



Churches Engaging Young People Project  
Stage One  
Senior Pastor Survey

# **Churches Engaging Young People Project: Stage One Senior Pastor Survey**

**Copyright Statement:** All of the following information and material is the property of the Fuller Youth Institute. The information may not be distributed, modified, displayed, reproduced – in whole or in part – without the prior written permission of the Fuller Youth Institute ([fyi@fuller.edu](mailto:fyi@fuller.edu)). Thank you.

# Churches Engaging Young People Project: Senior Pastor Survey

## Informed Consent

Greetings from Fuller Theological Seminary and the Fuller Youth Institute! Our mission at the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) is to equip young people with the lifelong faith they need, and we do that by leveraging research into resources that elevate leaders, young people, and families. Your church has been nominated as being particularly effective at engaging young people (ages 15-29).

### Description of the project

The current study invites you to participate in the Churches Engaging Young People (CEYP, pronounced “keep”) Project by completing an online questionnaire. While the focus of this project is on engaging young people, we want you as the pastor to complete it in order to understand the related dynamics of the overall church. An adult who works more directly with young people in your church is also being invited to complete a survey that focuses more specifically on the dynamics of that age group.

**The purpose of this study is to gain a deeper understanding of how your church engages young people, and the connections between engaging young people and a thriving church.** In the questionnaire, therefore, we will ask questions about your church’s size and attendance, theological understanding of the gospel, response to the wider culture, approach to spiritual formation, sense of community and intergenerational relationships, role of parents in discipleship, leadership structure, emphasis on social justice and service, and shared corporate worship.

### Compensation

As a way of saying “Thank you!” for your help and participation, we will send you a \$50 gift card of your choice to either Amazon.com or Starbucks coffee (sent electronically via email). Once you complete the survey, your church will also be entered into a drawing to win a \$500 Visa gift card.

### Procedure

To participate, read this consent form carefully. **At the end, if you agree to participate, please fill in the requested information and proceed to the next page to answer the questions.**

By participating in this survey, you are giving us permission to contact you with an invitation to participate in further research related to this project.

Your questionnaire responses will be reviewed by the project’s investigators and research assistants. We take confidentiality very seriously, and will make sure that your personal information is kept private. After the questionnaire is completed, responses will be downloaded and all identifying names will be removed and stored elsewhere to protect your privacy and the privacy of others. All data will be stored securely.

We do anticipate publishing the results, but your role and participation will be kept anonymous. Your name and your church’s name will not be identified in print anywhere without your future consent.

### Risks and benefits to you

We do not anticipate any direct risks or benefits to you as a result of participating in this study, other than any natural benefits that come from reflecting on your congregation and its practices. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and even if you agree to participate, you have the right to not answer any of the questions in the questionnaire, or to withdraw from the study at any time for any reason, including any distress you experience during your participation.

### Questions, rights and complaints

If you have any questions about the study, please contact [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Consent statement**

Agreeing to participate in the Churches Engaging Young People Project means that you understand it is a survey study. It also signifies that each of the following statements is true of you:

- You are 18 years of age or older;
- You have read this consent form and all of your questions have been answered;
- You understand that you may withdraw from the study at any time, or refuse to answer any of the questions asked of you.

All of the answers you provide will be kept private and confidential in the manner described above. You have the right to see the results prior to their being published. You may want to keep a copy of the consent form for your records by printing this page.

We hope that this study will be of great importance to pastors, parents and young people. Thank you for your consideration!

**If you give your consent to participate in this study, please fill out the information requested below, and proceed to the survey questions on the next page of the survey.** We will assume that if you fill in the requested information and complete the survey, you are agreeing to participate.

If you do not wish to participate, please leave the information blank and do not complete the survey. We will then delete your name from the contact list, and you will not be contacted again.

**Here's the information we need, if you agree to participate (otherwise, leave it blank and do not complete the survey):**

\* 1. Your Full Name:

\* 2. Your Title At The Church:

\* 3. Church's Name:

\* 4. Church Mailing Address:

\* 5. Church City:

\* 6. Church State:

\* 7. Your E-mail Address (to contact you for possible future research related to this project):

\* 8. Your Phone Number:

Your responses will be saved after each page you complete. If needed, you may exit and return to finish the survey later. When you return, the survey will resume after the last page you completed.

