

# Multigenerational Inclusion

## Objective

An event that is designed to meet the needs of women of all ages and create space for all generations to be a part of the experience.

## How Tos

- Ask for age information on registration and evaluation forms. (Inquire as to age range, not specific age.) This enables you to more effectively plan appropriate activities, speakers, plenary and workshop topics, etc., and then evaluate how well the program worked for various age groups.
- Visually depict women of all ages and family types in outreach and publicity materials.
- Have your planning team encourage young women's participation. Invite young women to formally speak about the topic at hand or on their own understanding of what's important about the church or a women's group in the church or about a social justice concern. Give them encouragement and time in events to organize the "regulars" to do something about it.
- Publicize child care in registration materials.
- Ensure that there are specific safety procedures put into place for:
  - Child care (two unrelated child care workers are in the room at all times). United Methodist Women's augmentation of the Safe Sanctuary guidelines from the General Board of Discipleship.
  - Young women.
  - Other vulnerable adults: Make sure during difficult and controversial subjects that someone is assigned as a counselor or chaplain who is able to mediate problems or counsel those who find themselves erupting into strong feelings.
- Provide United Methodist Women staff, planning teams, local hosts and leaders with advance orientation regarding safety and inclusion procedures for children, youth, young adults, elders.
- Provide special programming time to enable young teens and young women to gather.



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## Helpful Resources

- Quakers' resources on creating intergenerational events:  
[www.fgcquaker.org/sites/www.fgcquaker.org/files/attachments/Navigating%20the%20Multigenerational%20Retreat.pdf](http://www.fgcquaker.org/sites/www.fgcquaker.org/files/attachments/Navigating%20the%20Multigenerational%20Retreat.pdf).
- Generations United Website: [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org). Their fact sheet may be helpful:  
[www.gu.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=71wHEwUd0KA%3D&tabid=157&mid=606](http://www.gu.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=71wHEwUd0KA%3D&tabid=157&mid=606)
- The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist church has developed training materials for those who have responsibility for the safety of participants in church events. It is important to take seriously the responsibilities involved in taking care of children and youth and to recognize that abuse can happen in any setting. Knowing what to do when this happens or when you see something suspicious is a leadership responsibility:  
[www.gbod.org/lead-your-church/safe-sanctuaries](http://www.gbod.org/lead-your-church/safe-sanctuaries).

## Fast Facts

Older adults who regularly volunteer with children burn 20 percent more calories per week, experienced fewer falls, are less reliant on canes and perform better on a memory test than their peers.

Children build their foundation for reading and related activities from kindergarten through third grade, playing an important role in literacy development. In schools where older adults were a regular fixture (volunteers working 15 hours per week) children had more improved reading scores compared to their peers at other schools.

Youth involved in intergenerational mentoring programs are 46 percent less likely to begin using illegal drugs, 27 percent less likely to begin using alcohol and 52 percent less likely to skip school.

Source: Generations United, Fact Sheet: The Benefits of Intergenerational Programs

## **Glossary**

**Children:** Refers to all those who are too young to understand “regular” adult United Methodist Women programming.

**Safe Sanctuary guidelines:** The United Methodist Church’s General Board of Discipleship provides resources for creating safe sanctuaries for all of us who participate in congregational life: [www.gbod.org/lead-your-church/safe-sanctuaries](http://www.gbod.org/lead-your-church/safe-sanctuaries). It would be good to adapt their policies to your particular event—having a plan in place, knowing who to call when trouble brews, knowing the indicators of abuse and what the law says about it are all very important infrastructure responsibilities.

**Teen women:** Women 13-17 years old.

**Vulnerable adults:** We all go through times in our lives when we are especially vulnerable. At United Methodist Women events, we often tackle difficult and controversial subjects, such as domestic violence, immigration and human trafficking. During these times, some may experience especially strong feelings. It’s important to know that this is a possibility and prepare for it through the alert presence of those who can support those who are affected. This term also applies to adults with special needs.

**Young adults:** Adults 18-35 years old.

## **Policy Foundations**

*The Book of Discipline* “The Nurturing Community” (§161) and “The Social Community” (§162), the Social Principles.

*The Book of Resolutions* #2027 “Putting Children and Their Families First,” #3022 “Aging in the United States: The Church’s Response,” #3081 “Child Care and the Church,” #3082 “Church Support of Caregivers of Children.”