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Course Outline
PT5/734: Pilgrims Together: Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology
Vancouver School of Theology, July 12 – 16, 2021

Description:

As church leaders begin to lean into a more intentionally intergenerational outlook, they typically raise two questions. The first question is, “*How* can we bring the generations back together?” The second question—more important—is, “*Why*?” That is, what is the evidence that intergenerational approaches are beneficial? The “*why*” question is the driving focus of this course.

Students will investigate biblical and theological foundations and explore empirical, sociological, and theoretical support for cross-age Christian practices. In addition, the class will address the “*how*” question, discussing (and experiencing) several successful emerging intergenerational practices. Along the way, the class will build an intergenerational ecclesiology.

Competence objectives:

By the end of the course, students should:

- Possess a broad grasp of the biblical and theological support for intergenerational ministry;
- Be familiar with recent empirical support that indicates intergenerational Christian experiences sustain lifelong faith formation;
- Be able to articulate sociological and theoretical support for the benefits of intergenerational experiences;
- Realize that successfully bringing the generations together requires a basic understanding of the developmental, relational, and life-stage needs of children, adolescents, emerging adults, young adults, middle adults, and older adults;
- Recognize common challenges, barriers, and hindrances to creating an intergenerational outlook in congregations;
- Be able to implement effective intergenerational experiences that reflect foundational intergenerational principles;
- Be equipped to lead churches toward becoming more intentionally intergenerational in outlook and practice.

Ultimately, the student will integrate an intergenerational outlook into a basic ecclesiology; that is, students will be able to describe how an intergenerational perspective can intersect with and inform the purpose and practices of the church. These purpose/practices could include teaching, fellowship, children’s ministry, youth ministry, communion/Eucharist, prayer, worship, service, outreach, spiritual formation, and leadership/discipleship.

Required reading:

- Allen, Holly Catterton, and Christine Lawton Ross. *Intergenerational Christian Formation: Bringing the Whole Church Together in Ministry, Community and Worship*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2012. 307 pages
- Two or three journal articles (options listed below)
- One DMin dissertation (options listed below)
- Chapter by John Roberto, “Intergenerational Principles.” In *InterGenerate: Transforming Churches through Intergenerational Ministry* (pp. 99-109). Abilene, TX: Abilene Christian University Press, 2018.

Journal articles: Read two or three of the following articles/chapters, approximately 50 pages altogether. Other articles besides the ones listed below may be acceptable; please check with Dr. Allen.

- Allen, Holly Catterton, and Jason Brian Santos. “Intergenerational Ministry—A Forty-Year Perspective: 1980–2020.” *Christian Education Journal*, December 2020, vol. 17, no. 1, 506–529.
- Cho, Theresa Eungyong. 2012. “The what and how of intergenerational worship.” *Call to Worship* 46, no. 2: 63-65.
- Csinos, David M, and Ivy Beckwith. 2015. “Better together: The formative power of intergenerational community.” *Family and Community Ministries (Online)* 28: 32-47.
- Embree, Christina. “Intercessory prayer across generations: A case study.” *Christian Education Journal*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2017, p. 128-143.
- Glassford, Darwin, and Lynn Barger-Elliott. (2011). “Toward intergenerational ministry in a post-Christian era.” *Christian Education Journal* (NS 3) 8, no. 2: 364-378.
- Grefe, Dagmar. 2011. “Combating ageism with narrative and intergroup contact: Possibilities of intergenerational connections.” *Pastoral Psychology* 60, no. 1: 99-105.
- Harkness, Allan G. 2012. “Intergenerationality: Biblical and theological foundations.” *Christian Education Journal*, vol. 9, no. 1:121-134.
- Harkness, Allan. 2003. “Intergenerational corporate worship as a significant educational activity.” *Christian Education Journal* 7, no. 1: 5-21.
- Harris, Kathleen I. 2016. “Let’s play at the park! Family pathways promoting spiritual resources to inspire nature, pretend play, storytelling, intergenerational play, and celebrations.” *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* 21, no. 2: 90-103.
- Hillis, Mark. 2014. “What is happening with intergenerational learning in Christian education? Why three familiar voices deserve a fresh hearing.” *Uniting Church Studies* 20, no. 2: 13-22.
- Lawson, Kevin E. (2017). “Light from the ‘Dark Ages’: Lessons in faith formation from before the Reformation.” *Christian Education Journal* 14, no. 2: 328-346.
- Miller, Brenda A. 2005. “Intergenerational transmission of religiousness and spirituality.” In *Judeo-Christian perspectives on psychology: Human nature, motivation, and change*, 227-244. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2005. (may need to use interlibrary loan to get this chapter)
- Pazmino, Robert W., and S. Steve Kang. (2011). “Generational fragmentations and Christian education.” *Christian Education Journal* 8, no. 2: p. 379-394.

