



BEING AN INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH

SAFETY FIRST...





Prayer

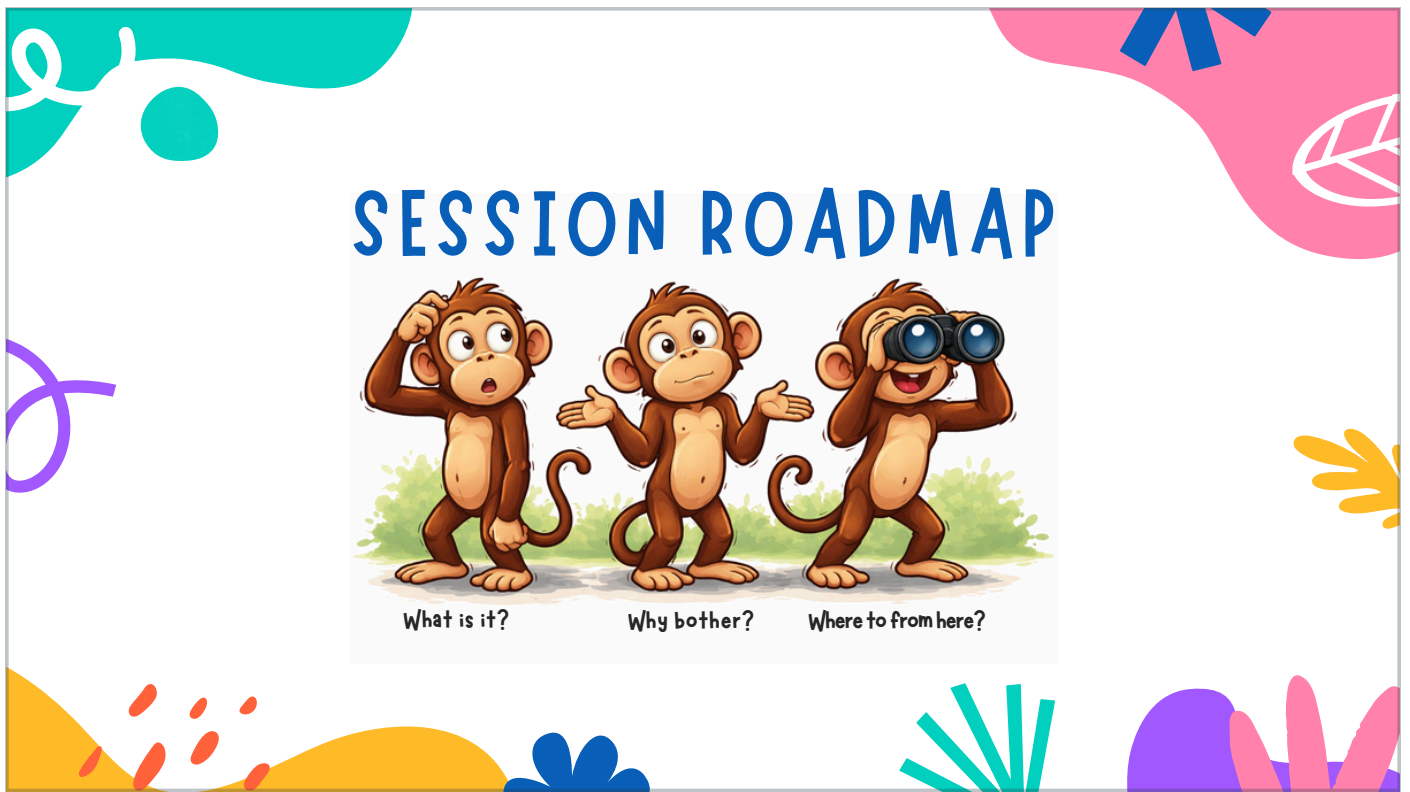
Set your intention on a post it.

Choose a card that best represents this intention.

My intention for this session is that each of you come away feeling hopeful and encouraged about the potential for intergenerational ministry in your parish, and that you have one practical next step to take action on.

The reality is you're all here on a saturday, likely against your will, and this workshop or the three available, seemed the most likely to include snacks.

At least i'll deliver on that front!



What is intergenerational church and ministry?

Why bother with it?

Where do I go from here?

As a sidenote: I am not the expert, many of you have much more experience with this than I. I have however picked the brains of experts and read up, so buckle up, it's a whistlestop tour.

WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT EXACTLY?

Look at the definition on your table, where do you agree, where do you disagree?



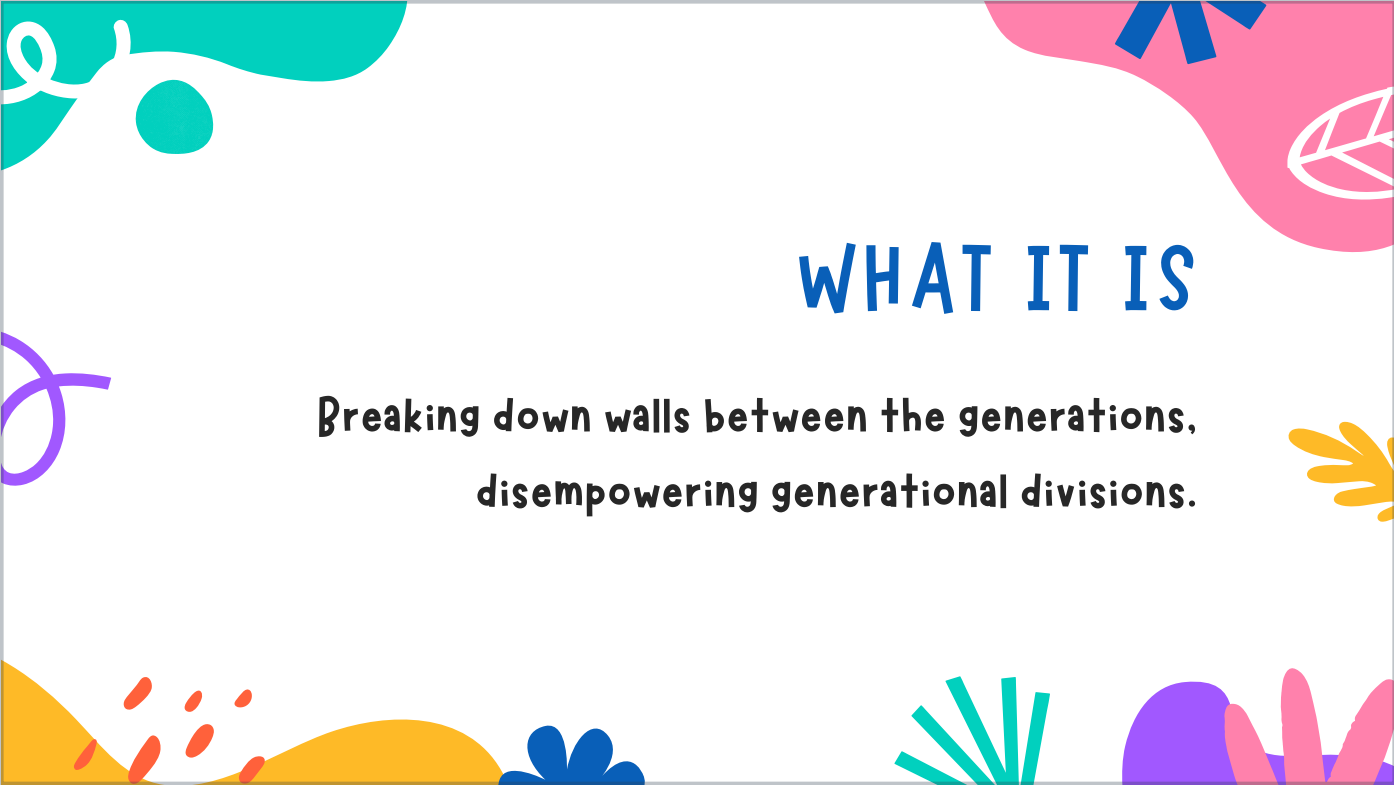
It's a buzz word!

