



WA Presbytery Meeting – 16 March 2024 Uniting Generations Network Report

Network Meetings

The Uniting Generations Network meets once per school term. The Network is open to anyone interested in intergenerational ministry and the younger generations. The Network invites and encourages Congress and the Multi-cultural churches to join with us. We would love to hear your voices and wisdom.

This year we plan to alternate between daytime and evening meetings, to reach out to people who may be available at different times.

Each Network meeting has time for participants to share what is happening in their congregations, so that we can support, encourage, and inspire one another.

The Network is also a place to dream and vision for our church growing with younger generations, to think and plan.

We use the Network to share resources and upskill leaders. Multi-cultural ministry, church planting and seeing different ways of doing church have been identified as areas of focus for 2024.

It is hoped that Network attendees become advocates for intergenerational ministry and the younger generations in their congregations and wider church.

Our last Network meeting was held in February. This year we have planned dates for the year, working with other Presbytery groups to avoid events being on the same time. The dates for 2024 are: 17 May, 13 August, and 15 October.

The Network has a mailing list of people who receive direct invitations and monthly mail outs. The Network invites people to sign up to this list by contacting julie.ridden@wa.uca.org.au.

Newsletter

The Network has a monthly newsletter. The Newsletter contains information on: children and youth ministry training events; 'green shoot' stories from congregations; links to online resources; book reviews and resource ideas; and prayer points. The Newsletter is linked to the Uniting Church WA and Uniting Generations Facebook pages.

We thank Wendy Hendry, our Executive Officer Communications, for all the help that she gives in preparing and sending out promotional materials and for assisting with social media.

Children, Families, Youth and Young Adults Coordinator

In 2023, Julie Ridden, the Coordinator, went into congregations when invited to: preach and run workshops with children and youth ministry leaders.

The Network's primary goal for 2023 for Julie Ridden, the Coordinator, was to build up relationships and the network. This has taken some time, but we are starting to see more contact between different congregations. For example, Star St and Maylands/Mt Lawley have had cross attendance at events they have run, such as the parent session at Star St and the Movie Night at Maylands/Mt Lawley.

Building up relationships between church groups remains a priority, though in 2024 we hope to develop some events for families and the younger generations.

Julie continues to be a resource for congregations. She welcomes queries and invitations from all congregations, including rural and multi-cultural and Congress communities.

Being An Intergenerational Church

In September 2023, The Uniting Church Assembly published ***Being An Intergenerational Church: A Commitment. A Vision. An Invitation.*** This booklet was sent out to all congregations as part of the November 2023 mail out. It is a call to all Synods, Presbyteries, Congregations and Faith Communities to develop as an Intergenerational Church.

This booklet was one of the key discussions at the National Youth and Children Coalition (NYCC), held in Sydney last August.

The Intergenerational Church is about sustaining long life discipleship. It is based on biblical patterns found in the Old and New Testament. The strengths of each generation come together for the benefit of the whole church. *'Every generation gives, every generation receives and every generation benefits.'*

The Network and the Coordinator want to help congregations in developing Intergenerational culture and practices suitable for your context. Intergenerational ministry will look different in different churches.

The Network encourages churches to look at the Intergenerational materials found on the Assembly website, which includes a digital copy of the ***Being An Intergenerational Church*** booklet. [intergenerational](#)

Please contact Julie Ridden, Children, Families, Youth and Young Adults Coordinator, for support and help towards your journey to being an Intergenerational Church.

Amplify Conference

On 9 March, with the support and generous hospitality of Mt Pleasant Uniting, we will be hosting a regional hub of the Amplify Children and Youth Ministry Conference, the first in Western Australia. Amplify is an event of Scripture Union of Australia.

Amplify provides quality speakers on current issues in children, youth and intergenerational ministry. The Network encourages Uniting Church members to attend such events for encouragement and the development of new ideas.

Ministry to Younger Generations Across the Presbytery

In 2023, the Uniting Generations asked congregations to fill in a form outlining ways in which our congregations are ministering to children, families and young people. This was used to develop a contact list so that congregations and faith communities can support one another.

We received forms from forty-two congregations and faith communities. Twenty-eight of them reported activities involving younger generations. Fourteen other communities reported no activities, with four expressing a desire to start or grow in this area. We heard back from less than half of our congregations and faith communities.

This is what was reported back to the Network. If an activity of your church has not been included, please inform Julie or a member of the Network to add you to the list.

Sunday School 17	Billabong (Canning Vale), Bridgetown, GKI, Guildford Wesley, Korean-Kardinya, Lighthouse (Geraldton), Maylands/Mt Lawley, Merredin, Mt Pleasant, Nedlands, Noranda, Northcliffe, Northway (Beldon/Iluka), St Andrew's (East Perth), St Stephen's (Applecross), Star St (Carlisle), Trinity North (Greenwood/Duncraig)
Youth Group 6	Billabong, GKI, Lighthouse, Korean-Kardinya, Mt Pleasant, Nedlands
Girl's Brigade 2	Kalamunda, Noranda (Trinity North finished at the end of 2023)
Kid's Club 2	Nedlands (ESL), South Perth
Holiday Clubs 3	Nedlands, Noranda (Lego Challenge), St Andrew's
Kid's Hope/Mentoring in Schools 2	All Saints (Floreat), Northway
Messy Church 6	Armada, Bridgetown, Kalamunda, St Augustine's (Bunbury), Star St, Trinity North
Play Groups	All Saints, Billabong, Lighthouse, Mt Pleasant, Margaret River (intergenerational), Mundijong,

10	Nedlands, Northway, St Andrew's (mother and baby group) Trinity North
Music/Dance Groups/Jump n Jive 5	Armada (Razzle Dazzle), Kalamunda, Maylands/Mt Lawley (Music and Play), Noranda, Trinity North
Young Adult Groups 3	Billabong, GKI, Lighthouse
Intergenerational Church 8	Billabong (home groups), Bridgetown, Cannington (young adult involvement), Mt Pleasant, Noranda, Star St, Bay Life - Busselton (children's message), Trinity UCIC (multicultural service)
Alternative Style of Worship 4	South Perth (Friday Night Worship), Maylands/Mt Lawley (Cafe Church), GKI (monthly youth Sunday service), Wesley UCIC (Social Justice Church)
Outreach/Mission 7	All Saints & Trinity North (Boab Network and Black Pearl Network), Nedlands (Ping Pong A Thon), Noranda (Halloween Rest Stop), Northway (Tranby Day Centre), Trinity UCIC (Easter events), Leeming (Christmas carols)
Scripture in Schools 1	St Luke's (Carnarvon)

Ministry to younger families is strongest with the highest number of churches reporting Sunday School and Play Groups. It is pleasing to see the growth in Intergenerational activities. Youth and Young Adults is an area in which we would like to see grow.

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