

I. Introduction

- A. Stories of Youth Ministers
- B. Examples of experience in and out of *intergenerational* churches.
 - 1. FCC
 - 2. FBC
 - 3. Catholic

II. Agenda

- A. What do I want to happen in this session?
 - 1. Goal: To instill a sense of desire to know more.
 - 2. Two semesters of Religious Education in 1 hr. 15 min.
 - 3. Exercise to start thinking about the reality of the issue.

III. What do I mean when I say *intergenerational church*?

- A. The church meets the needs of all people.
 - 1. The church is attentive to the needs of children, youth, young adults, adults, and older adults.
- B. All ages belong and have ownership in the church.
 - 1. There is partnership in activities, worship, learning, decision making, and responsibilities.
- C. We do this through Christian Education.

IV. What is *Christian Education*?

- A. Faith Development
 - 1. Tradition – Transmits tradition, Teacher/Student relationships.
 - 2. Church/Community – place of the church / roles within the church; acolytes, ushers, deacons.
 - 3. Person – Christian story becomes your story.
 - 4. Earth – *Green* the church.
 - 5. Family/Home – (Happens at home) Helps families become sacred shelters. Parenting classes, marriage classes, support groups.
 - 6. Justice/Mission – Action/Reflection/Action.
Introduce a social wound/Explore it/Take action (outside church).
- B. All of these work together to form an educational environment/faith community

V. Faith Community in an *intergenerational* setting.

A. Intentional towards younger generations, but serves all.
Mutually beneficial.

B. Characteristics

1. Not an entertainment resource, but a relationship resource.
2. Partnership not Instructorship. Mentor Roles
 - a. 6-11 year olds need learning through doing. Abstract thinking comes later.
 - b. Four Adults. (Consider economic restrictions for parent child interaction.)
 - c. Peer Pressure vs. Parental Influence.
3. Open Discussion.
4. Environment of Trust.
5. Church becomes home to children and they continue through adolescence and into adulthood.
6. Becomes a model for Home Life/Creating Habits.

VI. Resources

A. Books Available for Purchase

1. Models of Faith Development.
2. Practical Models of Programs.
3. Narratives for Understanding Points of View.

B. Bibliography

VII. Exercise

One person, who has experience working with youth, will be taking on the role of a teenage girl. The group will have a discussion with the girl about what is going on in her life. Try to be receptive to her opinions and share honestly with her about your thoughts and experiences as they relate to her thoughts and experiences.

After time is called, a time of silent reflection will take place. Ask yourself the following questions:

1. How was this conversation like or unlike experiences in your past?
2. How is this compared to your church environment today?
3. How would you like your church environment to be in the future?
4. What steps can you take to make that future a reality?

Reporting back: Discuss your thoughts in your group. Pick one person in each group to report your experiences back to the larger group.