



# 10 Steps Toward Intergenerational Youth Ministry

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**Strengthening Youth ministry within  
the Intergenerational Congregation:**

**10 Down-to-Earth Practices**

# The Foundation

## Church Culture:

the ways in which the spirit of the congregation is experienced.



# The Foundation

Church culture is always there, and is one of the most influential dimensions of church life.

→ It is often ignored, but needs to be intentionally shaped.



# 1. Take Advantage of both Large and Small Generational Groupings

High School students: Juniors paired with Freshman

University students with grade 12s

Grandmothers with young moms or High school dads with Jr High dads

## Use Existing Relational Networks


Think transitionally- Grade 8's with grade 6's Or Recent grads with 30 somethings in the workplace...

## 2. Honour the Diversity of Faith Formation Wirings and Needs

A lesson from the zoo:  
God loves variety.



photo courtesy of Georgie Sharp - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/georgiesharp/2186508642>



One would think that the more we become like Christ, the more we become like one another. But in fact the opposite is true: the more we mature in faith, the more we become the unique person God created and called us to be.



(CS Lewis, paraphrased from Mere Christianity)

From shame to freedom:  
inviting uniqueness to shine





### 3. Form Official and Unofficial Group Covenants

“We don’t do that here.”

Congregations are shaped by several layers of commitments.

# 4. Create a Coaching Culture



Cast The Vision  
Chunk the task  
Stretch and Support

Have Service Apprenticeship  
Discovery Days

## 5. Practice Leadership Development

Explore Leadership Qualities

Identify Leaders

Establish Places where they can Practice

Recognize when it is Time to Step Aside

Create a Student Leadership Team for your youth ministry or Include student leaders in planning core activities...

# 6. Create a Culture of Transparent Decision Making

Who gets to Vote?

Why do we do the things we do?

Where do you go to get a “Yes”?

Does my opinion matter?

# Do I Belong?

## 6. Create a Culture of Transparent Decision Making

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

(Phil. 4: 5)

He knows my name! The joys of grace shaped power and the hundreds of little ways it is noticed.

## 7. Cultivate Righteous Risk Taking

Examines motivation and goals

Creates space for trying new things because there is plenty of grace and forgiveness in the system.

Regularly engages in the process of debrief and honest feedback.

## 8. Practice Storytelling

We are story-tellers shaped by THE story

Congregations need permission and coaching to tell their stories well.

## 9. Use Gathered Worship to Build a Culture that Spins off into Various Ministries

Worship is the quarterback of a congregation's faith formation "team"





## 10. Make a Small Structural Change

Did you ever try a renovation project without paying attention to the building's structure?

## 10. Make a Small Structural Change

Pick one step and appoint a champion who is passionate, persevering and not afraid to consult.

# Closing reflections



Q & A



# Contact information

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