



The Intergenerationally Sticky Church

Dr. Cory Siebel

"Intergenerational ministry occurs when a congregation intentionally combines the generations together in mutual serving, sharing, or learning within the core activities of the church in order to live out being the body of Christ to each other and the greater community." (Holly Catterton Allen and Christine Lawton Ross, *Intergenerational Christian Formation*).

Six Key Ingredients

that can help church families strengthen cohesion—or “stickiness”—between the generations.

**Connecting
Organizing**

**Harmonizing
Empathizing**

**Recognizing
Exchanging**

Discussion Questions

1. Where do you see meaningful connections taking place between younger and older people within your congregation?
2. What ministry structures within your church (e.g., programs, events, departments) help to encourage and facilitate connections between people of different ages? What structures within your church might be hindering connections between people younger and older people?
3. What practices play a key role in helping people of all ages within your church remember, affirm, and grow in their shared identity in Christ?
4. Has your congregation had any experience with people of different ages sharing their faith stories with one another? If so, what impact did you see this having? How might you create space for intergenerational storytelling within the life of your church today?
5. Can you think of any biblical passages that speak to the responsibility of younger and older people toward one another? If so, what are they? What implications might these passages have for your church?
6. Where in the life of your church do you see younger and older people sharing their gifts and talents with one another? Are there ways that you might invite the children and youth of your church to get more meaningfully involved and to contribute their gifts and talents?

