

2009 CASA Network ILC, Downers Grove, IL Summary  
"Longevity in the Church: A Gentle Revolution"

Christians from around the world met for the Christian Association Serving Adult Ministries (CASA) International Leadership Conference on the theme "Longevity in the Church: A Gentle Revolution" September 16 18 in Downers Grove.

40/50 Window Forty percent of Americans are 50plus. The numbers are growing daily. It does not stop with the Boomer Generation as the Millennial Generation or Generation X is even larger. Longevity in the Church has come home to stay.

"Reaching Deeper Levels of Relationships in Inter-generational Ministry" by Dr. Ben Dickerson. Developing deeper relationships requires time, energy, effort, cooperation and moving from an age specific orientation to one of generational linkage. Suggested action steps included:

1. Become aware of how each generation lives
2. Move past existing myths
3. Expand participation options
4. Stop doing what doesn't work
5. Figure out what works and do it

"Breaking down the Age Barriers" by Dr. Amy Hanson. Today's society often segments people by age, and young and old have few opportunities to interact. However, some churches are discovering that intergenerational ministry is rewarding, God honoring work, and they are finding ways to encourage meaningful connections across generational lines, including:

1. Creating natural ways for the generations to serve together
2. Honoring older adults by asking them to tell their stories
3. Educating the church body on the value of intergenerational ministry
4. Finding ways to make the worship service multi-generational
5. Encouraging affinity groups, rather than age specific groups, as a way for people to connect
6. Hosting strategic intergenerational events
7. Matching young people with older adults in mentoring relationships.

"Becoming a Boomer Groomer" by Dr. Pete Menconi. The challenges of intergenerational church are best met with understanding the major differences between the five generations in the church today and thinking creatively how best to deliver what people need to grow, connect, and contribute.

New Groups=New Growth and Top Church Growth Principles by Dr Charles Arn.