

WORSHIP ACROSS GENERATIONS

(WE ARE THE TOTAL CHURCH)

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

AGENDA/TOPICS TO BE COVERED

My Generation is....

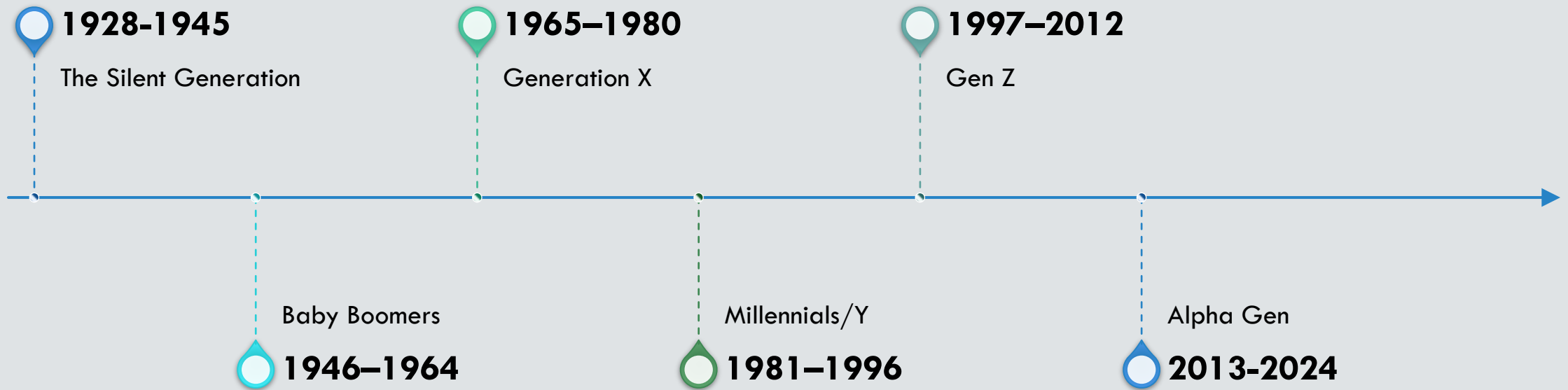
My Church Age is....

About the Generations

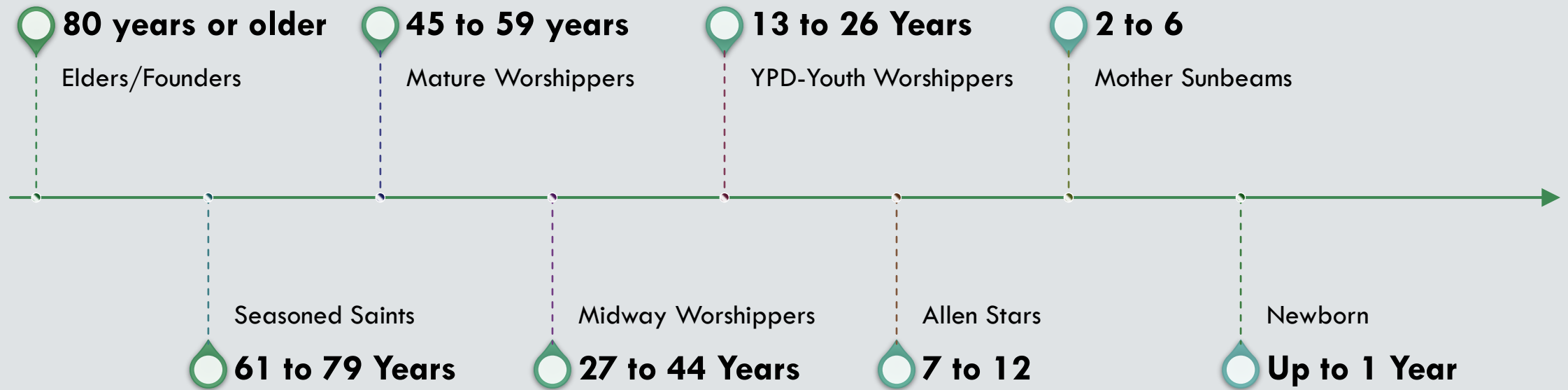
Worship Across Generations

Panel Discussion

MY GENERATION IS:



MY CHURCH AGE IS:



WORSHIP ACROSS GENERATIONS

Worship across generations brings together people of all ages and scriptural experiences on a shared spiritual journey. It is rooted in the biblical understanding of the family and community of faith. By embracing diversity in age, experiences and perspectives, a church can foster a richer, more inclusive environment for all ages. However, there are often varying preferences, experiences and theological perspectives among the different generations.



ABOUT THE GENERATION-THE SILENT GENERATION

As Known as...

