

Pittsburgh Presbytery  
Growing Young Cohort  
2018-2019



GROWING  
YOUNG

“Growing Young” is the product of a multi-year research project conducted by Fuller Seminary that discovered six common traits of churches whose average age of attendee was staying the same or dropping.

The Growing Young Cohort will afford up to five churches from Pittsburgh Presbytery the chance to engage in a year-long guided process toward achieving congregational growth in the areas identified by Growing Young. At the outset, each team will develop a Growing Young Plan with specific goals, and at each subsequent meeting, the Growing Young Team from each congregation will present an update on their progress and receive feedback from the others in the group. The meeting times will also provide a “deep dive” into the six areas of the Growing Young initiative. The group will meet six times between September and June

- If a congregation wishes to participate in the Growing Young Cohort, they must assemble a team of no fewer than three individuals and no more than seven (five would be ideal). That team shall include 1) The Pastor of the church 2) All relevant staff people in the area of children’s and youth ministry 3) A key leader or leaders within the ministry itself 4) A key decision-maker in the church (most often this will be an elder). The format of the group will require these individuals to be available for day-time meetings. Each is to have read Growing Young before the cohort time begins.
- Each congregation who takes part in the Growing Young cohort will be required to complete the Growing Young Short Assessment administered locally, or the more extensive Growing Young Assessment administered by Fuller Seminary.
- Schedule (to be determined in detail once the group is formed)
  - September - Friday-Saturday Kick-Off retreat.
  - October - Meeting #1
  - November - Meeting #2
  - January - Meeting #2
  - March - Meeting #4
  - May - Meeting #5
  - June - Meeting #6
- Additional one-on-one coaching and group coaching is available if requested.

*If you think your congregation would be interested in participating in the Growing Young Cohort, please contact Brian Wallace at the Presbytery Office ([bwallace@pghpresbytery.org](mailto:bwallace@pghpresbytery.org))*



### Sample One-Day Meeting Schedule

9:00am	Opening Devotions
9:30am	Teaching Block
10:30am	Break
10:45am	Church Update #1
11:30am	Church Update #2
12:15pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Church Update #3
1:45pm	Church Update #4
2:30pm	Church Update #5
3:15pm	Group Goal Setting
4:00pm	Closing

### Growing Young Assessment Information

There are two options for the Growing Young Assessment:

**The Short Assessment** was developed by Fuller Seminary and is eighteen questions long. It can be administered locally and comes with no cost. This assessment is normally given to a selected group from the congregation including all staff, elders, key children's and youth program volunteers, parents, and select student. Brian analyzes the data and produces the report.

**The Full Assessment** was also developed by Fuller Seminary and is sixty-six questions long. It must be administered through Fuller Seminary and the cost for it is approximately \$300. This assessment should be given to everyone in the congregation as a congregation-wide initiative. The advantage to the full assessment is that it is a much more comprehensive look into a congregation's understanding of itself and comes with a number of added benefits including a full report from Fuller Seminary, a sixty-minute phone call with a member of their team, etc. More information can be found online @ <https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/growingyoung/assessment>