

Planning a Multigenerational Sunday Service

Purpose

The purpose of this event is to create a Sunday service that speaks to the needs of all members of the congregation.

Planning Team

Representatives from each segment of your congregation need to be included on the planning team. Each person selected for the team must be willing to represent the needs of their particular segment of the congregation.

Representatives should include:

- Minister
- Music Director
- Youth Director
- Youth Ministry Teacher or Sponsor
- Adult Representatives: Choose one or more from the list below
 - Elder
 - Single Adult
 - Parent
- NGU (Ages 18 to 35)
- Teen Representatives
 - Y.O.U (High School)
 - Uniteen (Middle School)

Selecting Team Members

Representatives for each segment of your congregation can be selected by:

- Open invitation to congregation
- Personal Invitation

A 3rd Possibility is to hold a pre-planning congregational event.

Pre-planning Congregational Event

Each team will need flip chart paper, markers, sheets of paper and pens.

- Select a date (Preferably on a Sunday after Services)
- Invite the congregation to assist you in the planning of an Intergenerational event by participating in a brain storming session.

At the pre-planning event divide the participants into the following groups by inviting them to choose the group they most resonate with. The Minister & Youth Director facilitate the event.

- Music Team
- Youth Ministry Team
- Elders
- Adult
- Single Adults
- Parents
- NGU
- Teen Representatives

Each group completes the following activities.

- Select a **Scribe** – to make note of the ideas on the flip chart
- Select a **Presenter** – to share the brainstorming results with the entire congregation at the end of the brainstorming event.
- Select a **Representative** – to serve on the Intergenerational Service Planning team representing this segment of the congregation.

Brainstorming Activity

- Invite each participant to imagine that they are attending a Sunday Service and it is the best Sunday service that they have ever attended keeping in mind the segment of the congregation that they are representing. (*Minister or Youth Director can lead them into this with a visualizing meditation that invites them to vision past their current experiences into how they would like it to be.*)
- Then invite each participant to describe, within their teams, what was happening at that service. Get specific. (*Questions below are suggestions to get them started.*) The Scribe makes note of all ideas shared on the flip chart by writing everything down at this point. The list will be grouped and organized later. Make sure the segment represented is listed at the top of the flip chart (Youth Ministry, Adult, Teen, etc...)
 - How were they greeted as they entered?
 - What was the environment like?
 - Was it quiet or was music playing? If music was playing, what kind?
 - How did the service begin?
 - What was the meditation like?
 - What was the music like?
 - What format did the message have? Was it a lecture or was it interactive?
 - How long was the service?
 - Did you sit in your seat the whole time or were you moving around?
 - How connected did you feel?
 - What were some of the things that were happening?
 - How did the service end?
- Once all of the ideas are listed on the flipchart, the teams are to group the ideas into categories and designate their importance.
- Each team **Presenter** then briefly shares the results with the entire congregation. The Minister or Youth Director can make note of the similar needs/requests between the teams and also make note of the unique needs/requests of each team. These notations can also be done at the team planning meeting.
- At the end of the event each team **Scribe** turns in the notes and flip chart pages to the Minister or Youth Director. The notes and pages will be used by the Intergenerational Planning team to created the final event.
- Set a date with the team representatives for the planning team meeting.

Intergenerational Planning Team Meeting

Supplies: Flip chart pages created from earlier event; blank flip charts; markers

Since a lot of the ideas have already been generated, the planning team may need to only meet once or twice. Representatives from each of the teams participate in this meeting. It is led by the Minister and Youth Director.

- Post the flip chart pages with the ideas from each team around the room so they can be seen by everyone.
- Begin with prayer.
- Invite each team representative to read the ideas generated by their team, making special note of what they felt was the most important.
- The Minister or Youth Director lists the common elements between the teams and also notes the unique needs of each team.
 - The ideas/needs that all the groups have in common can be considered together.
 - The unique ideas can be evaluated as to whether they can work together in one Service or if they can lead to additional Intergenerational events.
- Once the ideas are all shared, group the ideas into the parts of the Sunday Service that they best fit within. *(Use the suggestions below or create your own)*
 - Pre-Service Activities
 - Environment
 - Greeting
 - Opening Activities
 - Connecting Ritual (Song/Activity)
 - Focusing (Breathing/De-stressing/Activity to bring focus to the present moment)
 - Commitment (To self growth, being present, etc...)
 - Music
 - For all parts of the service
 - Prayer/Meditation
 - The Message
 - Closing Activities
- If there are many, many ideas in each category, narrow them down to two or three choices. The Minister and Youth Director can continue to work with the team or can make the final decisions as to what to include in the actual Intergenerational Sunday Service.
- To make it a truly Intergenerational event, invite members of the planning team or other members of the congregation to present different parts of the Service.