



## GenOn Ministries GENON REALITIES and CONVICTIONS

GenOn Ministries' twelve nurture Realities are theological, sociological, behavioral, cultural, and environmental factors that consistently influence the context of our ministry. GenOn has responded to each Reality with a Conviction that, together, shape the foundations on which the LOGOS experience is built.

How effectively we nurture faith and discipleship through Christian relationships hinges on how well we understand and respond to these nurture Realities. It is the constant responsibility of the church leadership to bring awareness and understanding of these Realities and the resulting Convictions to the congregation to impact the excellence of the church's ministry with young people.

Of the 12 Realities and Convictions, we lift up the first one, Abundant Life-Giving Relationship, as having the highest priority, guiding all the others.

After reviewing the Realities and Convictions, use these discussion questions to determine how to use them in your church.

1. Which **Realities/Convictions** are *strongly* recognized and practiced in your church? What evidence supports these Realities/Convictions? How does your church sustain these strong Realities/Convictions?
2. Which **Realities/Convictions** are understood by your church, but need attention? How important is it for your church to incorporate these Realities/Convictions? What difference will it make for your ministry with children and youth to incorporate these Realities/Convictions?
3. Which **Realities/Convictions** are new thoughts/approaches for your church? How can your church gain a better understanding of these Realities/Convictions?



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<b>REALITY</b>	<b>CONVICTION</b>
<p><b>ABUNDANT LIFE-GIVING RELATIONSHIPS</b> An abundant life-giving relationship with God through Jesus Christ is more important than anything else in life.</p>	<p><b>NURTURE – MOST IMPORTANT</b> Nurturing people, especially youth and children, into this relationship of faith with God through Jesus Christ is the most important thing the church ever does.</p>
<p><b>SOCIOLOGY</b> Sociological factors influence and motivate people more than theology. Youth and children do not normally become a part of church programs or events for theological or spiritual reasons. People go where their friends go.</p>	<p><b>FRIENDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES</b> Youth and children must be given sufficient opportunity to center their friendships in church-based relationships.</p>
<p><b>CAUGHT</b> The Christian faith is more caught than taught. Christian experience precedes Christian thought and theology.</p>	<p><b>RELATIONAL CONTEXT</b> Spiritual nurture always requires a relational context to be effective.</p>
<p><b>SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCE</b> Many in the church have had their most significant memorable experience of Christian community in a conference/camp/retreat setting. Genuine Christian community is experienced most authentically in a setting where there is sufficient time and a structured environment for interaction with peers and adults.</p>	<p><b>CAMP</b> A vital approach of Christian nurture must include the essence of the camp/conference/retreat experience on a continual basis.</p>
<p><b>ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS</b> Challenge, adventure, risk, and excitement are all essential elements of authentic relationships.</p>	<p><b>C.A.R.E.</b> Any system of nurture that is truly reflective of the Gospel of Jesus Christ must include the elements of challenge, adventure, risk and excitement as demonstrated in the early church. (Acts 2:42)</p>
<p><b>CLERGY</b> Clergy involvement in the lives of youth and children is crucial to their relationship to the church. Clergy provides, as no other person of the church family can, the continuity between nurture and worship.</p>	<p><b>CLERGY/TEACHER</b> Complete and effective Christian nurture must include the clergy's highly visible Christian relationships with youth and children. Therefore, the clergy must lead in the nurturing ministry of the church.</p>



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<b>REALITY</b>		<b>CONVICTION</b>
<b>ADULT ROLE</b> Adults play an essential role in shaping the growth and development of young people. Young people need the care, support and love of mature adults who serve as models of adulthood and leadership in order to know what it means to be “mature in Christ.”		<b>MATURE CHRISTIAN ADULTS</b> Mature Christian adults provide the best direction, insight, and relational security needed for the fullest development of youth into Christian discipleship.
<b>PARENTING</b> The positive experience of quality parenting relationships is of utmost importance to the nurture of young people. When there is understanding, participation, and support of the goals of Christian nurture by parents and other adults, there is assurance of lasting, effective Christian nurturing into Christian discipleship.		<b>WORSHIP PARTICIPATION</b> Complete and effective Christian nurture must include young people in participation in weekly worship with the congregation.
<b>WORSHIP</b> Worshiping is for the congregation what breathing is for the human body. Without worship, there is no church. Youth and children must be included and participate in congregational worship.		<b>HIGH EXPECTATIONS</b> Ministry modeled after Christ’s example sets high expectations and makes demands on youth and parents, pastors, other church professionals, and the congregation.
<b>SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENT</b> Great goals are achieved only with significant commitment of time, energy and ability. High standards of disciplined commitment are inherent elements of genuine Christian experience and nurture.		<b>CALL</b> The best way to deploy the gifts of all the people for ministry is to recover and implement the Biblical concept of Call.
<b>GIFTS</b> God equips every Christian with gifts and calls every Christian to share in the work of ministry to build up the Body of Christ. There are sufficient gifts in a particular church to fulfill the ministry to which they are called and empowered.		<b>YOUTH, INTENTIONALLY</b> Reaching youth and nurturing them into vigorous discipleship must become a top priority in the life and program of the church.
<b>YOUTH</b> Youth ministry is a most critical area of the congregation’s life. The vitality of the youth ministry is a barometer for the quality of the spiritual life and health of a congregation.		