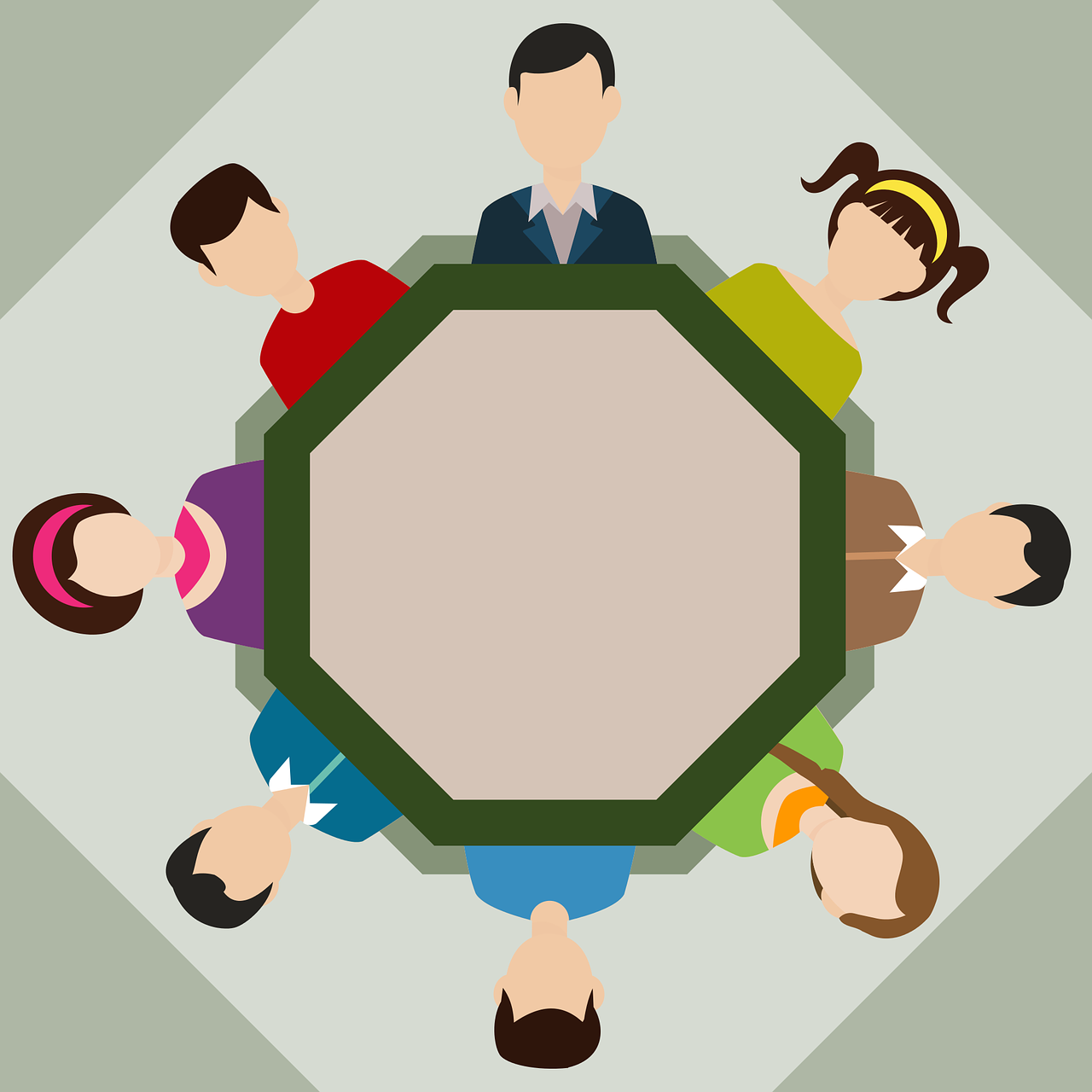
**Forward 2 – Don’t Miss Me Out-The Vital Role of Our Seniors in the Church**

**(Titus 2:1-8)**

***Senior Pastor Chris Kam***

You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children,to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousnessand soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. (Titus 2:1-8)

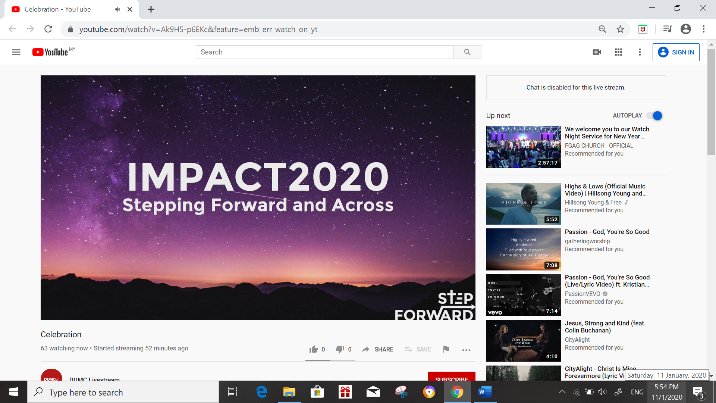
# Introduction

A play depicting an intergenerational discussion highlighted the importance of such communications where each one learns from the other. All members need to be intentional to overcome the intergenerational challenges. The seniors are encouraged to go down to the level of the younger generation to be relational, and the younger generation is to reciprocate as the seniors have valuable wisdom to be passed on.

