



Growing Younger **Deepening the Conversation and** **Moving to Action**

A word from Pastor Elise Rothfusz, DEM

As Director for Evangelical Mission my role is to assist congregations in furthering their mission to create and nurture disciples of Jesus and his good news. If your congregation wants to intentionally grow younger than it currently is, I recommend the book *Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church* by Powell, Mulder, and Griffin. Do not be misled by the subtitle. This material is not about youth ministry; it's not even just about young people. It is about cultivating a Jesus-centered, welcoming community which any congregation can work toward. Here are some ways that I can be a resource to you in working with the Growing Young material.

Introductory Workshop – This two-hour workshop can be done via Zoom or in person and is geared toward anyone in the congregation interested in knowing more about *Growing Young*. This workshop could be used to launch a Growing Young team, book group, congregational read, preaching series - however you would like to approach it.

Leadership Workshop – This workshop is meant for councils (and maybe also a Growing Young team if there is one) who have read the book and want an outside voice to help them determine their strengths, challenges, goals, and an action plan.

Leadership Coaching – I am available to meet with a Growing Young team or council every two to three months to coach you in your action plans and hold you accountable to what you plan to accomplish.

Growing Young Cohort – Your Growing Young team or council representatives will join me and other congregation teams to share ideas, challenges, and learn from one another as you all work toward growing younger. The cohort meetings would be via Zoom unless congregations involved are geographically close to one another and commit to meeting in person. The cohort would meet approximately every two months, with a twelve-month commitment.

To find out more about *Growing Young* and discuss these or other ways your congregation might incorporate the material into your ministry, contact me at 217-494-3043 or elise.rothfusz@csis-elca.org.

This book can be purchased through www.ChristianBook.com, your favorite online bookseller, or [Fuller Youth Institute](http://FullerYouthInstitute) with discounts for multiple copies.

