

VISION PATH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

What is a Millennial?

A millennial is a person born between 1984 to 2002 presently between the ages of 12 to 30 years old (Barna Group, 2013, pp. 1-6); or, an individual born between 1982 to 2004 whose age range is between 10 to 32 years old (DecisionInsite/MissionInsite, 2013, pp. 6-8). What this translates into here at Redeemer are thirty-eight (38) young adults or millennials (Redeemer Shepherd's Staff, 2013) representing only 11% of the total congregational population. Recent U.S. Census demographic data (DecisionInsite/MissionInsite, 2013, p. 6) indicate that during 2013 there were 6,122 millennials living within a five mile radius of Redeemer Church, and is projected that by 2018 there will be 7,059 millennials within our immediate reach. One does not need to be a mathematician, but only observe Sunday after Sunday where are the millennials (young adults or younger families). The results of our most recent rank-order survey revealed that by far the greatest need or priority identified by 78% of the congregation was the "fostering the needs of younger families" or the millennials within our congregation and our surrounding community.

Why, are there so few millennials or young adults missing from our congregation, as well as the nation as a whole! Probably, the most revealing reason is that they grew up in an unchurched home and have associated with friends who were neutral or were opposed to church and/or worshiping God. Other reasons for their non-participation are: (1) lack of personal relevance, (2) seek spirituality elsewhere, and (3) can teach themselves what they need to know. We at Redeemer need to be open to learning more about millennials by way of interviewing and engaging them in focus discussion groups in order to maximize our efforts to involve them spiritually and facilitate a connection with Jesus. We need to specifically identify these millennials within our congregation and in our surrounding community to find out and foster their cultural, relational and spiritual needs.