Is there more than buzz?

Check out the definitions, write/tweak/chop to make them your own.

We have all experienced these wonderful moments, where bridges of division break down and we share a beautiful moment of holy connection with someone radically different to us. In those moments you maybe found surprising things in common with someone, maybe you heard or felt God move.

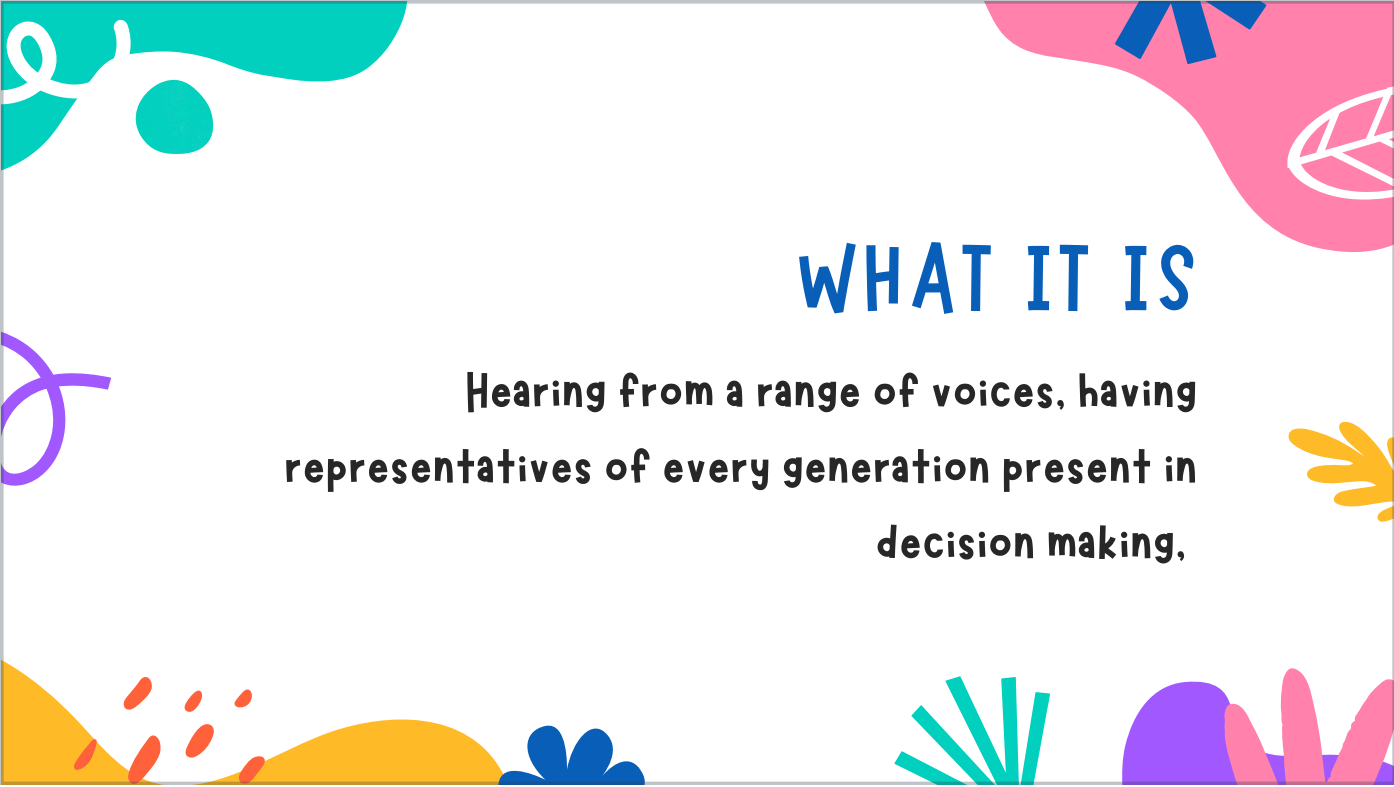
Essentially when we are talking about intergenerational ministry and church today, that's what we are talking about. Intentionally bringing the generations together to mutually serve and love one another.



