

New Members...An Intergenerational Approach

JoAnne Sharp, CCE, RE

APCE Annual Event 2025 – Memphis, TN

1. Introduction of JoAnne
 - a. Momma of 2 humans and 1 geriatric kitty cat
 - b. Granma of 2 humans, 1 human due in June of 2025 and 7grandpups
 - c. Beloved Child of God
 - i. Follower of Jesus
 - ii. Listener of the Spirit
 - d. Lifelong Presbyterian
 - i. Little Lutheran (ELCA)
 - ii. Closet Methodist (UMC)
 - e. Certified Christian Educator
 - f. Ruling Elder
 - g. Challenging the CRE process
 - h. Favorite Snack
 - i. Where I find peace...
2. Introduction of workshop participants
 - a. Spanish siblings
 - b. Online siblings...those whose native language isn't Spanish
 - c. Those in the room with JoAnne
3. Why do we do New Membership Classes?
 - a. Book of Order – G-1.03 & G-1.04
 - b. Keyline – G-1.0402

The session shall have responsibility for preparing those who would become active members of the congregation.

The Session typically passes this responsibility off to the MWS...some MWS are great teachers in this aspect, others seem to get this done as quickly as possible, and do it in one session (firehose method). The firehose method and my passion for intergenerational learning is why I designed this course as my certification project

- c. Hospitality
 - d. Community Building
 - e. Other reasons?
4. Nuts and Bolts of the Class
 - a. Intentionally invite members who mirror new members
 - i. Family with children of similar ages
 - ii. Retired folx
 - iii. Single folx
 - iv. Current Elders and/or inactive Elders

- v. Current Deacons
 - b. Can be taught over 3 Sessions (90 minutes) or 6 Sessions (1 hour)
 - c. Always start with a meal...it is about building community
 - i. Divide folx up – as best you can
 - ii. Different groupings every session
 - i. Even different Elders and Deacons
 - Provide time for the Elders and/or Deacons to share about their ministry area, if they are chair of a ministry team.
 - d. Simplify the language for the children
 - i. Use simple graphics to help children
 - ii. Ask them if they understand, and allow them time and space to ask questions
 - e. Explain why intergenerational approach is being used.
 - i. The Bible supports it, Joel 2
 - ii. The Book of Order supports it, indirectly
 - f. Don't assume everybody knows the books of the Bible.
 - i. Provide Bibles in the translation you are using.
 - ii. Use slides if you can.
 - iii. Remember not everybody, even adults, is comfortable reading in front of others.
5. Lesson Plans
- a. How to divide them into more sessions
 - b. What might you add
 - c. Make them your own!
6. Conversation/Discission...Questions & Answers