

DiscipleSHIFT:

A Collaboration Discussion on Modern-day Modes of Disciple Making and Leadership Shifts in Younger Generations

As the PCCNA Next Generation Commission met in Washington, DC, on February 18, 2026, the majority of the meeting focused on determining the discipleship and leadership shifts for younger generations.

Shift One: A move from programmatic to relational modes of disciple-making.

This included a shift toward collaboration, inviting younger generations to dialogue and discuss how to be modern-day followers of Jesus rather than relying on monologue or preaching-based models of formation. Of course, a blend of both can work well.

Shift Two: Younger generations are open to God and searching for a genuine faith in a hyper-secular, personalized world.

The over-promise and under-delivery of modern-day secularism and pluralism have led younger generations to seek genuine transcendence in the church. That said, younger generations have a limited reference point or sense of centeredness when it comes to the Christian faith; hence, the imperative importance of intentional modes of disciple-making to support a generation in continually encountering an authentic, real faith in the midst of a secular world.

Shift Three: A focus on intentional relationships as discipleship is an example-based transfer (not an information transfer, only).

In a digital world, information is readily available, but genuine and healthy relationships are not. A shift among leaders, parents, mentors, and pastors is toward an example-based approach to disciple-making that is crucial in an information-overload world.

Shift Four: A move from observation to participation in leadership making.

On all levels of church life, younger generations want to participate in the “now”. This means creating opportunities and intentional invitations for younger generations to practice their faith in everyday life – in the safety of healthy, mentoring relationships – to build confidence in their faith, and to explore meaningful leadership pathways of how to contribute to the ongoing work of God, Jesus, and His Spirit in our day.

We have great days ahead as the Spirit leads. God bless you, friend.