WHAT IT IS

**Breaking down walls between the generations,
disempowering generational divisions.**

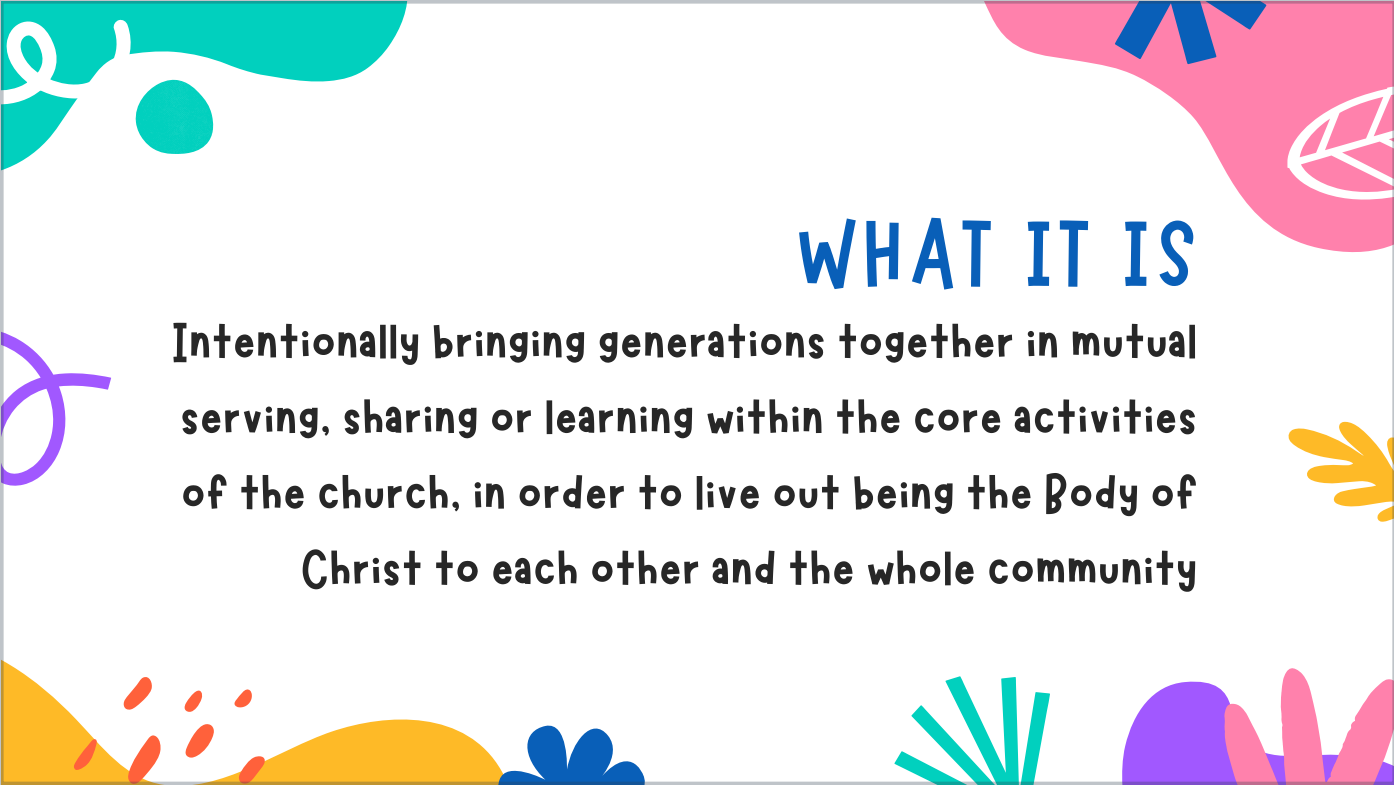
Breaking down walls between the generations, disempowering the divisions. (often this starts with challenging the attitudes we have towards others)



WHAT IT IS

**Hearing from a range of voices, having
representatives of every generation present in
decision making,**

Where is power and influence allocated in your parish? Not sure, ask a range of generational voices!



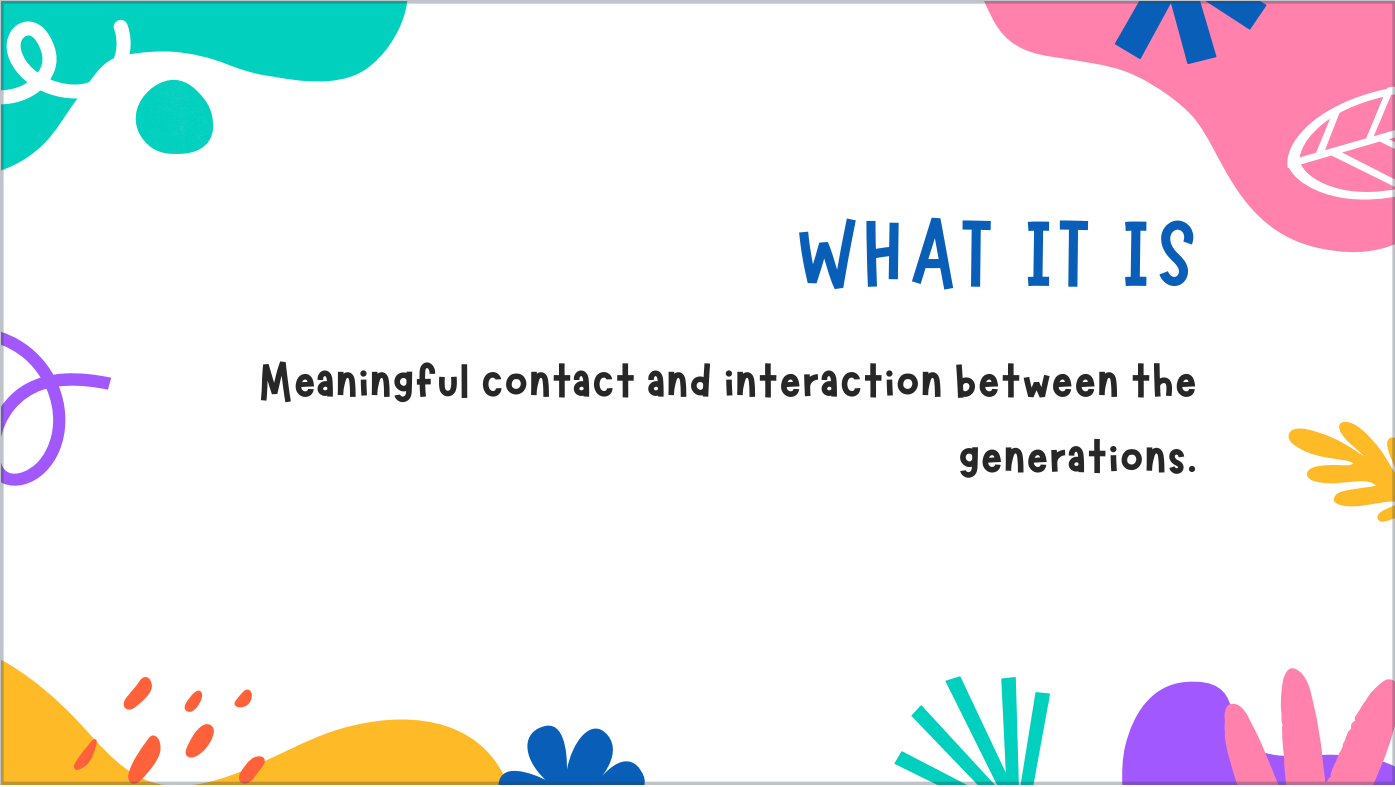
WHAT IT IS

Intentionally bringing 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 whole community



