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Dear LCAQD Pastors and church council leaders,

## **Re: FACILITATED GROWING YOUNG JOURNEY**

Like you, we are passionate about seeing young people come to know and live in the transformative grace of Jesus Christ. We understand that there are many challenges that are before us as a church in sharing the Gospel with this generation. However, we also believe there are many opportunities before us and want to support your community to better understand them and engage in this vital ministry.

The Lutheran Church Queensland District, through the Mission and Ministry & LYQ departments is excited to offer a congregational partnership opportunity that works alongside you to help you discover how your community is uniquely positioned to be constantly renewed in its ministry with young people.

Here is an outline of what is involved in Phase 1 of a process which could potentially grow into ongoing partnering opportunities:

- Working through the 'Growing Young' material (<https://churchesgrowingyoung.com/>) with your leadership team(s) to help you understand what is involved in growing a church young. Ideally we would do this through a 30-minute slot within your regular monthly meetings.
- Support, training, and structures to help you develop intergenerational relationships in your community.
- Facilitation of a listening process that will give you a unique insight into the lives and hope of young people in your community.
- A church-wide survey that provides insight into areas of strength and where work is needed in the growing young process.
- An exploration of your community's strengths and culture.
- A pastoral coach for your lead pastor to help him navigate this complex journey.

There are four goals that we would hope to achieve by the end of Phase 1 of this partnership.

1. Helping you articulate and understand your DNA and culture (key stories that tell us who we are and give us hope).

2. Helping you understand where you are now as a community.
3. Helping you understand the world of young people and their needs in ministry.
4. To give imagination to the possibilities of your future ministry with young people.

Undergirding this partnership are the key assumptions we make which are that you and your people are the experts of your community and current situation and you have the unique gifts and skills to grow in the way that God has planned for you. We simply come as co-learners and guides to give you a process to discover your future. We believe that intergenerational relationships and listening to the voice of young people is key to your church's journey of growing young. We will seek to integrate the voice of young people into every step of this process.

We are excited about what the future holds for our local church and look forward to partnering with you as we explore how you can become a church that is growing young and seeing a new generation of young people grow strong in the grace of our Lord Jesus. If you want to start this conversation, please get in touch. LYQ's Young Adult Ministry Coordinator, Tom Schmidt, will take the lead in this process, and Assistant Director of Ministry & Mission Kathy Matuschka will take part in certain elements of the process. You can contact either of them to find out more:

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Yours in Christ,



Tom Schmidt  
Young Adult ministry coordinator



Pastor David Schmidt  
LCAQD Director Ministry & Mission