Powell, Kara Eckmann. 2011. "Faith that sticks: Intergenerational connections and parental involvement give kids a faith that lasts beyond high school." *Leadership* 32, no. 4: 73-75.

Roberto, John. 2012. "Our future is intergenerational." *Christian Education Journal* 9, no. 1: 105-120.

Snailum, Brenda. (2012). "Implementing intergenerational youth ministry within existing evangelical church congregations: What have we learned?" *Christian Education Journal* (NS 3) 9, no. 1: 165-181.

Snailum, Brenda. 2013. "Integrating intergenerational ministry strategies into existing youth ministries: What can a hybrid approach be expected to accomplish?" *The Journal of Youth Ministry* 11, no. 2: 7-28.

DMin dissertations: (read one of the following six dissertations)

Crawford, Ray, Jr. *For All Generations: The Experience and Expression of Intergenerational Worship*.

(DMin dissertation, Drew University, Madison, NJ), 2007. Available at:

<https://search.proquest.com/pqdtglobal/docview/304863420/CDA026FEB81E450EPQ/22?accountid=56742> 101 pages

Deames, Matthew D. *Inviting and Encouraging Racial, Cultural, Ethnic, and Generational Diversity within Ecclesial Community* (DMin Dissertation, George Fox Evangelical Seminary, Portland, OR), 2012. Available at:

<http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1024&context=dmin>
135 pages

Edwards, Matthew Robert. *Under One Roof: Authentic Leadership as a Way of Retaining G2 Leaders in an Intergenerational Church* (DMin Dissertation, George Fox Evangelical Seminary, Portland, OR), 2016. Available at:

<http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1146&context=dmin>
188 pages

Eikenberry, David A. 2014. "Developing an Intentional and Transparent Intergenerational Ministry in a Small Congregation." Order No. 3687421, Trinity International University.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/1668381789?accountid=56742>. 146 pages

McCoy, Wilson. *Forming the People of God: A Qualitative Study of the Formative Impact of Intergenerational Relationships through Dwelling in the Word* (DMin dissertation, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN), 2016. Available at:

<https://www2.lipscomb.edu/hst/upload/file/81698/mccoy%20dmin%20project%20final%20copy.pdf> 105 pages.

McCrary, Michael E. *Intentional Intergenerational Ministry Practices Discovered at Central Assembly of God in Springfield, Missouri* (DMin dissertation, Assemblies of God Seminary, Springfield, MO), 2014. <https://pqdtopen.proquest.com/doc/1528555543.html?FMT=AI> 171 pages

Course assignments and due dates:

1) Intergenerational memories: (all levels)

Briefly describe two intergenerational events/memories in a church you were part of as a child, as a teen, as an emerging adult, and/or current church setting. Both descriptions may be from when you were a child, or when you were a teen, etc. or you can share events from two different seasons.

Details: Following the description of each event/memory, write a brief paragraph connecting each intergenerational experience to one of John Roberto's foundational intergenerational principles (Roberto's chapter eight, "Intergenerational Principles," from *InterGenerate* has been made available to you). State the principle and offer a brief connective explanation.

Examples intergenerational Christian experiences are sprinkled throughout most of the materials you are reading. See, for example, pages 93, 142-143, 213, 221-222, 227-228 in *Intergenerational Christian Formation*. These examples may prompt memories for you.

Due Sunday, July 11, 11:59pm Pacific time. We will be sharing some of these in class.

2) Response to DMin project/dissertation you chose to read: (all levels)

Read the DMin project/dissertation after you have read the Allen/Ross text and the two or three articles/chapters you selected. Reading the project/dissertation last will enable you to more authoritatively evaluate it.