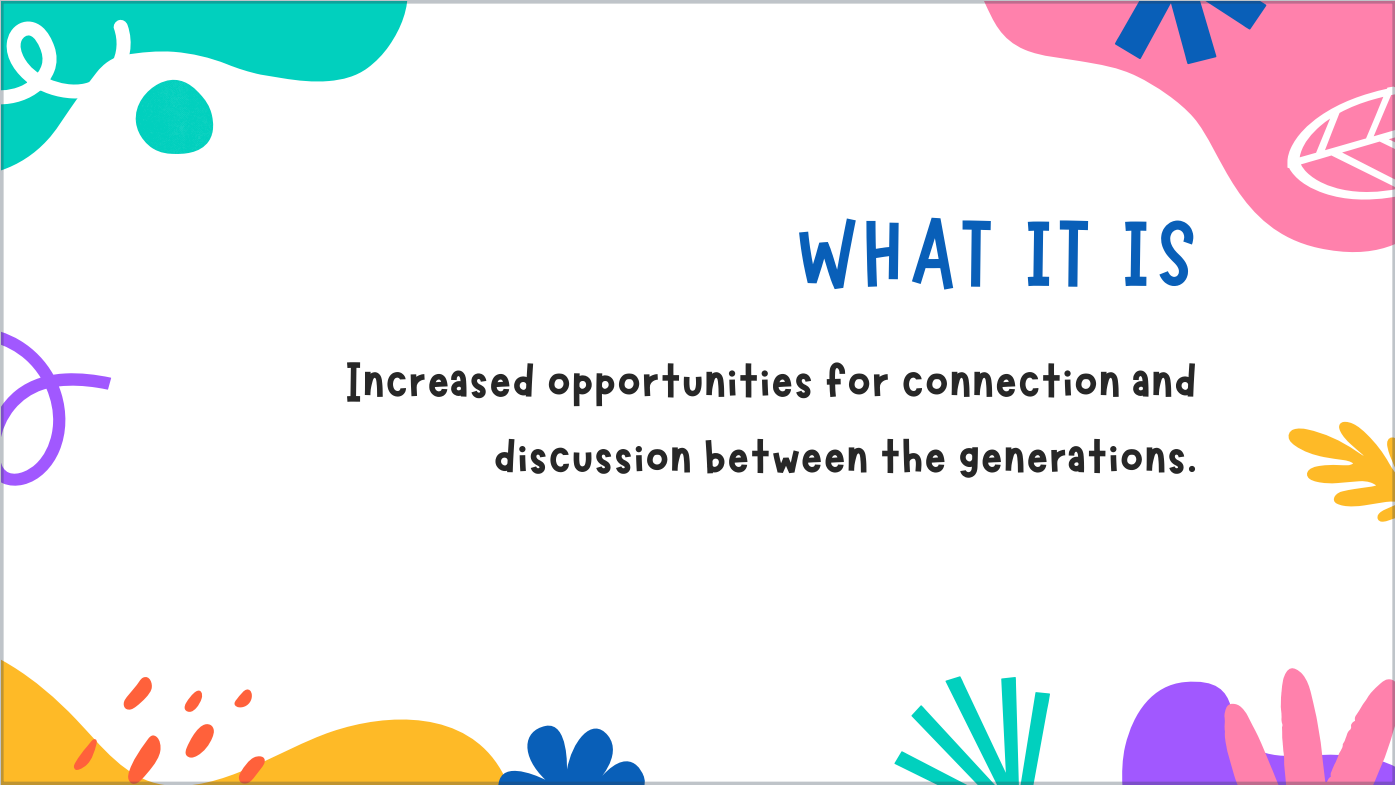
WHAT IT IS

**Facilitating, hosting and celebrating the shared life
and connections of all and any generations together.**



WHAT IT IS

Meaningful contact and interaction between the generations.



WHAT IT IS

Increased opportunities for connection and discussion between the generations.

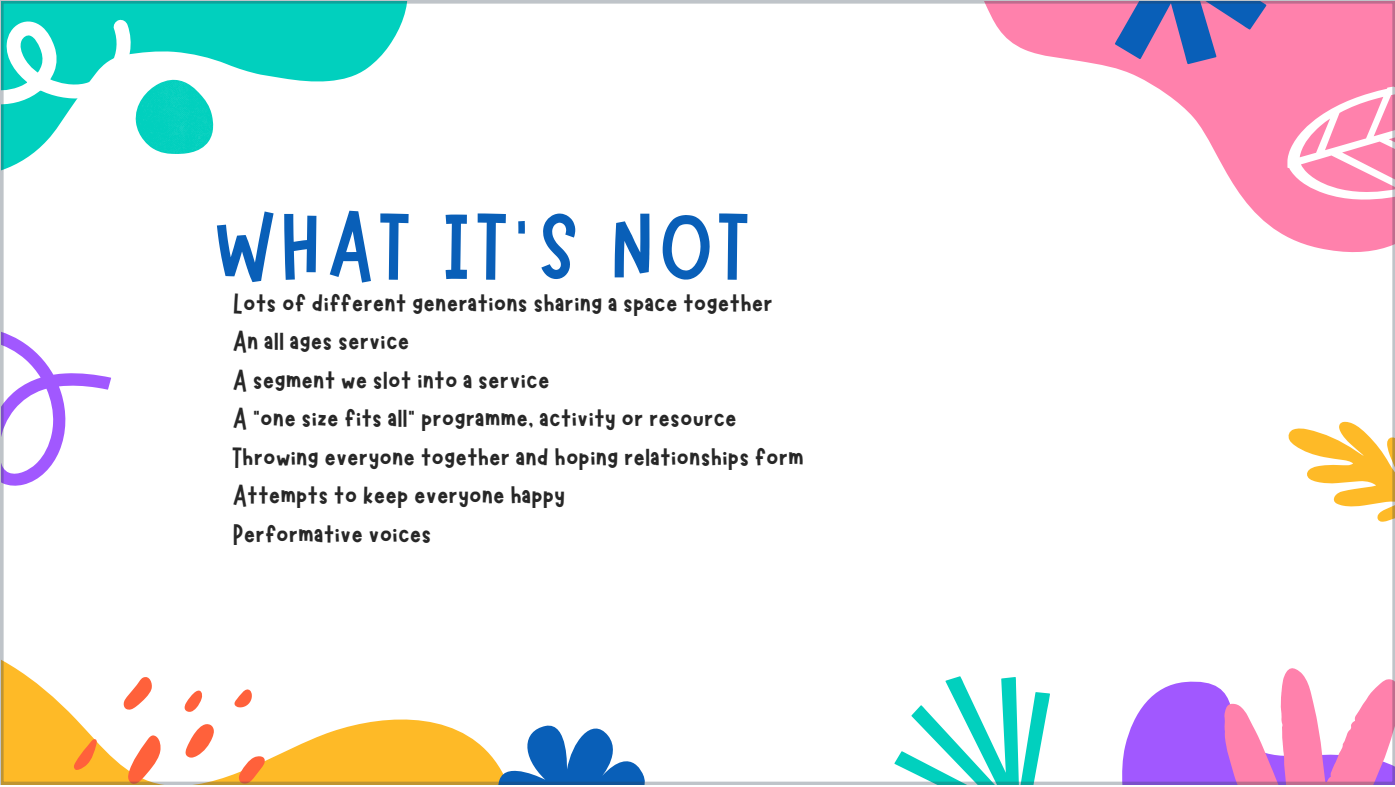


WHAT IT IS

Different

It might seem obvious, but committing to an intergenerational church journey means change, doing things differently. That always come with a little pain.

Name the poop, What are you most afraid might happen if you took steps forward in intergenerational ministry?



WHAT IT'S NOT

Lots of different generations sharing a space together

An all ages service

A segment we slot into a service

A "one size fits all" programme, activity or resource

Throwing everyone together and hoping relationships form

Attempts to keep everyone happy

Performative voices

Lots of different generations sharing a space together, that's multigenerational

An all ages service or segment we slot into a service

- a guiding value and belief that permeates every aspect of church life, homegroups, social events, service projects, woven throughout all rituals, traditions and celebrations.

