

AUSTRALIAN INTERGENERATIONAL ROUNDTABLE

Resource Paper #4 | TOWARD A COMMON UNDERSTANDING

The Australian Intergenerational Roundtable (AIR) is a community of communities networking together in order to collaboratively champion the sustainable growth, development and support of intergenerational ministry across Australia.

This resource paper is one of a series that has emerged from the collective experience of the AIR participants. It is being offered to the wider community of all those who share the dream of a more intergenerational church – a church comprised of lifelong followers of Jesus, of all ages, caring, praying, celebrating, learning and serving faithfully together.

TOWARD A COMMON UNDERSTANDING

Why intergenerational?

An intentionally intergenerational environment is more likely to encourage and sustain lifelong discipleship for all ages.

Intergenerational ministry is built upon a solid biblical and theological foundation, takes into account key formational and sociological principles and is supported by developmental, social learning, ecological systems, socio-cultural, situative-sociocultural and gerontological theory.

What do we mean by intergenerational?

Being intergenerational can be thought of as...

- ❖ a core value (something fundamental to who we are and who we are aspiring to be)
- ❖ an attitude or disposition (the way we approach “other”, in this case those who are different to us in age)
- ❖ as part of a philosophy of ministry/ethos (the way we do the things we do)

...that encompasses all aspects of our life together.

Being genuinely Intergenerational can be characterised as people from at least two different generations intentionally engaging together in respectful relationships marked by...

- ❖ mutuality (all benefit)
- ❖ equality (all are valued equally)
- ❖ reciprocity (all give and receive)

What does an intergenerational culture value?

Lifelong Discipleship

- ❖ Bible-based, Spirit-seeking, Jesus-following, Mission-orientated

Inclusive Community

- ❖ Age, Gender, Culture, Ability

Genuine Partnership

- ❖ Intentionality, Accountability, Celebratory, Relational

Authentic Relationship

- ❖ Equity, Mutuality, Reciprocity, Humility

Collaborative Leadership

- ❖ Participatory, Accommodating, Diverse, Reflective

What about intergenerational ministry?

Intergenerational ministry...

- ❖ Involves the intentional creating and deepening of relationships across generational boundaries
- ❖ Occurs when generations are combined together in mutual serving, sharing, learning or celebrating as part of their living out of being the body of Christ
- ❖ Requires specific intentional action from those in leadership, including modelling and deliberate cultivation of the values, attitudes and behaviours that enhance intergenerational engagement
- ❖ Seeks the flourishing of communities in which people of all ages share in the journey of life together in intentional holistic relationships that form and sustain lifelong discipleship, embodying the call to live as God's reconciled and reconciling people