

Grandparents Day, September 8, 2013

July/August 2013, *Equipping* #138

HWB - *Hymnal Worship Book*, SJ - *Sing the Journey*, SS - *Sing the Story**

Spiritual Grandparenting

In today's mobile culture it has become uncommon for congregations to include three generations of family. Grandparents and their grandchildren often have to make the best of long distance relationships. But, congregations have lots of older and younger people who would be enriched by forming deep intentional friendships. Relationships like these can help strengthen congregations as a beloved community where all ages find a place at the welcome table.

This Grandparents Day, September 8, 2013, or on any other suitable day, present the idea of becoming spiritual grandparents and grandchildren to each other.

(Be sure to have child safety guidelines and procedures in place.) www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2096

Once pairs of young and old have found each other, celebrate and bless their friendship commitment with a litany such as the one below.

Commitment Litany for Spiritual Grandparents and Grandchildren

We are Christian Seniors who love the young and Christian young people who love the old; We are all part of God's big story; loved, treasured, and gifted by God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

God, please bless our relating, speaking and listening, So that our words, thoughts, and actions bless each other.

Even though we are part of one church family we live in worlds that are quite different. We have much to learn from each other.

Even though our lives are quite different There is much that we have in common: Our need to be respected, listened to, enjoyed, to make a difference. Our shared gifts and interests can help us become a realization of God's dream.

On this day we commit ourselves to being spiritual grandparents and grandchildren in this family of faith. We will help each other find and enjoy our place in God's big family.

We will help each other discover God's love and truth and to nurture it in our hearts, minds, and actions so that God's blessings can keep on flowing through us and our friendships.

Amen.

Elsie Hannah Ruth Rempel
Faith Formation Consultant
Mennonite Church Canada
erempel@mennonitechurch.ca

* Song book abbreviations match those used for corresponding worship resources in *Leader Magazine*