Senior Pastor Chris Kam then summarizes the short play by reflecting upon apostle Paul who wrote to Titus (on the Greek Island of Crete), on the importance of the household of God. All members of the household are taught on setting good examples, proper in conduct and behaviour, and to know their roles well. In short, we as a generation, need to have conversations with both the younger and senior generations, to move and grow together. The simple truth is that we need one another to model the household of God.



**BIG IDEA**: We need one another in the family of God.

In DUMC, the strive to impact the community is to focus on the young. This group is increasingly becoming the “unchurched” and there is a need to reach out to them. The focus on the younger generation however, sometimes influences the message and the worship, and may become a problem when the senior generation is forgotten. Therefore, in the quest of focussing on the young, continue to honour the seniors as the scriptures command:

Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained by living a godly life. (Proverbs 16:31)

Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord. (Leviticus 19:32)

Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger mean as borthers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity. (1 Tim 5:1-2)

Honour your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you. (Deuteronomy 5:16)

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. (1 Peter 5:5)

In the church context, intergenerational interaction is important. It sets apart churches that are intergenerational from multigenerational churches. To be intergenerational, we need to interact with the younger generation while honouring the senior generation. And the following are reasons

# Why do we need our seniors in the church?

# Their Wisdom

The wise in heart are called discerning, and gracious words promote instruction. (Proverbs 16:21)

The seniors offer a different perspective in life, due to their experience. Many have overcome obstacles, make do with much less (in raising their family), developed patience through different experiences (like letter writing), and survived many other crucial events (for example, the Japanese occupation). There is definitely wisdom in how the seniors managed these challenges. Therefore, it is wise sometimes to listen to them as we may be enlightened by their wisdom. One such wisdom is to learn how to fight the right battle and do not sweat the small stuff!

# Their Stories

The seniors have beautiful, heartfelt stories to share, but the younger generation never learns about them because the young have never asked. One example is the story of Pastor Won En Mien. It was revealed that he was a singing pastor, and once even had an album recorded (”The Christones”)! Stories like this are only told when the young make time to have coffee and chat with the seniors. Therefore, make time and ask their stories as there are definitely things that the young can learn from their stories.

# Their Love

The seniors have the capacity to love the young ones in a more selfless way because they have gone through many things in life. They offer advise about family and what to do and what not to do. The seniors also bring little gifts (e.g. cakes, apples, coffee) at times, to shower love, blessings and to encourage the young.

# Their Ability to Set Boundaries

The seniors have the ability to set boundaries and discipline themselves into honouring these boundaries. For example, attending church service on Sundays. Seniors have long disciplined themselves into attending church service on Sundays, and because of this discipline, their dedication have never been compromised and they have never missed any Sunday service. Such discipline and ability to express self-control is admirable, and is something the young can learn and apply in their life.

# Their Dedication

From their ability to set boundaries, the seniors develop dedication to the church. And their dedication to the church is not affected or influenced by the consumeristic culture in churches. They are unlikely to “church-hop” as they are not looking to be entertained, but rather dedicate themselves to the church and journey with the church through thick and thin. And because of their dedication, the seniors are often the people that are relied upon by the church.

