

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NETWORK PRESENTS –
Learning Strategies for Intergenerational Ministry for the Seasons

We invite you to experience the seasons of the church year with the Christian Education Network.

Our guiding statements for this experience are:

DWELL in the seasons of the church year

BUILD teachable moments for the home and congregation

EQUIP all ages for faithful living

The seasons of the church year can provide a framework for our faith formation ministries. We keep and observe the seasons in ways similar and different from the seasons in nature. Winter, spring, summer, and fall encompass Advent, Epiphany, Time after Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Time after Pentecost, centered around the holy days of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. We keep the seasons by gathering on Sundays for word and sacrament and by being sent out into the world. We also mark time by the seasons of the church year.

The seasons of the church year give us many opportunities for faith development in the home and congregation. The seasons give us markers for our life together as a worshipping community and our lives outside the church. Every time the season of the church year changes, it is a teachable moment. Our worship, outreach, learning, and fellowship help us DWELL deeply in the purposes of each season. The rhythm we live into helps us BUILD faith in and outside the congregation. Routines, celebrations, and special events change from church season to church season, just as the seasons in nature are changing. We can EQUIP all ages through practices and partnerships in our daily lives.

Our Network will curate resources for Intergenerational Ministry for the Seasons of the Church Year. Each resource can be the basis of an intergenerational ministry, at church or at home. The resources provide suggestions and ideas that can be adapted to your own setting and ministry. We will include examples and experiences from our Network members to assist you in using the resources. We have many partners in intergenerational ministry who will contribute to these Learning Strategies.

Intergenerational ministry is a ministry that can be broadly defined. It can include two or more age groups experiencing the seasons together, or several different age groups gathered for faith formation. One strategy can be to start with a pilot project or ministry, a small step towards dwelling in the season of the church year. Look at the existing age groups and ministries – how might they be brought together? Intergenerational ministry is not simply adding more events to the calendar, but using existing events and ministries in new ways. Integration is one lens that may be helpful. Look for connections, threads that weave together to form a tapestry of faith formation. Faith is built when we are in relationship with people who may be different in age and experience. We equip our faith communities when we practice together the unique gifts each season of the church year brings.

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Intergenerational Ministry through the Seasons”

LEARNING STRATEGIES FOR INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY THROUGH THE SEASONS

Celebrate what you are already doing to bring different generations together.
Look at congregational ministries and events through the lens of different generations.
Where and when and how are a variety of age groups making connections?
How might these existing ministries **dwell** in the seasons of the church year?
Are there opportunities in home and congregational life to create new conversations?

Tweak (make slight adjustments) to age specific and intergenerational ministries.
Select a pilot project or event as a focus for teaching about the seasons of the church.
Create **teachable moments** that can be experienced throughout a season.
When we move from one season to the next, be intentional about the transition.
Look for experiences and build partnerships that allow all ages to live into the seasons.

Integrate intergenerational ministry anytime people gather - teachers, leaders, mentors, families, networks, younger and middle and older ages.
Connect people with one another through practices that celebrate and engage the seasons.
A community can be created through common practices, shared interests, and people who come together to **equip each other**.
Add ministries when needed that intentionally lift up the different seasons and provide an experience or learning opportunity that creates a new network or set of relationships.