

Multi-Generational Event



Congregation participate in the multi-generational service at Unity Northwest

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From the melodic whisper of the singing bowl, to voices raised in a song for peace, Unity Northwest in Des Plaines, Illinois, truly lives their vision of spiritual community. The gifts of each person are acknowledged and valued, no matter what your age may be. This dedication to the vision that, “we are all in this together,” was demonstrated on one special Sunday through our multi-generational service.

The planning began two months before the date of the event as each member of the congregation was invited to share his/her vision of what a fulfilling and empowering Sunday service would look like. Thirty people, ranging in age from 14 to 80, took up the challenge. At the first

meeting, the participants were grouped by age or life stage and asked the question, “If you were sitting in a Sunday service that was absolutely perfect for you, tell me what would be happening?” From that discussion we looked for common elements from each age group and also looked at our differences to see how they could be incorporated. This gave us an outline for what we wanted to create.

The next meeting was an invitation for the group to form into different multi-aged teams, such as:

- Greeting/Environment
- Music
- Message
- Meditation/prayer
- Ritual
- Closing

From this meeting, in less than two hours, group leaders emerged and the service was created. One more brief meeting was held to confirm that everything was in place.



Young people take part in the multi-generational service at Unity Northwest

We created a service called, “Divine Synchronicity: a.k.a. Cool Coincidences.”

Elements included:

- The environment
 - Chairs in the sanctuary were moved from rows into three concentric circles with pillows filling the center area.
 - Teens formed a receiving line to help everyone who entered know that they were welcomed and loved.
- Teens served as greeter/usher/platform assistant.
- Our music was comprised of songs from different generations: teens opened with joy songs, traditional hymns were sung, and the children’s signing choir signed the song, “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” by Karen Drucker.
- Teens led the meditation.
- The message was composed of testimonials of what “divine synchronicity” meant to each one. Presenters ranged in age from 3 to over 80 years old.
- The entire congregation participated in a connecting ritual of music and movement to Faith Rivera’s song, “Peace Jam.”
- We kept our traditional closing of the “Peace Song” and Prayer for Protection.

This multi-generational event was uplifting and engaging to all who participated and truly confirmed that we are one spiritual community working together for the good of all.



“Divine Synchronicity: a.k.a. Cool Coincidences,” the multi-generational service at Unity Northwest in Des Plaines, Illinois



The youngest speaker at the service.

This dedication to the vision that “we are all in this together,” was demonstrated on one special Sunday through our multi-generational service.



The oldest speaker at the multi-generational service.