



Growing Together: A Primer

In early 2021, the Youth Search Team engaged a consultant to help identify characteristics of youth ministries which produce *lifelong* disciples of Jesus Christ. This process led them to the research of the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) of Fuller Seminary.

The Research of Fuller Youth Institute

For the past 40 years, Fuller's FYI has studied congregations, identifying those churches who were effectively producing *lifelong* faith among their young people. From their research, FYI identified 6 Core Commitments common among churches who were effectively engaging young people ages 15–29. **But what FYI also discovered is that the churches who embodied the core commitments were thriving across all generations, and they were growing spiritually, emotionally, missionally, and sometimes also numerically.**

Growing Together and FBC Huntersville:

Since January of 2022 a small group of FBCH leaders have been participating in a yearlong FYI learning cohort with 6 other North Carolina Baptist churches as a way to advance FBCH's missional mandate of "building bridges" across generations. The work is still ongoing, but the team wants to invite the church to join them on this learning journey. As a first step, the team is excited to share the 6 Core Commitments through a series of bulletin inserts/emails over the coming weeks.

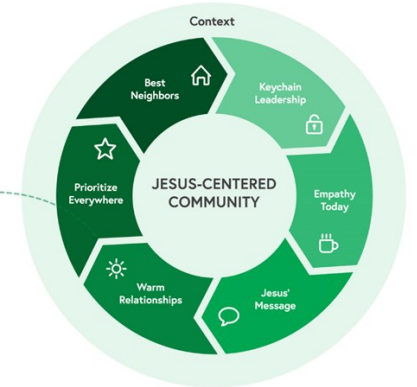
Your Growing Together Team:

Robby Bales, Nate Bass, Tina Burleson, Cherise Gregory, and Stacy Nowell

Welcome to our Growing Together journey. We can't wait to see what God is going to do in our congregation and community!

The 6 Core Commitments of Growing Together

- **Unlock keychain leadership:** Instead of centralizing authority, empower others— especially young people.
- **Empathize with today's young people:** Instead of judging or criticizing, step into the shoes of this generation.
- **Take Jesus' message seriously:** Instead of asserting formulaic gospel claims, welcome people into a Jesus-centered way of life.
- **Fuel a warm community:** Instead of focusing on cool worship or programs, aim for warm and welcoming peer and intergenerational friendships.
- **Prioritize young people (and families) everywhere:** Instead of giving lip service to how much young people matter, look for creative ways to tangibly support, resource, and involve them in all facets of your congregation.
- **Be the best neighbors:** Instead of condemning the world outside your walls, enable people to engage well locally and globally with their neighbors.



Copyright ©2017 Fuller Youth Institute. All rights reserved.

