



Let the Spirit Lead:

Adventures in Cross+Gen Faith Formation

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Guiding Principles: A baking recipe requires all ingredients every time

1. Spirit of Experimentation: Let's try an experiment

- Experiments don't last forever
- Experiments can be tweaked and changed as you go
- Experiments help us dive into the deep end & get our feet wet
- Experiments are meant to be evaluated: What did we learn? How will this learning guide future work?

2. Spirit of Teamwork: When we work together, the work is sustainable

- Who is ready for a new thing?
- Who has an open mind and willing hands?
- Who keeps showing up as a participant?
- How many different generations can you include? (a strength of small congregations?)

3. Spirit of Vibrancy: No need to reinvent the wheel!

- What is already working?
- How can we intentionally and consistently invite more generations to participate?
- What might need to change to encourage more participation?
- What exciting ministry do we have that needs a more critical mass to make it go?

4. Spirit of Curiosity: All of us are learning

- Every generation is still learning
- Every generation is invited to be curious
- Encourage each learner to be open to the Spirit coming to us through our brothers and sisters in Christ
- Clear invitations to participate where all feel welcome and included

5. Spirit of Invitation: Each of us has something to teach

- Every generation has something to share, everyone is an expert in their own lived experience
- Elders often have wisdom, if we intentionally slow down for it. Youth often have enthusiasm, if we are willing to catch it
- Try teaching pairs of different generations
- Or, specifically invite each learner to reflect on what they know, and encourage sharing

6. Spirit of Tenacity: Water remembers its shape, and changing shape requires consistent support

- Institutional memory is strong; it is easy to slip back into old habits
- Paradigm shift/culture change requires consistent cheerleading and advocacy
- Cast vision, invite, train, cast vision, invite, retrain (a cycle, not a checklist to complete)
- Engage a partner in this work to help you to "stay the course"