A One size fits all programme, activity or resource.

Context is everything!

Throwing everyone together and hoping relationships form - INTENTIONALLY creating opportunities for meaningful connection and mutual serving across generations.

My hope is that throughout this session we will move away from the often debilitating question of "am I keeping everyone happy?" to "how are we loving and serving "the other"?"

Kids are cute, but having them up the front to showcase cuteness is not the same as listening to their voice or meaningful connection.

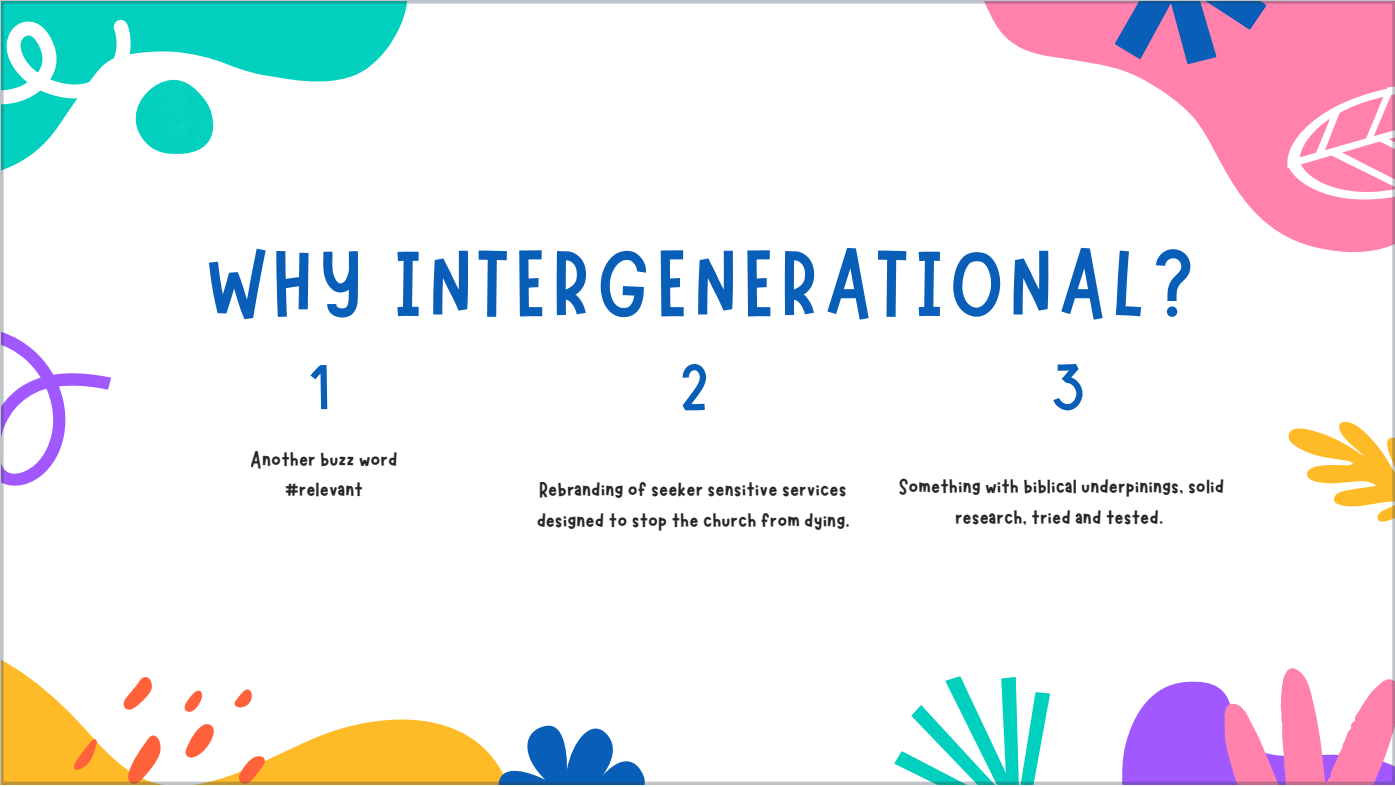


FOR TODAY...

Intergenerational ministry is **intentionally** increasing opportunities for **meaningful connection** and **mutual serving** across generations.

In pairs, share a time you experienced God ministering to you through a person of a different generation.

END: What i'm boiling it down to is intentionally increasing opportunities for meaningful connection and mutual serving across generations.



WHY INTERGENERATIONAL?

1

Another buzz word
#relevant

2

Rebranding of seeker sensitive services
designed to stop the church from dying.

3

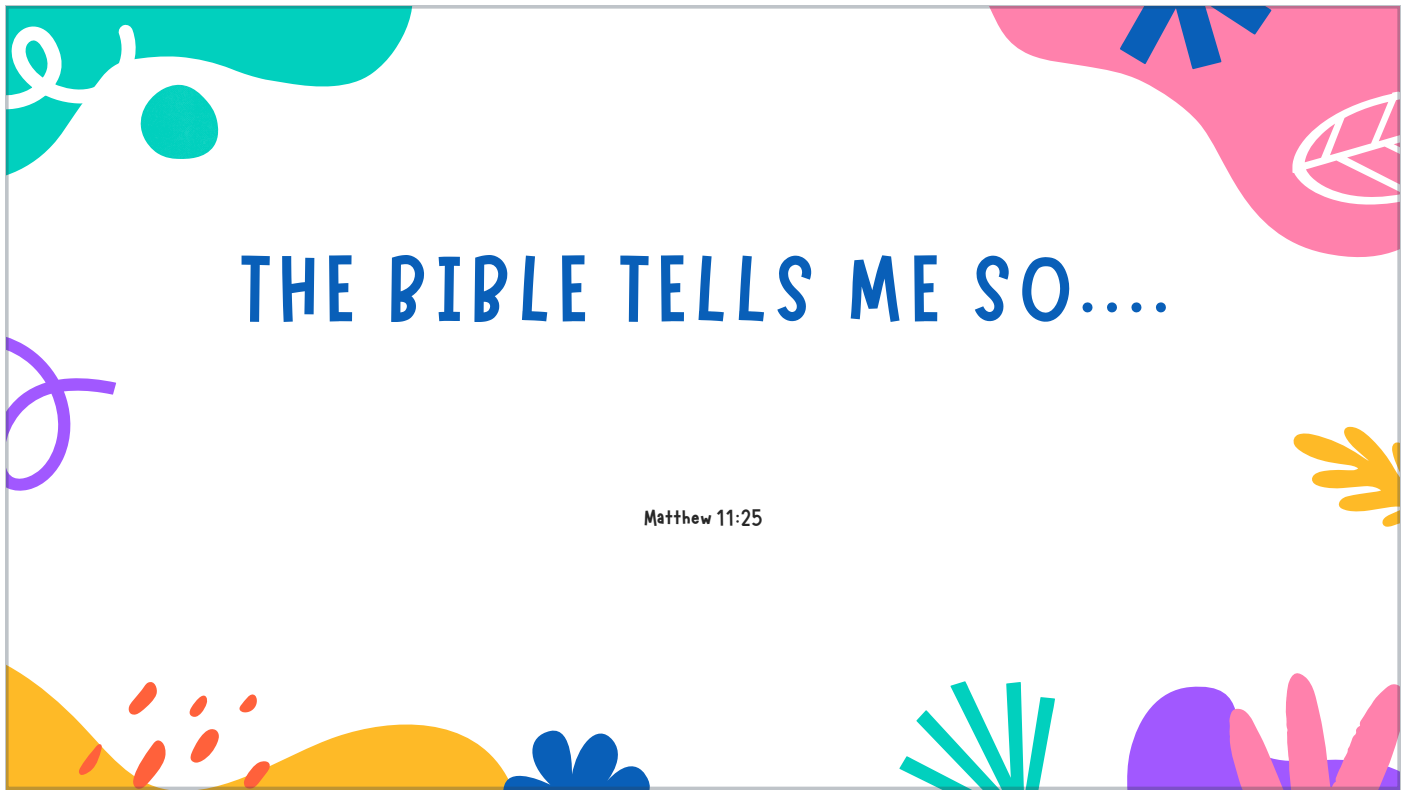
Something with biblical underpinings, solid
research, tried and tested.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

