

## Presuppositions

- Demographic figures on a generation are trend lines rather than universal, concrete facts.
- For churches to be relevant to a generation, they must connect with that generation's highest aspirations.

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## Percent of adults in each generation who are religiously unaffiliated

- Millennial (18-33) 29%
- Gen X (34-49) 21%
- Boomer (50-68) 16%
- Silent (69-86) 9%

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- 65% of millennials never or rarely attend church, making them the least connected generation ever studied.
- 24% of Millennials attend church weekly

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13% of the Millennials said that religion has had a significant influence upon them

### Highest Aspirations of the Millennials

- Service
- Relationships
- Diversity
- Cooperation
- Ethical Spirituality

	<u>1999</u>	<u>2009</u>
Spiritual only:	30%	30%
Religious only:	54%	9%
Both:	6%	48%
Neither:	9%	9%

70% of Millennials believe  
that the church is irrelevant

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### Why do Millennials View the Church as Irrelevant?

- They view the church as a divisive force in the community/ world.
- They view the church as inwardly focused upon its own welfare.
- They view many church members as inauthentic and apathetic.
- They have technological network that has replaced the church's social network.
- They have made a distinction between religion and spirituality.
- They do not believe that what the church teaches requires them to be a member (MTD).

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### Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

- A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth
- God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions
- The central goal in life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself
- God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem
- Good people go to heaven when they die

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90% of the Millennials say they are looking for resources to live a meaningful life.

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## Creating a Relevant Church Ethos for Millennials

- Missional Creativity
- Multi-Cultural Passion
- Ethical Spirituality Focus

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## Outreach to Millennials

- Connect with the Millennials you know
- Help Boomer parents know how to move their millennials closer to faith
- Join with them in their sponsored acts of service
- Use your technology effectively
- Be authentic about yourself and the church
- Use mentoring and internships
- Communicate in non-religious language

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## Worship for Millennials

- Lean more toward awe, wonder, intuition, and mystery than reason
- Worship that is experiential, participatory, image-driven, and communal will help to engage them more

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## Theology for Millennials

- prefer narrative over systematic proposition
- Utilize insights that ecumenical and interfaith
- Avoid military/warrior language
- Go into depth study and discussion
- Focus more on wisdom for life's journey than theological data

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## Discipleship/Spiritual Formation for Millennials

- Use spiritual practices that lead to engagement in the world
- Needs to be highly relational and conversational, not rules
- Use intergenerational events/encounters

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## Missions for Millennials

- Use hands-on approach
- Meet human needs
- Strong engagement in the community surrounding the church
- Stress relationship building in all mission projects
- Use cross cultural and intergenerational projects

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## Church Organization for Millennials

- Provide structure and guidance through which small groups can be creative and innovative
- Church leaders should demonstrate transparency, humility, and integrity in leadership

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## Church Staffing for Millennials

- A diverse staff is a strong plus
- Become a teaching congregation

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