

An Introduction to United Intergenerational Ministry or “UIM”

- **UIM is an attitude.** It is putting on the mind of Christ, being like Him, following Him as our example. Christ put all people before Himself and successful UIM emanates from our doing the same.
- **UIM takes congregations on a spiritual journey,** thoroughly equipping them along the way to be like Christ and as they do, have all of their needs met through Christ. It is this "selfless" giving by all generations that makes UIM so valuable and successful. It is, after all, in giving that we receive so much from God, and from each other (Acts 20:35).
- **UIM is unique:** UIM is a unique form on intergenerational ministry because it ministers to every generation at the same time through the same resource. Most intergenerational ministry ministers to individual generations separately.
- **UIM meets the needs of generations:** In each resource, different needs are met in different sections as old and new are combined.
- **UIM offers the stability of faith and family:** It takes congregations back to a time of faith and family where God and His Word are central and powerful in faith and lives.
- **UIM moves ahead to offer congregations what is new:** New Purpose! New Vision! A New Approach to Ministry! New Outreach of Care for Every Member Through Prayer!

**In and through faith in Christ, UIM becomes a way of life,
the way of Christ, living in us, forgiving, guiding, sustaining and saving us.**

An Introduction to UIM Worship

UIM Worship Is All About:

Flexibility: UIM Worship meets the needs of those who come to meditate, those who come to celebrate, those who enjoy both, and almost everything in between, all in the same service. Options are given in the Leader's Guide that allow for offering a UIM Worship service as totally traditional in liturgy and style. Yet, this same service can be offered with lots of UIM participation, responses, and different styles of worship to create enthusiasm and involve every generation, intentionally to reach out to meet the worship needs of all generations and situations. The more options and styles you offer in one service, the more worship needs you will be meeting.

DID YOU KNOW? Congregations can offer the same UIM service as traditional or contemporary if they so desire. This kind of flexibility is rare if it exists at all in any other worship resource(s).

Celebration: UIM Worship offers praise and celebration! These styles are presently drawing and keeping many generations returning to worship. Remind those who may feel uncomfortable clapping and shouting of the many Psalms that praise the Lord through clapping and shouting (Psalm 47, 81, 95, 98, 100, etc.). Celebration liturgy echos the refrain: “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!” Psalm 118:24. Yet, it must be offered along with other styles of worship to meet the worship needs of all who attend worship.

Meditation: The same opportunities for meditation that occur in traditional liturgy, though hymns, songs, and prayers, occur in UIM Worship. While quiet meditation may not be possible in all UIM participation, the repetition of faith and life strengthening words throughout UIM Worship help generations learn these words so that they can meditate on them during the week to help them through their daily faith and lives.

Variety: Some worshipers may be adamant about offering only the worship styles they enjoy. Use the opportunity adamance presents to share how the many styles of UIM Worship bring more people to worship where they come to know Christ and receive the blessings of Word and Sacrament. It is absolutely true that UIM Worship is all about others, but it is equally true that as worshipers place the worship needs of others above their own like Christ all of their needs will be met through Christ (Philippians 4:19).

Inclusiveness: UIM Worship offers optional reading opportunities to include all generations. Invite volunteers from every generation to read any parts of the liturgy and all Scripture readings, except the Gospel that UIM holds sacred by having only the Worship Leader read it. Ask other worshiper, right before, during the service, or ahead of time if they will be more comfortable, to read any other words or lead any responsive reading of the service.

Caring in UIM Worship:

- Worshipers are helped to care for children and those with hearing, vision, and reading challenges so they can participate in worship.
- Worshipers are reminded to point to words to cue those with hearing challenges about what words to say when, *with their permission*.
- UIM includes children and those with vision or reading challenges by providing lots of repetition everyone can repeat together.
- Helping children participate in worship helps them enjoy worship and leaves little time for them to be disruptive. This blessing of UIM Worship, can help to calm the apprehension of parents who do not bring their children to worship because they could be disruptive. In fact, UIM participation can help the whole congregation enjoy children in worship.

Receiving More than We Give: Worshipers who give care, receive more than they give from the satisfaction and self-worth that comes from caring for others. Both being cared for and giving care help worshipers feel valuable and loved. These feelings strengthen them to handle, prevent, and heal the problems and tragedies caused by not feeling loved and valued - like the depression and anger that lead to violence, suicide, etc.

Growing in Faith, Ministry, and Numbers:

- UIM Worship, through the wisdom and power of God's Word, meets the worship needs of people in every generation even if they do not realize it.
- What worshipers will realize, is the message of God's Word the permeates each part of each service. They will not leave without some portion of God's Word meeting their needs.
- UIM Bulletin Inserts also address pertinent needs of generations today worshipers can take home with them.
- People, drawn to congregations who meet their needs through worship, a message that speaks to their needs, and resources they can read and take home that help them, will return. Some, even without an invitation.
- People of all ages, strengthened by the Lord through His Word, will increase the faith and ministry and numbers of congregations they attend.

Adding to Worship: UIM Worship services include skits or dramatic readings or litanies, intergenerational object lessons, actions, etc. to help all ages participate. *Option:* Intergenerational teams can be formed to practice and present UIM Worship skits or dramas.