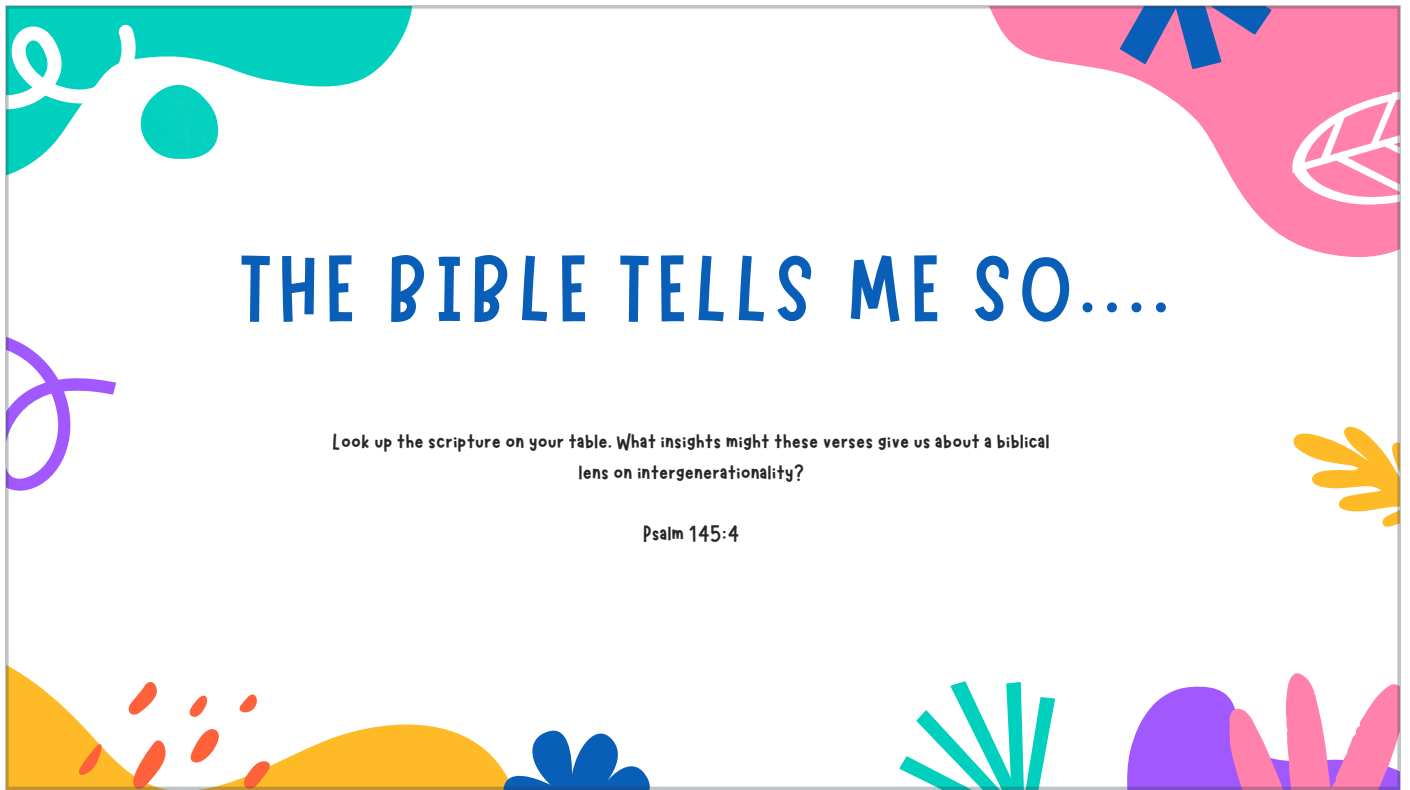




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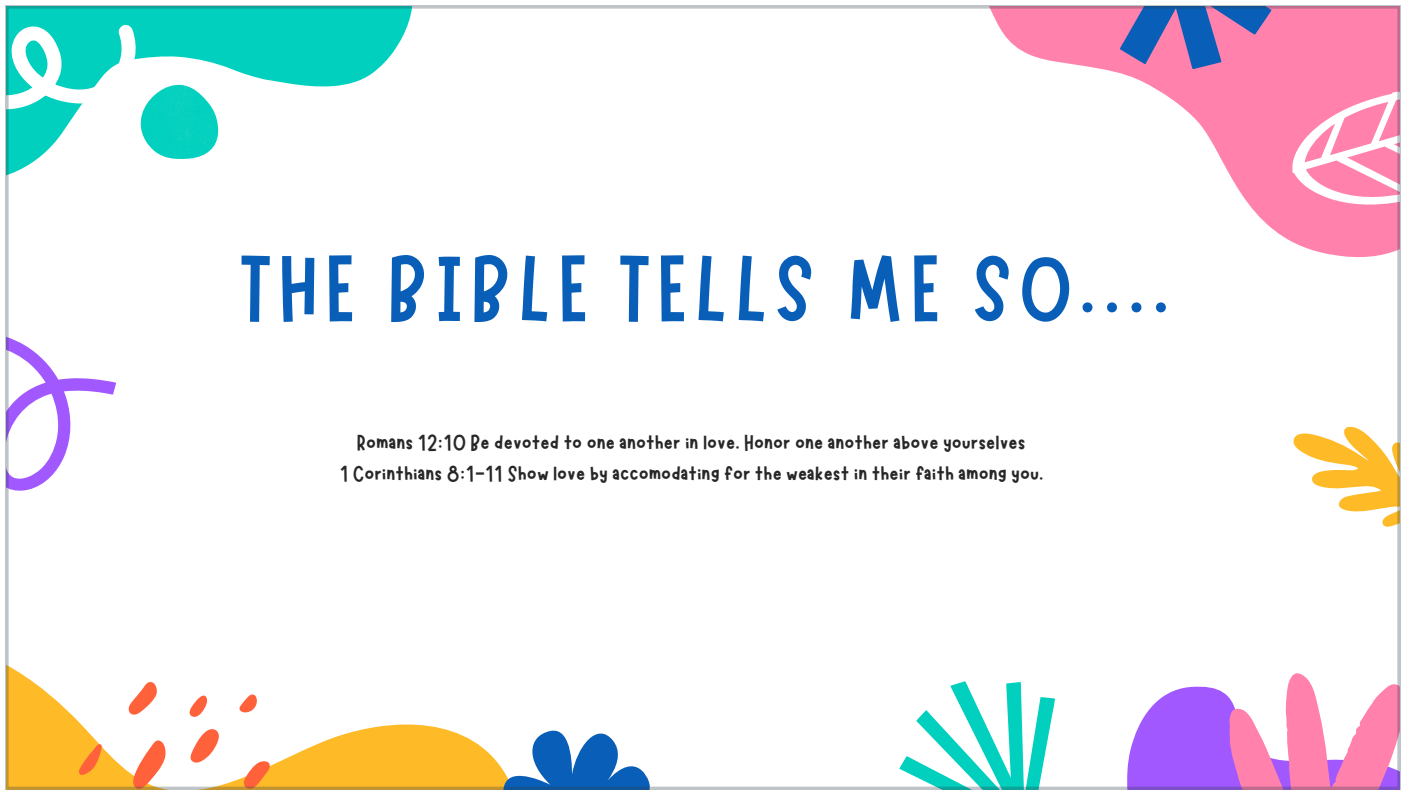


