

Join the Growing Young Cohort

An invitation for ABCOFLASH Churches!

THE GROWING YOUNG COHORT IS FOR YOUR CHURCH IF:

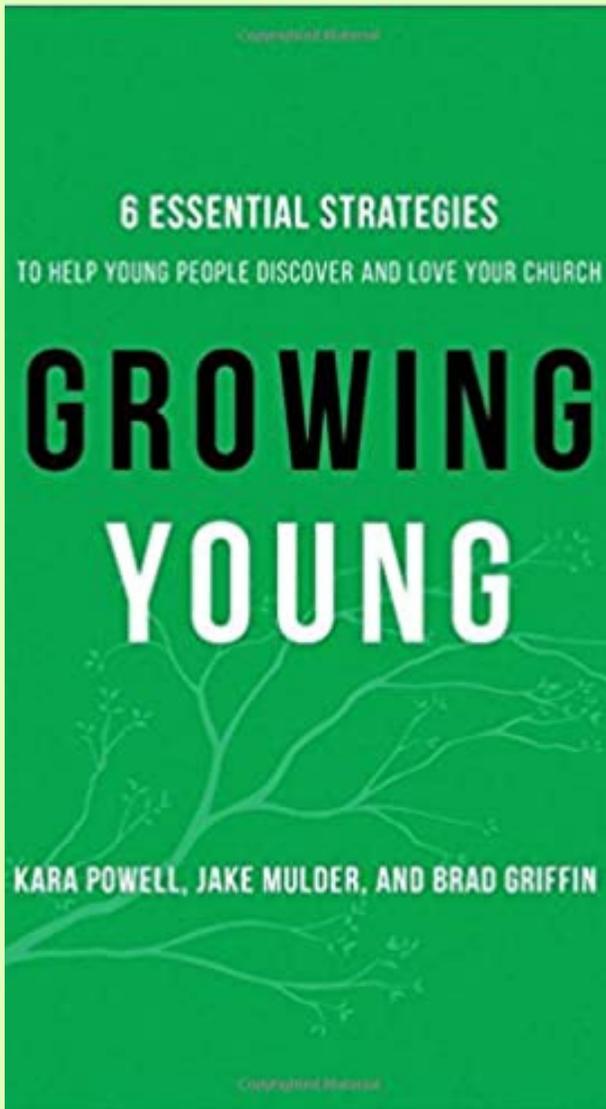
- Your church desires to become more welcoming to young people.
- You want to equip youth to become lifelong followers of Jesus Christ.
- You would like to have youth be an integral part of the life of your church.
- Have seen youth leave your church and move away from their faith.
- Your church is willing to make changes so, your church can "Grow Young."

Join a cohort of church teams from American Baptist Churches to equip your church to help develop young people into disciples of Jesus Christ!

January - October 2021

Participating churches put a team of leaders together who commit to learning and implementing the "Growing Young" concepts. The team will meet via Zoom with Jake Mulder (one of the co-authors of the "Growing Young" book) and teams from other churches. Your team will also work together to implement the concepts into your church context.

This is a pilot project funded by a Palmer Grant and facilitated by the American Baptist Home Mission Societies in partnership with several ABC regions from across the United States, including ABCOFLASH.



<https://churchesgrowingyoung.com/>

<https://abcoflash.org/growingyoung>

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Register by January 13, 2021



Introduction: American Churches are increasingly finding themselves asking the same question – "where have all our youth gone?" What are the critical elements for a congregation to foster young disciples with a faith that lasts a lifetime? The Growing Young Initiative, led by staff from Fuller Seminary Youth Institute, results from studying of a diverse group of churches. They discovered six essential strategies any church can use to better and retain young people. What's more, they found that as these innovative churches engage younger generations, it breathes life and vitality into the whole church.

Growing Young Cohort: Your church is invited to put a team from your church together to be a part of the Growing Young Cohort. This program is designed to help you sort through strategies you could try and focus on what is most essential in helping young people discover and love your church. This advanced training model invites your team to journey with like-minded churches for ten months through:

- **Monthly online webinars and/or videos** hosted by FYI and other leading ministry voices on topics such as leading change, sociological and cultural trends among today's young people, conquering conflict, and more.
- One year of **personalized mentoring and coaching** by one of our Growing Young Leadership Team, including supporting developing a change strategy.
- A **Comprehensive online assessment** that sheds light on areas for growth and guides your steps.

The Cohort will provide your church with a holistic philosophy and practical ideas to make much-needed shifts in your congregational culture today.

Cost: Generous grants from the Palmer Endowment and American Baptist Home Mission Societies have underwritten much of this initiative. Each church will be asked to purchase a copy of the Growing Young book for each member of their church team and pay a \$50 Registration fee to assist with the cost of a personalized church assessment. (Scholarships available upon request)

Content: The sessions' content will begin by debunking many of the popular—and harmful—myths of what is needed to reach young people. Then, through expert teaching from world-class Fuller faculty and other ministry thought leaders, we'll explore the six core commitments our research revealed that could unleash the passion of young people:

- **Unlock keychain leadership**
- **Empathize with today's young people**
- **Take Jesus' message seriously**
- **Fuel a warm community:**
- **Prioritize young people (and families) everywhere:**
- **Be the best neighbors:**

Key Details:

- Participating churches will **covenant to be active participants and regularly engage** with their lead coach/mentor monthly over the ten-month initiative.
- Churches will form **intergenerational teams**, ideally made up of the pastor, a parent, a youth, and a key layperson or two.
- Beginning in January of 2021, **teams will meet every three to four weeks** for approximately 3-5 hours per month.

Registration Information: (Please register no later than January 15, 2021)

- Please inform Doug Hubbard that your church is planning on participating - dhubbard@abcoflash.org or call/text - 626.975.3684
- Complete and submit this google form: <https://forms.gle/1BJtbQcxFthavNvv5>
- Make your payment of \$50 to ABHMS.
- Purchase the "Growing Young" book for your team members. Books can be purchased online through booksellers such as Amazon, Christianbook.com, thriftbooks.com