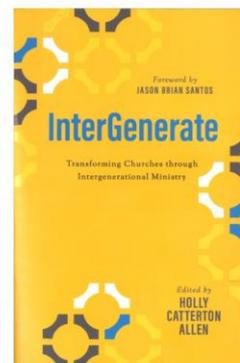


InterGenerate

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. 1 Why Now?

Jason Brian Santos

“The haemorrhaging of young people from the life of the church has profound effects. The most obvious is that the perceived future of the church is threatened. Common sense tells us that if this trend continues, ultimately, there won’t be any bodies left to fill our pews. Like all institutions, active membership is a significant indicator of vitality and longevity.” p.41

“In 2005 the (US) National Study of Youth and Religion offered evidence that not only are we doing a poor job of handing down faith to our children, but that the faith we are handing down is lacking. Teenagers were found to be largely inarticulate about their faith, lacking a religious or theological vocabulary from which to draw. While the young people interviewed didn’t have negative views about spirituality in general, their perception of Christianity painted a grim picture. The researchers asserted that we’ve handed down a faith the authors labelled Moral Therapeutic Deism.” p.42

“When spiritual formation primarily takes place alongside one’s own peers, a broad understanding of the church is distorted. Individuals begin to see themselves at the centre of the faith community rather than part of the larger whole. Church becomes one more thing to consume in our culture. When children and youth are raised in a truly intergenerational environment defined by a pattern of intentional Christian practices, they learn to understand themselves in relationship to the larger body of faith. Moreover, they begin to see their faith development isn’t isolated to a particular age or stage, but rather that it is a longer journey with all the generations traveling *together*.”

“There is truth behind Proverbs 22:6: “Train up children in the way they should go, and when they are old, they won’t depart from it.” At the end of the day, if we want our young people to be connected to the church, we must first address what’s killing it. Peer-oriented ministry cannot be, and never should have been, the primary way they are formed in the faith.” p.48

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

Chris Barnett April 2019



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



equipping Leadership for Mission