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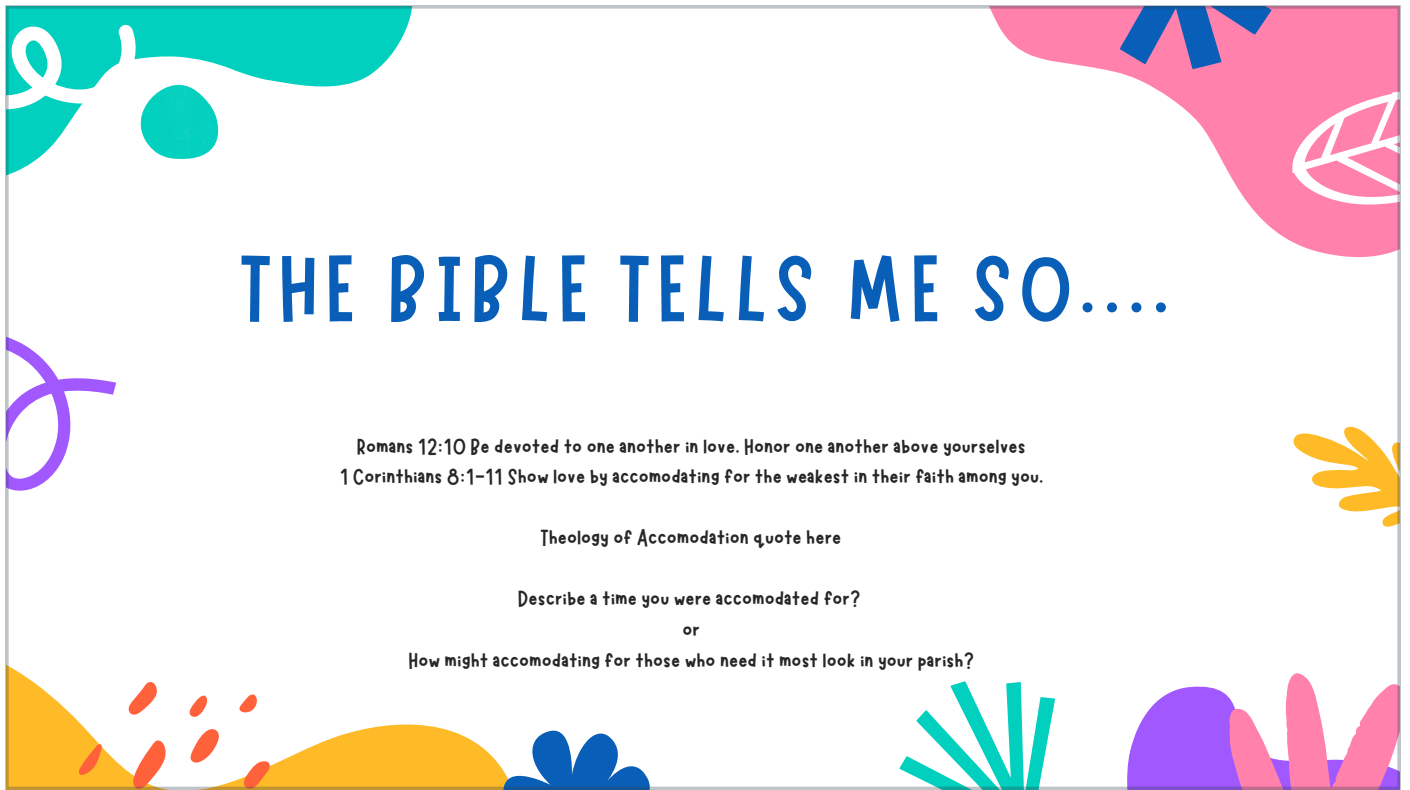


The image of God and spiritual gifts are not restricted to certain ages.

Arden healing story.



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Focus on representation to increase accomodation.



IT WORKS

Intergenerational ministry is THE key to long term faith formation and discipleship.

Quotes and stats



Faith is not passed down it's passed around

Phil Trotter famous NZ youth worker talking about what makes a great youth leader famous said "every generation has something to offer young people, there is no one trendy young adult who can provide all that a young person needs for faith formation."

In the book Sticky Faith, which explores the ins and outs of healthy faith formation, relationships are listed as the top thing, that keep a young person committed to a faith community.



