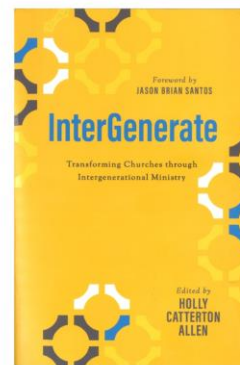


# InterGenerate

## 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. 9 Five Best Intergenerational Practices for Smaller Churches

Tori Bennett Smit

“It has been my conviction that if the focus of the congregation’s concern could be shifted away from the assumed necessity of a traditional Sunday school, they could begin to consider the more significant question: For congregations with few children, what are the best practices for ministry that will address the goal of transformational and lifelong faith formation? And in answering this question, they could also discover that their circumstance of having very few children might also offer new opportunities for a more suitable and biblically based model of faith formation.” p.132

“The church needs its children to be in worship for our body of faith to be complete. Worship is the most central practice we participate in as a church. If our children are to fully participate in the life of the church, they must participate meaningfully with all ages in worship.” p.133

“The home is the first and most natural setting for sharing faith stories and practicing living out our faith in and through the rhythms of family life...The quality of the relationship that parents have with their children has the greatest and most profound influence on their faith.” p.134

“Children and adults are drawn into stories and imagine themselves performing the acts and behaviours of the characters in them. People relate to the characters in stories, finding themselves and others in their community in them, and they begin to mirror these stories in their lives. Stories told and retold have the cumulative effect of coming together to become God’s BIG story.” p.135

“Children are excited and filled with energy when they are invited to participate with the congregation in community service activities. Helping to serve assists children in imagining and living into the kind of world of which Jesus spoke.” p.136

“Rather than assuming that most church activities will be age-segregated, churches should instead assume that most activities of the church will be intergenerational...Children need sustained relationships with adults whom they trust and with whom they share similar beliefs and values as they consider their faith together.” pp.136, 137

*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