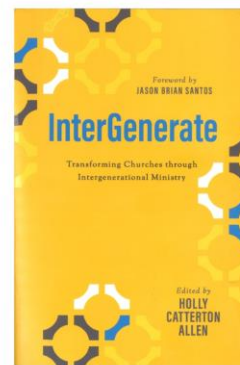


InterGenerate

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. 8 In it for the long haul

Joseph P. Conway

“Local church practitioners face an urgent need to translate enthusiasm into tangible action that differentiates between a critical reorientation and mere temporary trends. How can we develop and sustain an intergenerational vision for the long haul?” p.123

“While many Gen Xers and millennials have left church life, the remaining ones have mostly fond memories of generation-specific ministries. Academics can postulate how those strategies did not work for many; however, they worked for the very ones who are being encouraged to change. When we ask parents to move toward an intergenerational approach, we are requesting that they move away from the age-specific practices that apparently bore good fruit in their lives.” p.123

“On top of fear, intergenerational ministry creates uncomfortable scenarios...Beyond the romance and idealism of intergenerational ministry, let me be blunt about its reality. It can be really loud. It’s often chaotic. It proves messy. It may offer richness and depth - and elicit patience - but it may not be exciting and “cool.” p.124

“Every adult, teen, and child has a positive memory of an intergenerational experience. We must help them locate and name it. On top of that, we must name the problem. Thankfully, many have come to see isolated generational silos as problematic.” p.125

“To sustain the intergenerational vision over the long haul, we must anticipate challenges and respond with flexibility...We seek to respond with flexibility by over-communicating and making exceptions.” p.126

“Put simply, instead of the default being generational separation, we make the default age inclusion...The most important tool has been this: the leadership publicly and consistently embraces the vision. Our oldest, wisest members do not complain about noise; they patiently encourage younger generations that being together proves best.” pp.126, 127

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