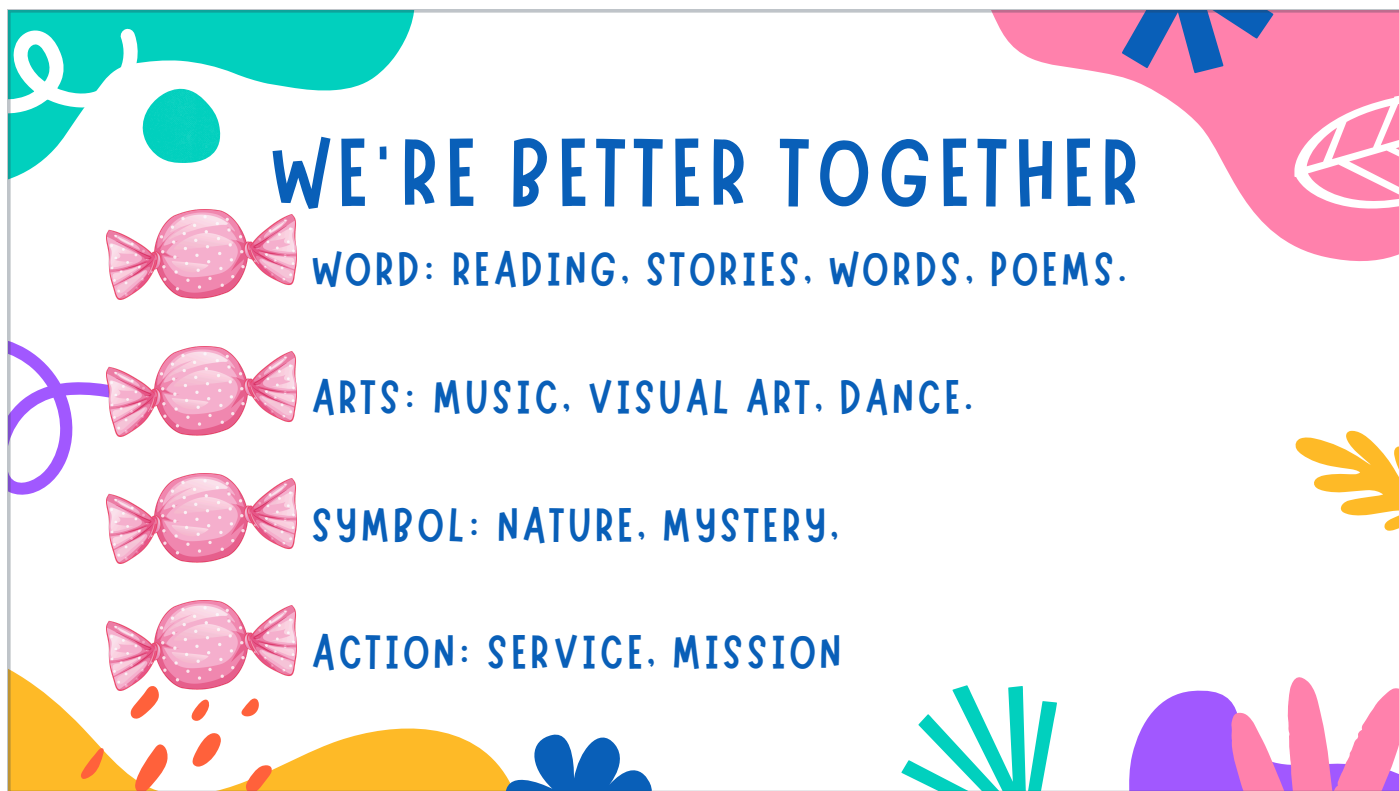
WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER

How might your community benefit from bringing the generations together in mutual serving
and connection?



**WE'RE BETTER
TOGETHER**





We all have a bit of all of these, but pick your top way that you feel closest to God.

Try to find someone who is of a different generation to you AND a different spiritual style.

When grouped: The reason i've asked you to do this is because for our next two activities it will help you to have an array of opinions and viewpoints.

Remembering that one of the key principles of intergenerational ministry is to hear from a range of voices, in particular to intentionally seek out the voices that are often overlooked, or do not typically carry power or influence within our systems.

Thinking briefly about your context and our pompoms, are there particular generational voices that are not well represented in groups that make decisions, plan, and execute as well as participate.

Why does representation matter?



LET'S PLAY: BUS STOP!

Move around the room and with your generational and faith style lens, think of ways to tweak these aspects of Anglican church life.

Around the room are different aspects of church life, including some elements from a Sunday Service.

As a representative of both your generation and your “faith style” Brainstorm ways that these elements could be tweaking to best hear the voice, meaningfully connect with and mutually serve those like you.

2 mins on each.

The Bishop isn't here, but also, the Bishop isn't your barrier.

On pages: What i can offer? What i would love to receive?
How to hear my voice?

What was really clearly missing in this activity?

Some tamariki! Teens! Gen alpha! If you noticed that or felt it, great! Your ready to go back to your parish and notice who is missing within the various gatherings and functions of your church.



LET'S PLAY: FIX IT!

Pull a tricky scenario out of a hat,

Think: What do we want?

What don't we want?

Brain dump: Which team can come up with the most ideas in 2 minutes?

Chose your weapon: Playdough, dress ups, instruments, felt pens and poster paper.



No idea is a bad idea!



WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Tag a vicar

Unlock understanding

Find your team

Get reading

Where to from here?

You need your key leader not just on board but leading the charge, for spiritual safety and oversight. Change ruffles feathers.

Unlocking understanding: Clarify what we are all talking about when we use the word "Intergenerational ministry" puts out fires before they start.

Find your team, you can't AND shouldn't! do it alone. Make sure your team is _____ (intergenerational)

Amazing resources available to help you draw a team together and guide them through an initial process. (Printed at the back but will also come in an email.)

Rinse and repeat this workshop, even just the activities we played.

Also, maybe now is not the time. That's ok! Identify the barriers, check them with others and loop back to them.

Messy church is a great way to play and wait, (we have great diocesan experts and the youtube channel is great.)

THERE'S HOPE!



My ten cents - what i'm noticing

Church is one of the few remaining places or watering wells outside of family, where multiple generations do meet during the week.

Polish is out cringe is in!

In an age of AI in particular, where polish is cheap and fast, people find cringe more trustworthy. In the 90's ish, people thought a lack of consumer appeal would be offensive. Church needed to be cool. Cool is out cringe is in.

Families are turning up across the diocese. Perhaps i'm embarassingly the only one shocked by this.

Small parishes vs mega churches.

In a mega church you can gravitate to peers. In a small parish, you can only see each other!

Mike Pilavachi (leader of Soul Survivor, with decades of youth ministry behind him) when asked what the key difference between young people in the 9- and now, said that the younger generation today wants connection with older generations.

It's working! Take a look at the readings. Odds are, in a parish very similar to yours somewhere on this planet right now, people are trying this stuff and it's working.



FINAL REFLECTIONS

TAKE A MINUTE TO COMPLETE THE LAST PAGE OF YOUR NOTES.

HOW DID I DO WITH MY INTENTION?

PUT YOUR POM POM IN THE APPROPRIATE EVALUATION BOX ON YOUR WAY OUT.



In notes: With your fresh intergenerational lens:

What's going well in your parish context?

What could you tweak?

What could you stop?

What could you add?

Reflect on the intention you wrote at the beginning of this session.

My intention was for you to leave today encouraged and optimistic about intergenerational ministry in your parish, and with one next step to take when you return. How have I done?

Prayer after 3 mins of silence to wrap up.



FURTHER READING AND PRAYER AVAILABLE

Heaps of stuff down the back if you want to read on the way home. E-copy will come also.

Join book club!

Take a minute to wander around and see what people have written!
(I'll also try to collate these thoughts and ideas in a follow up email)