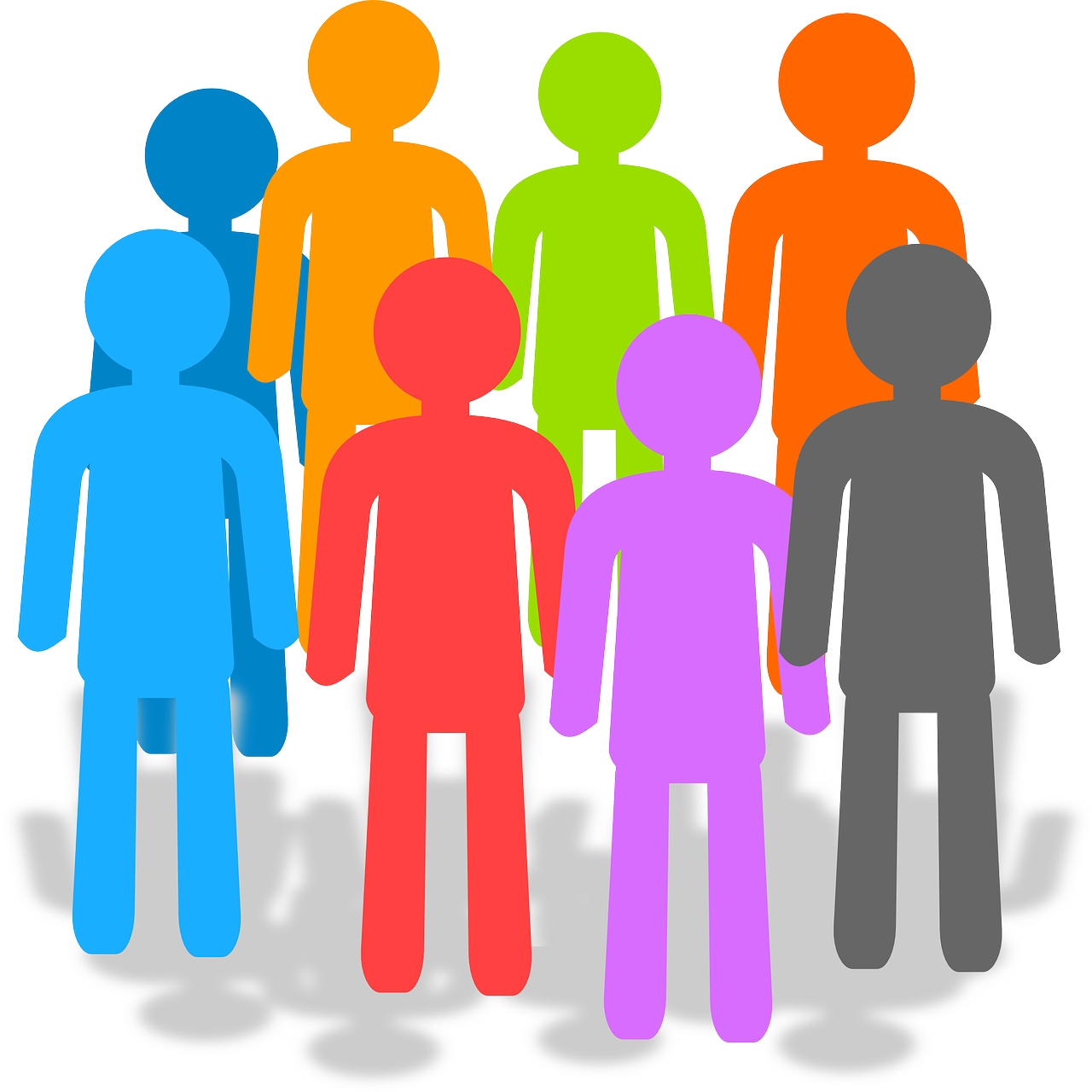
# Their Leadership

The seniors are leaders in their own right. They may not be holding positions in the church, but the seniors uphold the church in prayers. It is this leadership in prayer that reflects their faithfulness and steadfast dedication to the church. This leadership in prayer also translates to their prayers for the young generation, as they cheer the young on in times of need.

# Their Sacrifices

The seniors made many sacrifices throughout their life. In the church, many have also made sacrifices to help shape DUMC to what it is today. The young must not forget those who made the sacrifices. Instead, they young can learn to appreciate and reflect upon the role of seniors and their sacrifices in contributing towards the growth of the church.

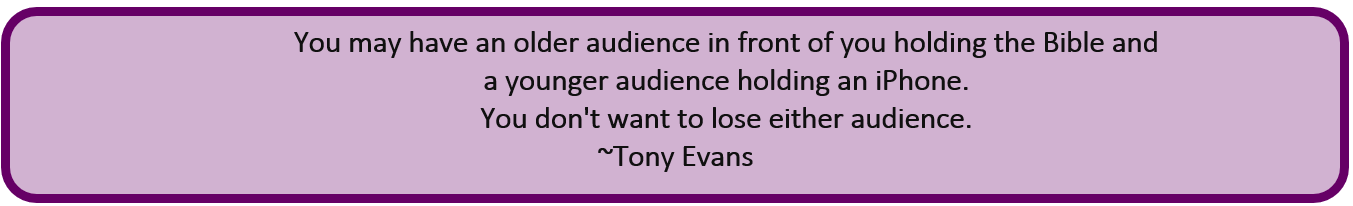
# Their Discipling

The young ones need to value the seniors and take the step to seek out the seniors as their role model. Senior men and women reciprocate by being good examples to the young ones, sometimes as spiritual parents to the young ones. Through this discipling, the lives of young ones are transformed.

Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. (1 Corinthians 4:15)

Conclusion

In this family of God, the young and the seniors need each other. The young will have to take the step in approaching the seniors, making time to ask for their stories, and to learn wisdom and discipleship from the seniors. The seniors are to reciprocate by being effective spiritual parents, and to be their greatest cheerleader. It takes both generations to raise an intergenerational church community.



Sermon summary contributed by Adeline Ting.