

AUSTRALIAN INTERGENERATIONAL ROUNDTABLE 2019

March 5-6th

Real change will be organic, fuelled by intentional resourcing."

Imagination is wasted on the timid."

"We are the Body of Christ and unless we are functioning TOGETHER across generations, cultures, different abilities, then we are just a dismembered counterfeit copy."

"Most churches today are more like Butcher shops—all the different parts present, but separate and ultimately not life-giving."

"Disciplined imagination is vital in determining ways forward."

PARTNERS PRESENT

Chris Barnett
Louise Bartlett
Tim Beilharz
Libby Horton

VIC, Uniting
NSW, Baptist
NSW, Anglican
ACT, Logosdor

Anthea Maynard
Andrew McDonough
Daron Pratt
Michael Stalley

TAS, Uniting
SA, Baptist
NSW, Adventist
QLD, Anglican

Tammy Tolman NSW, Churches of Christ
John Viles NSW, Salvation Army
Terry Williams QLD, Scripture Union

FOCUSED PRIORITIES

1. Re-visiting the "Why" of "intergenerational" in a way that speaks to the brokenness & disconnectedness in society
2. Developing a strategy for AIR in relation to encouraging intergenerational ministry
3. Identifying the "How" of "intergenerational" in terms of principles
4. Exploring the possible role of AIR in organic networking
5. Determining the future shape of AIR

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- ❖ Owned strategy
- ❖ United voice
- ❖ Resources
- ❖ Widen the conversation from children
- ❖ Way forward
- ❖ New paradigm
- ❖ Curate and summarise all that is being said

CONTINUING DEFINITION

Communities valuing all humans in intentional holistic relationships forming lifelong faith through taking the journey of life together as God's reconciled people in the Kingdom of God

CHALLENGES INHIBITING CHANGE

- ❖ Lack of resilience
- ❖ Timidity and fear of death
- ❖ Do we need to break things?
- ❖ Need for disruption and breaking
- ❖ Who is being included in decision-making?
- ❖ Lack of living out of already accepted theologies
- ❖ All ages need to be included in the process
- ❖ Working against the default to sustaining change
- ❖ Courage required to speak about the elephants in the room
- ❖ Economics of change, the cost of the shift: ...gender, money, power and race
- ❖ The system is always going to protect itself, to fight any attempt to change (flight, fight, freeze)



SERVING CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

- ❖ Resource and rally the whole church community toward developing a culture of intergenerationality
- ❖ Identify & initiate opportunities for intergenerational engagement
- ❖ Support & sustain intergenerational endeavours across the whole church
- ❖ Equip & empower all leaders and participants for intergenerational engagement



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DEVELOPING A STRATEGY TOWARDS AN INTERGENERATIONAL CULTURE

What are the key steps in the next 12 months that will assist in reaching the goal of a more intergenerational culture across Australian churches?

1. Clear articulation of terminology

Simplification around the 5 basic building blocks of an intergenerational community:

- ❖ Relational Community
- ❖ Wholistic discipleship
- ❖ Lifelong togetherness
- ❖ Intentional connections
- ❖ When we are mutual in giving and receiving

2. Fostering of organic networks

Vision:

A Network that would contribute to the expansion, uptake and understanding of an intergenerational approach, dynamic enough to meet needs, encourage information and provide opportunity for these expressions of church to grow.

A network built around a growing core that is not a centralised control group, to:

- ❖ drive and provide oversight
- ❖ be dynamic within the situation
- ❖ be intentional about the health of the network
- ❖ hover over the network, identify and respond to problems
- ❖ continue to advance the conversation

Questions being explored:

- ❖ Does a network need a website? Facebook Page?
- ❖ What is a network member?
- ❖ How would they sign up?
- ❖ Is Intergenerate (Aus) an appropriate name for such a network?
- ❖ Is AIR an appropriate body to function as the “core”?

3. Creation, curation, collation and dissemination of stories and resources that can be shared

Vision:

To identify, ‘publish’ on a digital space and disseminate

- ❖ The network..... provides validation
- ❖ Video models show how
- ❖ Tools..... make possible
- ❖ Zoom calls provide affirmation
- ❖ Real life examples..... show what can be done, doesn't have to be perfect

4. Facilitation of state-based and denominational intergenerational activity

- ❖ Promote establishment and nurture of state-based teams
- ❖ Foster opportunities within broader denominational contexts
- ❖ Intentional resourcing and encouragement of state-based teams

5. AIR initiated activity

- ❖ Regular webinars
- ❖ Annual Roundtable
- ❖ Explore the viability of a national gathering
- ❖ Production of termly newsletter

6. Connecting with and influencing academia

- ❖ Identify what is already happening
- ❖ Encourage participation in existing opportunities
- ❖ Identify and work with key advocates with-in academia to maximise influence