## Churches Engaging Young People Project: Senior Pastor Survey

As you answer the following questions, here are a few notes about terminology:

- By “engaging young people,” we mean involving and retaining them in the congregational community, as well as helping them develop a vibrant faith in Jesus. We anticipate this definition will be refined during the course of the project.
- For the purposes of this study, we are defining a young person as between the ages of 15-29.
- It is impossible for our language to reflect all traditions. So in the following questions, where we use the term “pastor,” please mentally insert rector, priest, bishop, volunteer, etc., as appropriate to your context.
- Similarly, when we use the terms “church” or “congregation,” please insert parish, gathered fellowship, community of faith, etc., as appropriate to your context.
- If your church has multiple geographic sites or locations (and it is difficult for you to respond on behalf of all of these sites), please select the one with the most young people and respond based on that site.

Your frank and honest responses will help the Fuller Youth Institute gather important data that will potentially help thousands of churches to better engage young people. Near the end of the survey, you will be given the opportunity to select a \$50 gift card to either Amazon.com or Starbucks Coffee.

9. Your church's denominational affiliation (if applicable):

10. If your church has multiple sites/locations, please indicate which site/location are you responding on behalf of:

11. Is your position at the church:

- Full Time
- Part Time
- Volunteer
- Other (please specify)

12. How long have you worked at your church (or volunteered if you are in a volunteer position)?

- Less than 1 year
- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- 21 or more years

**As a reminder, when we use the terms “church” or “congregation,” please insert parish, gathered fellowship, community of faith, etc. as appropriate to your context.**

13. Approximately how many years ago was your congregation founded?

- 0-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-25 years
- 26-50 years
- 51-100 years
- 100+ years

14. In what type of community is your congregation located geographically? (If your community is a blend but one type is dominant, please select that type.)

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural

Other (please explain)

15. How would you describe the socio-economic status of the average member of your congregation?

- Upper
- Upper-Middle
- Middle
- Middle-Lower
- Lower

16. What is the ethnic/racial makeup of your church (please provide approximate percentages)?

White

Black/African American

Asian

Hispanic/Latino

American Indian

Other

17. During an average week, approximately how many people (including all adults, teenagers, and children) actively participate in your congregation? (Please include the total number of unique individuals who attend worship and/or other ministries such as adult classes, small groups, or youth/children's ministry gatherings.)

18. During an average week, approximately how many *young people* (15-29 years old) actively participate in your congregation? (Please include the total number of unique individuals who attend worship and/or other ministries.)

19. Has the number of people participating in your congregation over the last 5 years:

- Decreased substantially (by over 25%)
- Decreased (between 5%-25%)
- Remained about the same
- Increased (between 5%-25%)
- Increased substantially (by over 25%)

20. Think of a young person (15-29 years old) in your congregation who has a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ. Please describe 3-5 characteristics of what this young person's faith looks like.



21. Based on this description, what percentage of the young people (generally) in your congregation have a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

22. What evidence would you give to support this rating? (Please give up to three examples)

Your responses will be saved after each page you complete. If needed, you may exit and return to finish the survey later. When you return, the survey will resume after the last page you completed.

## Churches Engaging Young People Project: Senior Pastor Survey

**Following on this page and the next are several statements that may describe your church. Each statement has three questions: the first question will ask “how important,” the second will ask “how intentional,” and the third will ask “what percentage.” Please read each statement carefully and select the appropriate rating or percentage. Please be as frank as you can in your assessment, and remember that your answers are confidential.**

23. How important is it to you that your congregation serves (through church programs or other ways) in the local community or city in ways that help others?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

24. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that promote service in the local community or city in ways that help others?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

25. What percentage of your congregation actually serves in the local community or city in ways that help others?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

26. How important is it to you that your congregation serves (through church programs or other ways) outside of your city or state in ways that help others?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

27. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that promote service outside of your city or state in ways that help others?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

28. What percentage of your congregation actually serves outside of your city or state in ways that help others?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

29. How important is it to you that your congregation cultivates relationships where peers can share honestly with each other?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

30. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that cultivate relationships where peers can share honestly with each other?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

31. What percentage of your congregation participates in relationships where peers can share honestly with each other?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

32. How important is it to you that your congregation cultivates intergenerational relationships (meaning relationships between people from different age groups)?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

33. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that cultivate intergenerational relationships?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

34. What percentage of your congregation participates in intergenerational relationships?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

35. How important is it to you that parents in your congregation actively participate in the church ministries and/or activities in which their children and adolescents participate?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

36. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that encourage parents to actively participate in the church ministries and/or activities in which their children and adolescents participate?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

37. What percentage of the parents in your congregation actively participate in the church ministries and/or activities in which their children and adolescents participate?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

38. How important is it to you that parents in your congregation actively participate in faith-building activities with their children and adolescents outside of church gatherings (for example, prayer, reading Scripture together, serving)?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

39. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that encourage parents to actively participate in faith-building activities with their children and adolescents outside of church gatherings?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

40. What percentage of the parents in your congregation actively participate in faith-building activities with their children and adolescents outside of church gatherings?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

41. How important is it to you that the children's and youth ministry leaders in your church regularly communicate with parents of children and adolescents?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

42. How intentional are the children's and youth ministry leaders in your church in regularly communicating with parents of children and adolescents?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

43. What percentage of the parents of children and teenagers in your church seem to act on the communication your church provides?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

44. How important is it to you that the children's and youth ministry leaders in your church regularly provide parents with resources to help nurture faith in the family?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

45. How intentional are the children's and youth ministries in your congregation in regularly providing parents with resources to help nurture faith in the family?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

46. What percentage of the parents of children and teenagers in your church seem to actively use the resources your church provides?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

47. How important is it to you that your congregation equips people to grow as followers of Christ?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

48. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that equip people to grow as followers of Christ?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

49. What percentage of your congregation is equipped to grow as followers of Christ?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%



50. How important is it to you that the ministries of your congregation equip people to follow Christ in ways that are unique to specific age groups (for example, young children, middle school, high school, college, etc.)?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

51. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that equip people to follow Christ in ways that are unique to specific age groups?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

52. What percentage of the ministries of your congregation equip people to follow Christ in ways that are unique to specific age groups?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

## Churches Engaging Young People Project: Senior Pastor Survey

**Following are several statements that may describe your church. Please read each statement carefully and select the appropriate rating or percentage. Please be as frank as you can in your assessment, and remember that your answers are confidential.**

53. How important is it to you that when important decisions are made in your congregation, input is sought from those groups affected by the decision?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

54. How intentional are the decision-makers in your congregation in seeking input from those groups affected by important decisions?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

55. What percentage of the time is input sought from affected groups when important decisions are made?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

56. How important is it to you that the senior leaders in your congregation are willing to share openly the reasons behind the decisions they make?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

57. How intentional are the senior leaders in your congregation to share openly the reasons behind the decisions they make?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

58. What percentage of the time do the senior leaders in your congregation openly share the reasons behind the decisions they make?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

59. How important is it to you that your congregation intentionally develops young people to be leaders?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

60. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities or fostering relationships that intentionally develop young people to be leaders?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

61. What percentage of the young people in your congregation who are ready for leadership are being intentionally developed to be leaders?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

62. How important is it to you that your congregation intentionally engages with potentially controversial cultural issues of our day?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

63. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that engage with potentially controversial cultural issues of our day?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

64. What percentage of your congregation engages with potentially controversial cultural issues of our day?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

65. How important is it to you that when your congregation engages with potentially controversial cultural issues, you try to take a gracious posture in dealing with people and issues with whom you might disagree?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

66. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that encourage a gracious posture in dealing with people and issues with whom you might disagree?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

67. What percentage of your congregation takes a gracious posture in dealing with people and issues with whom they might disagree?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

68. How important is it to you that your congregation understands that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the centerpiece of the overarching story of God?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

69. How intentional is your congregation in promoting an understanding that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the centerpiece of the overarching story of God?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

70. What percentage of your congregation shows understanding that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the centerpiece of the overarching story of God?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

71. How important is it to you that your congregation understands that faith is about more than behaviors or following rules?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

72. How intentional is your congregation in promoting an understanding that faith is about more than behaviors or following rules?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

73. What percentage of your congregation shows understanding that faith is about more than behaviors or following rules?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

74. How important is it to you that your congregation's corporate worship is interactive (meaning worshipers are treated as active, rather than passive, participants)?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

75. How intentional is your congregation in planning corporate worship that is interactive?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

76. What percentage of the time (based on the average number of services in a year) is your congregation's corporate worship interactive?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

77. How important is it to you that your congregation's corporate worship is intergenerational in nature (meaning different age groups participate together)?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

78. How intentional is your congregation in planning corporate worship that is intergenerational in nature?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

79. What percentage of the time (based on the average number of services in a year) is your congregation's corporate worship intergenerational in nature?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%



## Churches Engaging Young People Project: Senior Pastor Survey

**Please answer the following open-ended questions to the best of your ability:**

80. Please list three ways you have seen young people (15-29 years old) contribute to the health or growth of your church?

81. What do you believe are three characteristics about your church that account for your success at engaging young people?

82. What are the three biggest challenges your church faces when it comes to ministering to young people?

83. Comments on any of the previous questions (optional):

84. Would you prefer a \$50 gift card to Amazon.com or Starbucks Coffee?

- Amazon.com
- Starbucks Coffee