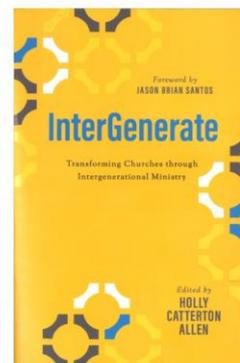


InterGenerate

Transforming Churches through Intergenerational Ministry



Building on the foundation laid by [Intergenerational Christian Formation](#), *InterGenerate: Transforming Churches through Intergenerational Ministry* is an invaluable resource that will assist your church in the development of a more intergenerational culture. This handout is part of a series that seeks to encourage you to dig deeper into [InterGenerate](#).

Ch. 14 Welcoming Emerging Adults

Holly Catterton Allen

“Emerging adults often desire authentic intergenerational relationships as they enter adulthood; they need those who are older and wiser to listen as they voice doubts and fears, negotiate peer and hierarchical relationships, and integrate who they were with who they are becoming. As we facilitate these differentiation and individuation processes, we are living out the commitment to connectedness and community to which Christ calls us.” p.185

“Common characteristics of emerging adults that impact, intersect with, or influence their spiritual journeys are that they typically seek mentors, love story/narrative, and express deep interest in social justice issues. Relationships are particularly important to them, as well as community, with the added stipulation that they desire authentic relationships and authentic community.” p.189

“One conviction and one observation have led me to two viable choices. The conviction is that the generations need to be together—infants to octogenarians, and this includes twentysomethings. The observation is that twentysomethings are sparsely represented in traditional churches. In light of this conviction and this observation, I find that I have two choices...” p.191

“Invite emerging adults to serve on leadership teams, and then listen to them. Let these twentysomethings know that you seek their ideas, their input, and that you want to hear their voices. Empower them to start ministries. Emerging adults have amazing amounts of energy and countless ideas; traditional churches need that energy and those ideas. Listen. Empower. Invite.” p.192

“It will not matter if we welcome them, listen to them, and invite their questions, and it will not matter if we are authentic and can discuss young adult faith development articulately if the powerful presence of God is not among us. Acknowledging God’s empowering presence among us and confessing our utter dependence on God draws *all* the generations together into the centrifuge of God’s grace.” p.193

Intrigued? Challenged? Want to find out more? Read the full chapter in [InterGenerate](#).

Chris Barnett July 2020



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



equipping Leadership for Mission