- World War II Generation
- Builders
- Depression Babies
- Radio Babies



Compelling message from formative years

- Make do or do without
- Stay in line
- Sacrifice
- Be heroic
- Consider the Common Good

ABOUT THE GENERATION-SILENT GENERATION

Popular Technology and Historical events

- Technology
 - Radio
- Events
 - WWII, Korean War, Disney's First animated feature(Snow White), Jackie Robinson joins major league baseball
- Signature Product
 - Automobile

General Characteristics

- Jobs
 - Work for one company until retire
- Communication media
 - Formal Letter, memo and personal notes
- Communication preferences
 - Face to Face

ABOUT THE GENERATION-SILENT GENERATION

Worship Characteristics

Strong Religious Upbringing

- Church played a central role in community life.
- Church attendance and participation in church activities were part of daily life and social identity

Community and Tradition

- Worship provided a sense of community
- Church provided opportunities to connect with others, uphold traditions and stable foundation

Learning Style

- “Teach Me”
 - Traditional, instructor-led, reading

Worship Style

- Formal Worship Services
- Traditional Hymns and Music
- Emphasis on Sermons
- Rituals and Sacraments
- Community and Fellowship
- Respect for Traditions

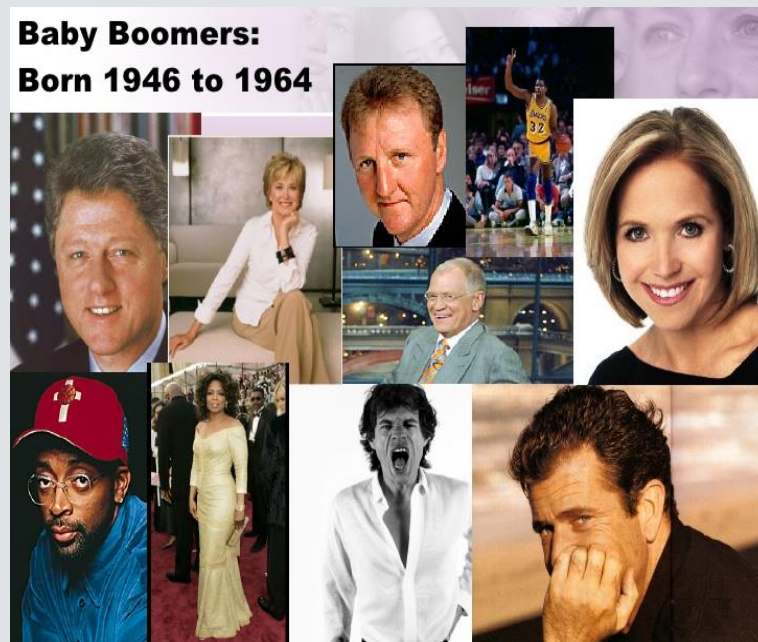
ABOUT THE GENERATION-BABY BOOMERS

As Known as...

- Boomers
- Vietnam Generation
- Me Generation

Compelling message from formative years

- Be anything you want to be
- Change the world
- Work well with others
- Live up to expectation
- Duck and Cover



ABOUT THE GENERATION-BABY BOOMERS

Popular Technology and Historical events

- Technology
 - Television
- Events
 - Vietnam War, Civil Rights moment. President Kennedy assassinated. Women's Liberation demonstrations
- Signature Product
 - Television

General Characteristics

- Jobs
 - Work for one company until you get laid off then find another company
- Communication media
 - Telephone and personal interaction
- Communication preferences
 - Face to Face ideally, but telephone or email, if required

ABOUT THE GENERATION-BABY BOOMERS

Worship Characteristics

Early Church Engagement

- Many Boomers were raised in time when going to church was the social norm
- Sunday services, youth group, etc were part of their upbringing

Community Involvement

- Church served as the central hub for community activities
- Provided a sense of belonging and network of support

Learning Style

- “Lead me to information”
 - Traditional, group effort, expert-driven, self-driven

Worship Styles

- Blended Worship
- Engaging Sermons
- Active Participation
- Community and Fellowship
- Social Justice and Outreach

ABOUT THE GENERATION-GENERATION X

As Known as...

- GenX
- Baby Busters
- 13th Generation
(since The American Revolution)
- Post-Boomers

Compelling message from formative years

- Don't Count on it
- Heroes don't exist
- Get Real
- Take care of yourself

Always ask "Why?"



ABOUT THE GENERATION-GENERATION X

Popular Technology and Historical events

- Technology
 - The Personal Computer
- Events
 - Challenger Disaster, Three Mile Island Accident, AIDS Identified, John Lennon Killed

General Characteristics

- Jobs
 - Loyal to profession, not necessarily to employer
- Communication media
 - Voice Mail, email and text message
- Communication preferences
 - Text message and Email

ABOUT THE GENERATION-GENERATION X

Worship Characteristics

Diverse Upbringings

- Gen X raised during major shift in societal norms. (rise in divorce rate, increase in dual income households) that impact religious upbringings. Some raised traditional, other less structured

Skepticism and Individualism

- Gen X questioned traditional authority figures and institutions including the church. Let them to explore alternative spiritual path
- The shift in cultural and technology in the 80s and 90s exposed Gen X to broader range of religious belief and practices.

