Intergenerational Worship – Is it reasonable and possible?

(Sectional D23)

Symposium 2008

Friday and Saturday: 2:15 – 3:15 p.m.

Description:

Many churches are asking whether they can really keep all generations working together, or whether it would be better to separate the generations according to their preferences in worship. Some voices suggest separation. Other churches with limited resources wonder if they are inferior because they have no choice in the matter. On the basis of research for the recent book The Church of All Ages: Generations Worshiping Together, several of the participants will explore the issues involved, highlight some of the findings, and stimulate your further reflection on the matter.

Presenters:


Stan Mast – Worship Planner and Minister of Preaching at LaGrave Ave. Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI

Howard Vanderwell, Former Pastor, Worship Planner, Resource Development Specialist for Pastoral Leadership at Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Adjunct Professor of Worship at Calvin Theological Seminary.
I Will Extol You, O My God

1 I will extol you, O my God, and praise you, O my King;
2 Each generation to the next shall testify bear,
3 Your mighty acts and glorious deeds we shall with awe confess.

yes, every day and evermore your praises I will sing,
and to your praise, from age to age, your wondrous acts declare,
and sing of your great goodness and your perfect righteousness.

Great is the Lord, our mighty God, and greatly to be praised;
Upon your glorious majesty and honor I will dwell,
Most gracious and compassionate is God, who reigns above;

his greatness is unsearchable, above all glory raised.
and all your grand and glorious works and greatness I will tell.
his wrath is ever slow to rise, unbounded is his love.

Tune: English; adapt. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1874
Intergenerational Worship: Is it reasonable and possible?

A. Why is This a Pressing Issue Today?

B. The Diversity of Efforts to Address the Issue?

C. Some Biblical Principles:
   1. The Unity of the Church
   2. The Pattern of Biblical Worship
   3. The Church as a Covenant Community
   4. The Formation of Faith
   5. The Continuation of the Church

D. Values to Guide Worship Planners:
   1. All chapters in life’s journey are equally valuable.
   2. Avoid stereotypes.
   3. Worship planning should be age-inclusive.
   4. Encourage activities that encourage worshipers to be age-inclusive.
   5. Plan periodic Intentionally inclusive worship services.
ONE CHURCH'S EXPERIENCE
LaGrave Avenue CRC in Grand Rapids, MI

OUR SITUATION-- Two Commitments: formal, liturgical, traditional worship and our teens.

OUR PROCESS-- Books, consultants, churches, classes, interviews

OUR FINDINGS

Passion—not style, but convention

Participation—behind the scenes, in the pew, up front, afterwards

Place—valued and loved

Parents—regular attendance and teaching

Programs—not just fun activities, but quality education

OUR RESULTS

Participation—“The Church of All Ages”

Passion—cutting edge

Place and Parents—Minister of Congregational Life
ISSUES FOR WORSHIP PLANNERS

Living Out Your Passion

Worship Planning Team Organization

Team Activities

Creative Planning

Education Times
"The River of Congregational Song"

G.I.A.
LITURGICAL FOLK
O.C.P.

PSALMODY & CLASSICAL HYMNODY

Latin America

WORLD

Asia

Africa

Spirituals

Gospel

"PRAISE & WORSHIP"

1st Wave

Maranatha!

Integration

Vineyard

WorshipTogether

2nd Wave
The Servant Song

1 Will you let me be your servant, let me be as
2 We are pilgrims on a journey; we are travelers
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time
4 I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll
5 Will you let me be your servant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road. We are here to help each other
of your fear. I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my servant too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this journey through.
let you be my servant too.