

A History of the GeN'xt! Ministry

In the summer of 2017 GeN'xt began as a small Bible study of young families and professionals within the Huber Memorial Church located at 5701 York Road in Baltimore, MD. On September 13th, 2017 the Bible study group of about 12 individuals was officially adopted and recognized as a ministry within the church.

Idea, vision and actualization – The Beginning

Chelrisa Swanston realized that there was a need to mobilize her generation within the congregation. Failure to do so would result in the “church” becoming a place eventually spoken about as a fond memory or as an institution that would no longer be recognized as necessary or beneficial. A written proposal for the “MaTCH” ministry which means Maturing Together with a Christlike Heart, was then shared with Pastor P.M. Smith who called for a meeting with further discussion. Regarding the proposal Ms. Swanston stated: “God gave me the idea and vision. It was instantaneous and I sat at work and wrote it in about 5-10 minutes. It was all God’s doing.” After meeting to discuss the idea with Pastor Smith he agreed to teach a Bible study if Ms. Swanston could gather 12 individuals in her generation. She did one better and gave him a list of about 20 but Pastor knew what he was looking for and reduced the list to 12 faithful and committed individuals.

July 2017 – MaTCH met for its first week of Bible study classes during the annual Family Bible Institute activities. The group continued to meet on a weekly basis for Bible study with Pastor Smith for about four additional weeks. Pleased with the study group’s consistency, Pastor gave his blessing and the group approached the Church Council requesting to be formally formed as a ministry. Before the formal request was made, Pastor Smith had one stipulation and that was for the name to be changed to “The Next Generation Ministry” which was subsequently shortened to GeN'xt.

September 13, 2017 – The GeN'xt ministry was adopted as an official ministry of the Huber Memorial Church. The leadership team was organized and comprised of Mrs. Sheria Jennings, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Stanley (Toroda), Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Thompson (Elizabeth), Dr. Letitia J. Wright and Ms. Chelrisa Swanston. Minister and Mrs. Howard McLain (Tonya) served as the group’s advisors.

Our Mission & Focus - Continuity!

GeN'xt has become an organism and is moving with momentum within the Huber Memorial Church. The ministry’s mission statement is:

“We are organized to **MOTIVATE** and **SUPPORT** each other as we **PREPARE** and **POSITION** ourselves for **SERVICE** in ministry and as we **FOCUS** on the **CONTINUITY** of the church’s mission. We will **WORK COLLABORATIVELY** with the generations before and after us. By **BRIDGING** the gap we seek to mature with a Christ-like heart.”

That mission has set the tone and direction for the way the ministry operates. The group is completely mission focused and the leadership team is structured in that way as well.