Participation: UIM participation is probably the biggest difference worshipers find when comparing traditional worship to UIM worship. Often participation is simply listening for words and repeating them. Sometimes it means looking for something close by, or answering a question. Participation is always simple and non-threatening.

Note: Because some may not be able to stand, others may not be able to speak, etc. worship leaders should always ask worshipers to participate only as they are able.

Interactive Sermons:

- Worshipers have shared that the participation of UIM sermons keeps them involved, helps them listen better, and understand the sermon message more clearly.
- However, UIM sermons can be made traditional by preaching the outline and making participatory words part of the sermon by saying them in the sermon at the end of each section.
- UIM Sermons have been successfully preached from
 - (1) the front center aisle to be among the people much as Jesus did on many occasions,
 - (2) in a traditional style from the pulpit.
 - (3) in a less formal style from the lectern.

Use a different style every Sunday to meet the needs of more worshipers over a period of time.

UIM Worship Comes Complete with:

Copy-ready Worship Bulletins: Designed to simply be printed and then copied back to back. You may cut and paste words to tailor to these bulletins to your needs and to include your church information, etc.

Bulletin Cover(s): Come in black and white, unless otherwise noted. To get more generations involved invite members and even their families to color the black & white covers. You may also color one black and white cover and reproduce *the cover only* on a color printer or copier or take to a locate print shop. The remainder of each service can still be reproduced in black and white.

Hymns and Songs:

- Hymns are taken from the Lutheran Service Book (LSB), The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH) and Lutheran Worship (LW) and are public domain tunes and text - *unless otherwise noted*. Public domain words from LSB/LW/TLH can be printed on a separate song sheet..
- Most hymns can be found in other hymnals and song books, and can also be replaced by similar hymns and songs from other hymnals and songbooks. *Do make sure you have the rights to print and use the words and tunes of all hymns/ songs you choose to use*
- UIM Hymns provided by Family Crossfires Ministries in services use public domain tunes.
- If you desire, you may want to add offering and communion hymns to each service and bulletin,
- Add choir songs, play recorded Christian hymns/songs, praise worship songs, etc. to meet the worship needs of all who enjoy these.
- HERE'S A GREAT IDEA: To include teens and draw them to worship, play Christian songs they enjoy before or after worship, during the offering or communion, etc.

Always make sure you provide an equal number of hymns and songs every generation will enjoy in every worship service.

UIM Worship Equips Congregations to Reach Out Through:

Repetition: The repetition of words in UIM Worship is done to help children and those with vision, and/or reading challenges participate. Words are printed to help those with hearing challenges participate.

Inclusiveness: UIM Worship works hard to include the autistic, the mentally challenged, the depressed, and a variety of other situations that can be helped through the support and care UIM encourages within congregation members.

Encouragement: On top of UIM Worship, UIM Bulletin Inserts address issues pertinent to generations today and UIM Newsletter Articles encourage each age group during the course of each year. UIM Inserts and Articles also equip congregation members to care for one another, which is the ultimate goal and mission of UIM.

Large Print Bulletins: UIM Worship Bulletins can easily be enlarged for the visually impaired. Check with local schools who have blind students and the means of publishing UIM Worship Bulletins in braille.

Printed More of the Service for those with hearing challenges: Print the Sermon and Prayers and make them available along with bulletins for those who will benefit and be blessed by them.

Reminders During Worship: Worshipers are reminded to cue children and help those who may need help to participate. Those who hearing challenges are encourage to bring signers and their signers offer signers the Worship Leader's Guide to help them sign effectively. Even get guide to signers ahead of time.

Focus Objects:

- Having bags filled with coloring pages and quiet toys always welcome children to worship. However, in UIM Worship these are not always needed when children are helped to participate.
- Yet, with more cases of autism being diagnosed every day, congregations can provide focus objects: a rubber band, pictures, books, objects with a religious significance, such as a cross in the pocket, etc. that can help enhance worship for autistic members. Search the web for more ideas to welcome those with autism or any challenge.
- There are a wealth of conditions in children and adults that can benefit from focus objects that welcome every person and their care gives to worship in your congregation. To care for them in Jesus' name, ask those who accompany any person or any age with any condition what your congregation can do to help them enjoy and be blessed by worship.

UIM Worship passes on the strength of faith God gives through Word and Sacrament to lead present and future generations to Christ for faith that saves in heaven and helps them through life on earth.

UIM is a gift congregations can give, that never stops giving !

UIM Often Offers Opportunity to Memorize God's Word:

- UIM is noted for helping generations memorize God's Word for help and strength.
- The **Advent Devotion Calendar** in this Series helps generations memorize one passage each week.
- Each passage is printed in the Worship Bulletin for that week and instructions are given in each Worship Leaders's Guide to read the passage during the service and encourage worshipers to memorize it during the week.

Placing God's Word in hearts and minds is a strong goal of UIM because God's Word:

- does not return void (Isaiah 55:11)
- is a lamp to our feet (Psalm 119:105)
- is breathed by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- when we are fed by it, is like a wise man who built his house on the rock (Matthew 7:24)
- is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him (Psalm 18:30)
- is Christ, the word who became flesh for us (John 1:14)