

Justice and Young Adults

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The ways that we approach Church are changing. While it used to be that folks became members and then joined on committees and worked for missions, young adults are now seeking to join in missions rather than become a member of the local Church.

The Millennial Generation includes young adults aged 21-45. There are many different terms used to describe this group including mosaics, emerging adults, and busters, but it is not the terminology that unites them. Rather this group is known for being post-modern, which means that they are generally skeptical of structure and simply believing what they are told. Instead, they seek to experience their beliefs as part of their lived reality.

For many in this age group, they are looking for ways to put their faith into action. They don't want to *go* to Church; they want to *be* the Church. What opportunities are you giving young adults to be the Church in their community and in the world?

Sometimes its difficult for local Churches to wrap their minds around the idea of young adults wanting to do something to change the world. They can't understand why being a server at a community dinner isn't enough. Remember, that young adults want to feel like they are making a real difference. Mission and outreach that may spark their interests include:

- Serving a meal for the homeless in your area
- Teaching young women in the area how to care for their newborns
- Advocacy
- Lobbying to change legislation
- Providing job training
- Working on issues that effect the community such as education or drugs
- Providing immigration assistance

Don't let this list scare you. Because young adults want to make a difference, they often focus on issues that are complex. The best support that you can give is to get to know the young adults in your Church and community and ask them what they are interested in. Your Church may not be able to have missions and ministries that support all of their interests, but if young adults feel that this is a place where they are listened to, accepted for who they are, and have the freedom to pursue their passions, they are more likely to become a vital part of your congregation.