

Intergenerational, Youth, and Children's Programming Committee

Summary:

A priority for First United is a vision of being an intergenerational church. An intergenerational vision

- recognizes that people of all ages are an important and integral part of our community
- maximizes the development of relationships across generations.
- unleashes the authentic leadership of all generations allowing all voices to be heard.
- creates safe space that nurtures a context for all ages to share their gifts.
- attends to age-specific programming that understands stages of developments, stages not limited to childhood and youth, but which continue through the decades of adulthood.
- celebrates rituals to mark the transitions through the ages and stages of life.

This priority of embracing more deeply the vision of being an intergenerational church will have an impact on both the systemic functioning as well as the programming of First United.

As a faith community, First United is intent on responding to emerging realities for faith communities in the 21st century including an aging church population and reduced membership. While First United is fortunate because our faith community presently includes many families with children and youth and a healthy cross-section of people of all ages, we are impacted by this shifting demographic.

Committee Responsibilities

First and foremost, it is the responsibility of this committee to be “keepers” of the intergenerational vision ensuring that both the systemic functioning of First United as well as its programming reflects this vision.

Secondly, this committee will work collaboratively with volunteers, Church Council, and the First United staff team to ensure that First United is an inclusive, inspirational and safe place for people of all ages.

Thirdly, this committee will provide quarterly updates to the Church Council on progress regarding the status of the intergenerational vision including the development of measures to document progress. These reports will include recommendations for making changes and adjustments in the implementation of the vision. This committee, in addition, will creatively communicate with the congregation as a whole.

Fourthly, this committee will provide support and programmatic direction for the duration of the contract with the Coordinator of Intergenerational, Youth, and Children's Programming. The duties of the Coordinator has two primary functions:

- 1) Supporting congregational leaders and volunteers in nurturing an intergenerational culture at First United so that all ages contribute to the life of the congregation with a particular focus to include the voices of children, youth, and young adults, by:

- supporting a culture and developing programs where persons of all ages feel genuinely included and welcomed, programs that will include times when the whole community gathers together on both Sundays and other times;
- fostering intergenerational opportunities and programs for congregants to develop relationships across ages;
- engaging with youth and young adults (15 – 30) to integrate them into congregational life in a way that works for them;
- supporting all ministries (committees) within the congregation in developing an intergenerational perspective when planning events to ensure intergenerational participation.
- supporting technology and communications that enhance the intergenerational goals.

2) Supporting the congregation to resource children and youth programming by:

- supporting congregational leadership in providing volunteer-led programming for nursery, children and youth, including implementation of an existing home-grown curriculum for children and the J2A programming for youth;
- resourcing and developing training and supportive networks for volunteers to implement program delivery;
- resourcing the development of a supportive network for families of children and youth with particular sensitivity for children with exceptional needs;
- developing sustainable systems for the smooth operations of Sunday and mid-week programming (snacks, room set up, Duty of Care protocols).

Terms of Reference

Membership is 5 to 8 persons appointed by Church Council and includes the Coordinator of the Intergenerational, Youth, and Children's Programming. The Minister is also an ex-officio member.

The committee will meet regularly, at least every other month, and more often if necessary. The committee will select a chair from its own members who is responsible for calling the meetings, arranging the agenda, and facilitating the discussions.