Learning Style

- “connect me to people”
 - Team-driven, collaborative, wisdom of crowds, peer-to-peer

Worship Styles

- Diverse Worship Preferences
- Authenticity and Relevance
- Interactive and Engaging Services
- Community Focus
- Informal and Relaxed Atmosphere
- Social Justice and Service

ABOUT THE GENERATION-MILLENNIAL

As Known as...

- Generation Y
- Internet Generation
- Digital Generation



Compelling message from formative years

- You are Special
- Leave no one behind
- Connect 24/7
- Achieve Now!
- Serve your community

ABOUT THE GENERATION-MILLENNIAL

Popular Technology and Historical events

- Technology
 - The Internet
- Events
 - Columbine, Princess Diana dies, World Trade Center Attacks, Hurricane Katrina
- Signature Product
 - Tablet/Smart Phone

General Characteristics

- Jobs
 - Digital entrepreneurs-work “with” organization not “for”
- Communication media
 - text or social media
- Communication preferences
 - Online and mobile(text messaging)

ABOUT THE GENERATION-MILLENNIAL

Worship Characteristics

Religious Affiliations

- Millennials are less likely to affiliate with traditional religious institutions. Many identify as “spiritual but not religious”

Social Issues

- Millennials often hold more progressive views on social issues such as LGBTQ rights, gender equality, etc that can lead to tensions with more conservative traditional values

Digital Engagement

- Millennials are more likely to engage with spiritual content online. This includes sermons, participating in virtual worship and joining online faith communities

Learning Style

- “connect me to people”
 - Team-driven, collaborative, wisdom of crowds, peer-to-peer

Worship Styles

- Contemporary Worship
- Interactive and Participatory
- Authenticity and Transparency
- Technology Integration
- Social Justice and Outreach

ABOUT THE GENERATION-GENERATION Z

As Known as...

- Gen Z
- Zoomers
- TikTok Generation



Compelling message from formative years

- Self Expression
- Instant Gratification
- Internet/Social Media Fame

ABOUT THE GENERATION-GENERATION Z

Popular Technology and Historical events

- Technology
 - Streaming Services
- Events
 - First African American President, Sandy Hook School Shooting, Same Sex Marriage
- Signature Product
 - Online Apps (tic tok, snap chat, you tube, etc)

General Characteristics

- Jobs
 - Prioritize live balance over work. Being Happy=Success
- Communication media
 - Handheld
- Communication preferences
 - Face time

ABOUT THE GENERATION-GENERATION Z

Worship Characteristics

Spiritual Openness

- Gen Z are spiritually open and curious about faith. They are more likely to explore different religious beliefs and practices

Social Insecurities

- Younger generations often feel intimidated or anxious about fitting in with church communities. This can be a barriers to their participation in church activities

Revival and Retreat

- While some Gen Z individuals are experiencing a spiritual revival and returning to church, other are moving away from organized religion. This dual trend suggests a complex relationship with faith

Learning Style

- “mentorship”
 - Visual Learners, Multitaskers, Collaborative, Information Speakers

Worship Styles

- Interactive and Collaborative worship
- Technology Integration
- Authenticity
- Social Justice
- Diverse and Inclusive

WORSHIP ACROSS GENERATION

Building Bridges Between Generations

- Recognize Common Values
 - Community, Spiritual Depth
- Blend Worship Styles
 - Blend Traditional and Contemporary elements.
 - Mix hymns with modern Gospel songs.
 - Sermons with timeless scriptural truths with everyday applications
- Encourage intergenerational interaction
 - Mixed age groups (choirs, officers, etc)
 - Mentorship programs
- Celebrate Diversity
 - Acknowledge and honor the uniqueness each generation brings. (i.E Wisdoms and stability of older members, energy and innovation of younger members)

WORSHIP ACROSS GENERATION

Difficulty of Multi Generation Worship

- Diverse Musical Tastes
 - Traditional Hymn vs Contemporary Gospel Music
 - Full Band vs Piano
- Technological Integration
 - Printed programs vs Digital/on Screen programs
 - Online Giving vs Traditional offerings
- Communication Styles
 - Phone Calls, Email vs Face Time, Social Media, Text
- Addressing Generational Stereotypes



WORSHIP ACROSS GENERATION

Similarities across Generations

- Church can bring personal fulfillment and satisfaction
- Everyone want to feel valued
- Individuals want a supportive environment where they are appreciated
- Spiritual Development is important at all ages, just different.



PANEL DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS

INVOLVEMENT

Does your church have members from every generation?

What is one misconception about your generation and the church?

How do you encourage members of your generation to participate in the total Church?

How do you encourage members of another generation to participate in the total church?

Why is it important to support the total Church and not just individual ministries?



QUESTIONS

AME HISTORY

As AME, we have a rich history, How did you learn about Richard Allen and our history?

How do we share our history with new members regardless of their age?

What is one of your favorite AME Traditions?



QUESTIONS

AME Structures

Where is your AME Discipline?

What role does the AME Discipline play in a local lay organization?

How do we foster more collaboration between church leaders and laity?

How do we encourage involvement on all levels of the AME Church?