Guidelines for response: 1) in a paragraph, state the main claim for the project/dissertation and describe how the writer supported his/her claim; 2) then note at least two connections to the Allen/Ross text, and 3) at least one connection to an article you read; 4) last, name one strength and one weakness of the project/dissertation. (one page altogether)

Due Sunday, July 11, 11:59pm Pacific time. Again, we will sharing some of your reflections/responses in class.

3) Final paper:

Certificate-level students: Post-course reflection paper

Due Friday, August 31st at 11:59 pm Eastern time.

Reflect on insights regarding the biblical, theological foundations for intergenerational ministry (one page), theoretical and empirical support for intergenerational ministry (one page), benefits of intergenerational ministry (one page), and challenges and barriers to implementing a more intergenerational paradigm in churches (one page).

Basic-level students: Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology

Research paper options:

Due Friday, August 31st at 11:59 pm Pacific time.

- Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology: Write a ten-page research paper that
a) develops a strong biblical and theological foundation for intergenerational ministry.
b) Then, building on that intergenerational ecclesiology, lay out how that ecclesiology would help a church move toward a more intentionally intergenerational approach to the gathered worship service on Sunday morning.
Well-organized, well-referenced, 10-page paper (2500-3000 words); 10 sources
- Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology: Write a ten-page research paper that
a) develops a strong biblical and theological foundation for intergenerational ministry.
b) Then, building on that intergenerational ecclesiology, lay out how that ecclesiology would help a church move toward a more intentionally intergenerational approach to children's ministry.
Well-organized, well-referenced, 10-page paper (2500-3000 words); 10 sources
- Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology: Write a ten-page research paper that
a) develops a strong biblical and theological foundation for intergenerational ministry.
b) Then, building on that intergenerational ecclesiology, lay out how that ecclesiology would help a church move toward a more intentionally intergenerational approach to youth ministry.
Well-organized, well-referenced, 10-page paper (2500-3000 words); 10 sources
- Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology: Write a ten-page research paper that
a) develops a strong biblical and theological foundation for intergenerational ministry.
b) Then, building on that intergenerational ecclesiology, lay out how that ecclesiology would help a church move toward a more intentionally intergenerational approach to church leadership.
Well-organized, well-referenced, 10-page paper (2500-3000 words); 10 sources
- Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology: Write a ten-page research paper that
a) develops a strong biblical and theological foundation for intergenerational ministry.
b) Then, building on that intergenerational ecclesiology, lay out how that ecclesiology would help a church move toward a more intentionally intergenerational approach for Sunday school or spiritual disciplines.
Well-organized, well-referenced, 10-page paper (2500-3000 words); 10 sources
- Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology: Write a ten-page research paper that
a) develops a strong biblical and theological foundation for intergenerational ministry.
b) Then, building on that intergenerational ecclesiology, lay out how that ecclesiology would help a small church move toward a more intentionally intergenerational paradigm.
Well-organized, well-referenced, 10-page paper (2500-3000 words); 10 sources
- Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology: Write a ten-page research paper that
a) develops a strong biblical and theological foundation for intergenerational ministry;
b) Then, building on that intergenerational ecclesiology, lay out how that ecclesiology would help a megachurch move toward a more intentionally intergenerational paradigm
Well-organized, well-referenced, 10-page paper (2500-3000 words); 10 sources

Advanced-level students: Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology

Research paper options:

Due Thursday, September 30th at 11:59 pm Pacific time.

- Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology: Write a fifteen-page research paper that
a) develops a strong biblical and theological foundation for intergenerational ministry.
b) Then, building on that intergenerational ecclesiology, lay out how that ecclesiology would help a church move toward a more intentionally intergenerational approach to the gathered worship service on Sunday morning.
Well-organized, well-referenced, 15-page paper (3700-4300 words); 15 sources
- Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology: Write a fifteen-page research paper that
a) develops a strong biblical and theological foundation for intergenerational ministry.
b) Then, building on that intergenerational ecclesiology, lay out how that ecclesiology would help a church move toward a more intentionally intergenerational approach to children's ministry.
Well-organized, well-referenced, 15-page paper (3700-4300 words); 15 sources
- Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology: Write a fifteen-page research paper that
a) develops a strong biblical and theological foundation for intergenerational ministry.
b) Then, building on that intergenerational ecclesiology, lay out how that ecclesiology would help a church move toward a more intentionally intergenerational approach to youth ministry.
Well-organized, well-referenced, 15-page paper (3700-4300 words); 15 sources
- Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology: Write a fifteen-page research paper that
a) develops a strong biblical and theological foundation for intergenerational ministry.
b) Then, building on that intergenerational ecclesiology, lay out how that ecclesiology would help a church move toward a more intentionally intergenerational approach to church leadership.
Well-organized, well-referenced, 15-page paper (3700-4300 words); 15 sources
- Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology: Write a fifteen-page research paper that
a) develops a strong biblical and theological foundation for intergenerational ministry.
b) Then, building on that intergenerational ecclesiology, lay out how that ecclesiology would help a church move toward a more intentionally intergenerational approach for Sunday school or spiritual disciplines.
Well-organized, well-referenced, 15-page paper (3700-4300 words); 15 sources
- Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology: Write a fifteen-page research paper that
a) develops a strong biblical and theological foundation for intergenerational ministry.
b) Then, building on that intergenerational ecclesiology, lay out how that ecclesiology would help a small church move toward a more intentionally intergenerational paradigm.
Well-organized, well-referenced, 15-page paper (3700-4300 words); 15 sources
- Forging an Intergenerational Ecclesiology: Write a fifteen-page research paper that
a) develops a strong biblical and theological foundation for intergenerational ministry.
b) Then, building on that intergenerational ecclesiology, lay out how that ecclesiology would help a megachurch move toward a more intentionally intergenerational paradigm.
Well-organized, well-referenced, 15-page paper (3700-4300 words); 15 sources

Bibliography:

- Allen, Holly Catterton (Editor). *InterGenerate: Transforming Churches through Intergenerational Ministry*. Abilene Christian University Press, 2018.
- Amidei, Kathie, Jim Merhaut, and John Robert. *Generations Together: Caring, Praying, Learning, Celebrating, and Serving Faithfully*. Naugatuck, CT: Lifelong Faith Associates, 2014. 185 pages
- Gardner, Jason. *Mend the Gap: Can the Church Reconnect the Generations?* Nottingham, UK: InterVarsity Press, 2008. 224 pages.
- Hammett, Edward. *Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60: Being Church for All Generations* (TCP Leadership Series). Atlanta, GA: Chalice Press, 2007. 192 pages.
- Hilborn, David, and Matthew Bird. *God and the Generations: Youth, Age and the Church Today*. Carlisle, UK: Paternoster Press, 2003. 240 pages.
- Martineau, Mariette, Joan Weber, and Leif Kehrwald. *Intergenerational Faith Formation: All Ages Learning Together*. New London, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2008. 153 pages.
- McIntosh, Gary L. *One Church Four Generations: Understanding and Reaching All Ages in Your Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2002. 248 pages.
- Menconi, Peter. *The Intergenerational Church: Understanding Congregations from WWII to Wwww.com*. Littleton, CO: Mt. Sage, 2010. 272 pages.
- Seibel, Cory (Editor). *Engage All Generations: A Strategic Toolkit for Creating Intergenerational Faith Communities*. Abilene, TX: Abilene Christian University Press, 2021.
- Seibel, Cory. *The Generative Church: Global Conversations about Investing in Emerging Generations*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2019.
- Smith, William. *Under One Roof: Building an Intergenerational Church*. Xlibri, 2016. 68 pages (yes, 68)
- White, James W. *Intergenerational Religious Education: Models, Theories, and Prescription for Interage Life and Learning in the Faith Community*. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 1988. 290 pages.

Youth ministry focus:

- Baxter, Jeff. *Together: Adults and Teenagers Transforming the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010. 192 pages.
- Wilcher, Scott. *The Orphaned Generation: The Father's Heart for Connecting Youth and Young Adults to Your Church*. Chesapeake, VA: UpStream Project, 2010. 204 pages
- Walker, Mel. *Inter-Generational Youth Ministry: Why a Balanced View of Connecting the Generations Is Essential for the Church*. Chinchilla, PA: Vision for Youth, 2013. 248 pages

Leadership focus:

- Creps, Earl G. *Reverse Mentoring: How Young Leaders Can Transform the Church and Why We Should Let Them*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2008. 240 pages