



GROWING YOUNG

Iowa Learning Community

JANUARY 2020

Who are you raising up that could take over your church 10 years from now?

Overview

According to the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI), North American churches are both shrinking and aging. However, through their most recent study, *Growing Young*, FYI has unlocked six essential strategies to help any church grow young! This research based information studied over 250 congregations successfully engaging youth and youth adults. These congregations were diverse in many ways, and yet, they all were similar in six essential areas.

To help any church grow young, we've developed a yearlong learning process to help you implement these six essential strategies. Through this regional, Iowa-based learning experience, in partnership with the Fuller Youth Institute, the Reformed Church in America, and the Christian Reformed Church of North America, we wish to come alongside your congregation to help you unlock these key strategies for growing young—developing an intergenerational congregation.

This yearlong process will include:

- **Two in-person learning events** that will unlock the research behind *Growing Young*. We will experience strategic conversations and learning methods that can be directly applied in your congregations.
- **Five online webinars** that will specifically help you further engage these six strategies in your congregations
- **One year of personalized coaching** from a trained coach
- **Access to the church-wide version of the *Growing Young* assessment**, an online test that reveals growth areas around the six strategic categories of *Growing Young*

The Iowa Learning Community will work alongside you and your team to create a holistic ministry pathway that changes your church culture to emphasize the importance of intergenerational ministry.

Join us and be among the first congregations to implement this lasting change!



Cost

The cost is \$2,500 USD per church or an early bird rate of \$2,000 USD if you register by August 31. Fee includes all program elements and most meals for a team of up to four people from your church for both both learning events (additional team members attending each learning event are \$350 USD per person), all webinars, access to a coach throughout the year, and church assessments. Travel and lodging expenses are not included. Scholarships are available upon request.

Who should be involved in this change process?

We encourage each team to include four key members of the church. We recommend including your key youth leader or pastor. We also highly recommend:

- **Senior leader** (pastor or executive decision maker)—This work will involve cultural change work that will require the involvement of all leaders and decision makers, so it's helpful to include these people from the beginning.
- **Youth (19-29)**—We highly value rising leaders as decision makers. This means including them as a strong voice on your team from the beginning, allowing these voices to shape the decisions and culture changes that emerge from the Growing Young process.

What will we learn about? What is Growing Young?

Much of the content during the first learning event will revolve around understanding the six characteristics of Growing Young, including demystifying church myths that you may have heard along your ministry journey. Lead by CRC facilitators trained in Fuller's methods, we will explore further how these characteristics can be harnessed and used to unleash your intergenerational ministry:

- **Unlock keychain leadership:** Instead of centralizing authority, empower others—especially young people.
- **Empathize with today's young people:** Instead of judging or criticizing, step into the shoes of this generation.
- **Take Jesus's message seriously:** Instead of asserting formulaic gospel claims, welcome young people into a Jesus-centered way of life.
- **Fuel a warm community:** Instead of focusing on cool worship or programs, aim for warm peer and inter-generational friendships.
- **Prioritize young people (and families) everywhere:** Instead of giving lip service to how much young people matter, look for creative ways to tangibly support, resource, and involve them in all facets of your congregation.
- **Be the best neighbors:** Instead of condemning the world outside your walls, enable young people to neighbor well, locally and globally.

Registration

To register your team, please refer to the contact information below. Space is limited, and we anticipate it will fill up quickly, so we recommend you register as soon as possible. **The final deadline is December 7, 2019.**

Sample Learning Community Schedule

While some details are subject to change, the 8:30 a.m. start time on the first day and the 4:00 p.m. conclusion on the second day are firm.

Day 1:

8:30 a.m.: Check in
9:00 a.m.: Welcome, introductions, and research overview
10:15 a.m.: Session 1
12:00 p.m.: Lunch
1:30 p.m.: Session 2
3:30 p.m.: Break
4:00 p.m.: Session 3
5:15 p.m.: Dinner
6:30 p.m.: Session 4
7:30 p.m.: Dismissal

Day 2:

8:30 a.m.: Breakfast and affinity groups
10:00 a.m.: Session 5
12:00 p.m.: Lunch
1:30 p.m.: Collaboration time
2:45 p.m.: Session 6
4:00 p.m.: Dismissal

Further Questions

If you have additional questions, would like to request a scholarship, or would like more information, **please contact:**

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