Meetings (Lobby Level/Front Desk)
- Terrace Room and Main Dining Room – All Meals (Main Level, next to Towpath Ballroom)

Schedule

Thursday, October 9, 2014

1 pm Opening / Introduction / Overview of Process
Opening Prayer Service

Session 1: The Growth and Development of Intergenerational Ministry & Faith Formation

1. Overview of Major Contributions to Intergenerational Thinking
2. What We Have Seen & Heard - Holly, Jim, Kathie
3. Storytelling in Generational Groups
 - How did you get involved in intergenerational ministry and faith formation? What motivated you?
 - How has intergenerational faith formation and ministry evolved in your congregation (or the churches you serve) since you became more intentional about intergenerationality?
 - What impact has intergenerational faith formation had on 1) the leaders, 2) those who are participating, and 3) on the faith community as-a-whole?
4. Publishing Results: Key Insights from the Small Groups

5:00 Break

5:30 pm Dinner

- 6:30 pm **Session 2: Models of Intergenerational Ministry and Faith Formation**
1. Overview of Models of Intergenerational Ministry & Faith Formation
 2. Effective Models, Approaches, & Programs We Have Created/Seen - Holly, Jim, Kathie
 3. Group organized by five Elements of church life: Caring, Celebrating, Learning, Praying, Serving
 - Surface models, approaches, and programs for your element (or integration of multiple elements)
 - Write the models and brief description on newsprint.
 - Identify the factors that make these models, approaches, and programs effective.
 4. Publishing Reports: Models and Effectiveness Factors

9 pm Close

Friday, October 10, 2014

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am **Morning Prayer**

Session 3: Principles for Intergenerational Ministry and Faith Formation

1. Important Principles for Intergenerational Ministry & Faith Formation from Research and Experience - Holly, Jim, Kathie
2. Survey Results on Principles for Intergenerational Ministry and Faith Formation
3. Kindred Ministry Groups: pastors, faith formation leaders, youth ministry leaders, publishers, seminary professors and trainers/consultants, and more
 - Use the survey research and the Resource Team presentations to affirm, add, and/or revise the principles that guide the practice of intergenerational ministry and faith formation. Consider areas such as 1) foundational principles, 2) relational/community principles, 3) learning/programming principles, and 4) leadership principles. Write on newsprint.
 - Identify examples of these principles in practice using the models, approaches, and programs identified earlier. Write on newsprint.
4. Publishing Reports

12 noon Lunch

Session 4: Envisioning the Future of Intergenerational Ministry & Faith Formation

1. Images of the Future - Holly, Jim, Kathie
2. Creative Activity: Images of the Future (in generational groups from Session 1)
 - Develop your own personal images of the future of intergenerational ministry and faith formation in art, symbols, words, etc.
 - Share your image(s) with your group
 - Work together to weave the individual images into an integrated group vision (on a large sheet of newsprint).
3. Viewing Images of the Future
4. Finding Common Images or Characteristics of the Future

- Work as a group to identify themes for an emerging vision of the future of intergenerational faith formation and ministry that emerge from the work of the whole group.

5:00 Break

5:30 pm Dinner

6:30 pm **Session 5: Developing Strategies for Bringing the Future to Life**

1. Reporting on Common Themes
2. Reviewing Common Themes for the Future Intergenerational Ministry & Faith Formation - Holly, Jim, and Kathie
3. Creating Strategies for the Future
 - Select one of themes developed for the future of intergenerational faith formation and ministry and join that group.
 - Develop strategies for bringing the theme to life. Write one strategy per Post-it Note.
 - Post the strategies on newsprint and cluster similar ideas.
4. Viewing Reports from the Strategy Groups & Adding Your Strategies to Other Themes using a Post-It Note.

9:00 pm Close

Saturday, October 11, 2014

7:30 am Breakfast

8:30 am **Morning Prayer**

Session 6: Implementing Strategies for the Future

1. Designing the Future - Holly, Jim, Kathie
2. Building an Agenda for Action: In Work Groups from Session 5, develop practical ways that the strategies can be implemented in a variety of settings.
3. Reporting Highlights from the Agendas for Action
4. Projecting Next Steps: From the Symposium to Action

11:30 am **Close**