

PASTOR'S NICKEL

PASTOR'S NICKEL – Guiding Principles



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“OUR WORSHIP IS ENGAGING, PARTICIPATORY, AND INTENTIONALLY INTERGENERATIONAL”

As a Worship Ministry Team, we have been studying a book together on intergenerational worship called *The Church of All Ages*. On the surface, intergenerational worship seems quite simple and makes a lot of sense.

We read in scripture of one generation commending the works of the Lord to the next, of all people and all ages gathering together in worship and unity. We understand that we need all generations, that every life and every age has value and a voice, that everyone is loved and important. We hear all these values and say, “yes!” That is a picture of who we long to be. But the challenge comes when putting it into practice, because being and becoming an intentionally intergenerational church doesn’t take compromise, it takes sacrifice; it takes purpose, not preference.

What about this guiding principle makes worship reformed? Reformed worship places a high value on congregational singing. We have responsive readings in our liturgies so that we are not merely listening but engaging in prayer and scripture readings. We have congregation members lead readings, prayers, songs, and read scripture. In all these things, we are not recipients of but participants in worship. We have a rich history but also live in the tension of staying grounded in but not bound by tradition. To throw out all aspects of our history and past would be unwise, but to hang onto the ways things have been done just because that’s how we always did them is not the solution either.

Being intergenerational is both challenging and inspiring because it forces us to look beyond our own cultural or generational lens and reminds us that our own relationship to God is deepened and enriched by others different from us.

That's my Nickel – Pastor Elly Boersma