



Growing your Church Younger

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What a "younger" church might mean to you



More children



More teenagers



More young adults



All ages being fully alive in Christ

How have you already tried to involve younger generations in Church?

Why does growing younger matter?

To hand on the faith, younger people should not just be welcomed, but be essential to our churches

Risk of becoming "one generation churches"

Age-segregated approaches are not working

There is great power in intergenerational, relational community

Why do you think young people often drift away from church?

What do younger generations seek at church?

Authentic relationships

Participation

Justice & inclusion

Opportunities to lead & take part in worship



Practical Pathways to Growing Younger

Five Key Shifts



Consumers

participants



Programmes

relationships



Token youth work

intergenerational worship



Teaching

dialogue



Sunday-only

everyday discipleship

What could one of these shifts look like in your congregation?



Consumers

→

participants



Programmes
→
relationships



Token youth work

→
intergenerational
worship



Teaching → dialogue



Common Concerns





"Our older members won't like change."

It's not about replacing older people, but becoming whole churches.

"We don't have enough young families."

Growing younger doesn't mean losing depth - it means widening the welcome.

"We lack the resources to start a youth group"

Start small. One change at a time can ripple outward.

What is one barrier in your context to growing younger?

What is one small step you could take in the next 3 months?



Final Reflection



- Growing
 younger is not a
 project, but a
 calling.
- It's about
 rediscovering
 the gospel as
 good news for
 all ages.

Write down 1 action you will take - something practical and doable in your congregation in the next 3 months.





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If you have any questions, come and find us this weekend or feel free to pop us an email at: cydo@urcwestmidlands.org.uk youthrep@urcwestmidlands.org.uk