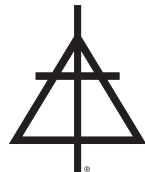


INTERGENERATIONAL
Worship
SURVEY





Christian Reformed Church
**Faith Formation
Ministries**

INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP SURVEY

The **Intergenerational Worship Survey** is designed to help your congregation identify strengths and weaknesses in how you engage and involve children and youth in worship.

Encourage as many people as possible to complete the survey. Then use the Follow Up and Exploring Further sections to guide your conversation and to help shape your action plans.

This resource is adapted from *Together All God's People*, CRC Publications, 2005, p.30-31, 33. Adaptation copyright 2017 Faith Formation Ministries.

INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP SURVEY

The following survey is designed to help our congregation identify strengths and weakness in how we engage and involve children and youth in worship.

Answer yes or no for each of the following statements about worship in our congregation.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Excluding “special” services, children and youth <i>regularly</i> participate in the leadership of worship by serving as (answer each option yes or no): | | |
| a. musicians | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. greeters, ushers | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. offering collectors | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. readers | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. prayer leaders | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. technicians | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. other (choir, drama, dance, decorating, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Our musicians, greeters, and others are expected to mentor/invite young people into the volunteer role in which they are involved. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. At least 75 percent of the children and youth of our church attend worship regularly. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. 75-100 percent of sermons include at least one story or reference for children. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. 75-100 percent of sermons include at least one story or reference for youth. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. 75-100 percent of services include at least two songs that children can easily sing. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. 75-100 percent of services include at least two songs that especially connect with teens. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Children/youth are greeted by name by ushers, pastoral staff, and other leaders. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. The needs and concerns of children and youth ministries are regularly included in congregational prayers. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 10. Children’s bulletins/worship bags or other worship tools available for the children are connected to the main theme/message of the worship service and are provided to help children participate in worship.

Y N
- 11. Worship planners and leaders consciously consider children and youth as they prepare worship services (including choice of words, explanations of difficult passages, purposes of various liturgical components, young people’s attention spans, etc.)

Y N
- 12. Worship services address milestones in the lives of children and youth (first day of school, final exams, graduations, etc.)

Y N
- 13. Scripture is presented creatively so that children and youth can follow along and understand the story/message.

Y N
- 14. Services include visuals and other sensory media that involve more than hearing or listening to help facilitate learning and participation.

Y N
- 15. Parents are encouraged and trained to worship with their children and to participate and learn with their children in worship.

Y N
- 16. In my opinion, children and youth participate fully (not just in special moments) in all the prayers, songs, and actions that make up the worship service, and they are encouraged to memorize basic texts (such as the Apostles’ Creed and the Lord’s Prayer.)

Y N
- 17. In my opinion, children and youth in our congregation participate consciously, knowing and understanding what each action of worship means and why it is done, and having been taught about worship, liturgy, the background of hymns and other worship songs, and so on.

Y N
- 18. In my opinion, children and youth in our congregation participate actively in worship (not just passively with their mind “in another world”); they experience the reality of God, dialoguing with God alongside other worshipers.

Y N
- 19. In my opinion, children and youth are viewed as full participants in worship not only for their sake but also for the sake of the whole body.

Y N

Scoring the Survey

Each “yes” answer is worth one point.

23-25 points: Your church knows what intergenerational ministry is all about. Consider leading workshops for other churches in your community!

18-22 points: Keep up the good work! You’re on the right track.

11-17 points: Things are looking up. Don’t stop now!

10 or fewer points: Taking this survey was a good start. Begin now to work more toward integrating children and youth in worship.

Follow Up

- Have the people in your group share one thing they have learned from this exercise.
- Compare your responses. If there is a discrepancy (some people answered “yes” and others “no”), reach a consensus on which answer is most accurate.
- Choose several “yes” responses to highlight and celebrate. Decide how you will communicate these success to the rest of the congregation. Along with using written communication via the bulletin/newsletter/social media, are there creative ways in which people of different generations might share with the congregation their stories of how their faith has been nurtured through worship? For ideas, visit the Faith Storytelling toolkit at crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits.
- Choose one component to which you answered “no,” and commit to taking a step toward improvement in the coming month. Plan that step in detail by focusing on the *who, what, when, why, and how* aspects of your strategy.
- Choose two more components to which you answered “no,” and plan several steps that you can take in the next six months to begin addressing them.
- Pray together, thanking God for the challenge of involving the whole congregation in worship and asking for help in setting and meeting goals.
- Be sure to communicate to your council, leadership team, and congregation what you have learned and planned so that everyone is “on board.”
- Continue working on weak areas and plan to reassess in one year.

Exploring Further

Reflect on the various aspects of your worship services and discuss the following questions for each generation present in your church.

- How can this element of our worship minister to children, teens, and adults?
- How can this element of our worship be made more meaningful to children, teens, and adults?
- How can we encourage children, teens and adults to be conscious, active participants in this part of our worship?
- How can we include children, teens, and adults in the leadership/planning of this part of our worship?

Consider reading the following wonderful resources for further exploration and discussing them as a group:

- *Intergenerational Christian Formation, Bringing the Whole Church Together in Ministry, Community and Worship* by Holly Catterton Allen and Christine Lawton Ross
- *The Church of All Ages, Generations Worshiping Together*, edited by Howard Vanderwell

Get ideas and inspiration from the many resources found in the Intergenerational Church toolkit at www.crcna.org/FaithFormation/intergenerationl-church-toolkit. Faith Formation Ministries' Regional Catalyzers are also available for a coaching conversation over the phone, via email, or in person. Contact faithformation@crcna.org or visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/coaching for more information.