



FAQ for Growing Young Cohort

A guide for churches discerning their next step toward engaging the next generation

WHAT IS THE GROWING YOUNG COHORT?

The Growing Young Cohort is an 18-month structured and guided journey designed to help EMCC whole church communities effectively walk alongside and influence the next generation of Christ-followers.

Through regular coaching, intentional listening, practical experiments, and cohort support, churches will:

1. Gain a clear understanding of where they currently stand in their ministry to the next generation
2. Discern where God may be leading as they engage younger people more effectively
3. Develop a practical, church-wide plan to begin shifting their culture in sustainable ways

ONLINE

ACCESSIBLE

BY THE END OF THE COHORT, YOUR CHURCH WILL:

- Better understand how young people experience your community
- Try at least one meaningful experiment to engage younger generations
- Create a contextualized "Next Steps Plan" for continued growth
- Build a committed team of leaders focused on prayer and presence
- Be equipped with practical tools, coaching, and support for ongoing development

What's the structure?



The journey unfolds in four phases:

1. Listening & Awareness (Months 1-3)
2. Discovery & Discernment (Months 4-5)
3. Small Experiments & Learning (Months 6-11)
4. Planning for the Future (Months 12-18)

Each phase includes practical steps, coaching support, and reflection activities.

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EMCC Growing Young Cohort

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- A dedicated coach for your church team
- A dedicated prayer team and scheduled prayer gatherings
- 4 Zoom sessions with your coach and cohort
- A comprehensive Growing Young Assessment
- One in-person full-day retreat
- One half-day online retreat
- Regular coaching calls for your team or team leader
- Access to: a specialized podcast, prayer gatherings, and tools
- National visibility: stories and opportunities to inspire others
- A chance to try something new and learn with others!



HOW MUCH TIME WILL THIS TAKE?

- One 90-minute Zoom session every other month
- 1-2 hours/month for team meetings and assignments
- 1-2 hours/month for intentional prayer
- One full-day in-person retreat
- One half-day online retreat
- Occasional additional time for listening sessions or experiment planning

Who should be on our Growing Young team?

- A mix of generations (we suggest at least 2 people under 25)
- A senior pastor or lead staff member/elder or deacon
- A leader who works with the next gen
- People who care deeply about younger generations
- Those willing to listen and learn, not just lead

What do we need to participate?

- A **team of 4-6 leaders** committed to this journey
- A **Point Person** for communication
- A **Prayer Coordinator** to help lead a prayer rhythm
- Commitment to attend coaching calls, retreats, and complete assignments
- Openness to try one small experiment
- Budget approval for the \$1,800 fee (covers coaching, facilitation, assessment, and tools)



What happens after the 18 months?

You'll complete the cohort with a clear Next Steps Plan, shaped by your team and tailored to your church context.

You'll also be invited to:

- Stay connected with the national Growing Young network
- Share your story with other churches
- Help mentor and inspire the next wave of Growing Young churches

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WHAT IF OUR BUDGET IS TIGHT?

- We know budgets are stretched—but we don't want cost to be a barrier. And we know that investing in culture change can feel risky. But if nothing changes, we keep getting the same results—and the next generation needs more than that.
- At \$1,800 for 18 months, this works out to just \$100/month (less than a coffee/day). It's a fraction of the cost of most conferences or leadership programs—and comes with long-term impact.
- We've chosen to include a cost for two reasons:
- Churches that invest financially tend to stay more engaged, and commitment matters when you're seeking real change
- This is a cost-recovery model: your fee helps cover coaching, assessment tools, and facilitator honorariums. We're not making money—we're making mission possible.

How you might make it work:

- Use funds from outreach, discipleship, or leadership development
- Ask your board or a donor to sponsor the pilot
- Frame it as a strategic investment in the church's future
- Split the cost across two fiscal years to ease the financial load

If this still feels like a stretch, let's talk. We're happy to work with you and make this happen!

Why Growing Young Matters:

Growing Young in the EMCC is about becoming future-ready. It invites churches into a posture—a culture shift—to continually be learning how to engage the next generation of disciples as a whole church, not just in our next-gen ministries. It's about living our values practically in the Way of Jesus and exploring them together across generations.

We want you to experience the vitality and life that comes from having those under 25 belong to all areas of your church family!

"We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done." Psalm 78:4

READY TO LEARN MORE OR JOIN THE COHORT?

We'd love to walk alongside you as you discern your next steps. Whether you're ready to register or just want to talk it through, we're here to support you!

Contact: nextgen@emcc.ca

Call/Text: 226-750-3683

Cohort Launches: September 2025

Spots are limited — reach out soon to express interest.

Let's grow young—together.



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