

Strategic Plan For Youth Ministry

Vision Statement

The vision of youth ministry is to reach out to youth at the local church, district and conference levels providing opportunities to bring youth closer to God through spiritual growth and involvement at all levels.

Why do we do youth ministry at conference, district and local church levels?

At the **local church level**, youth feel youth ministry:

- Keeps them involved in church (instead of fading away after elementary age)
- Helps with their spiritual growth-keeps them on track
- Provides an alternative to other less “healthy” activities
- Keeps their faith a significant part of their lives and helps them build relationships in and outside of the church body
- Offers a safe place to be “yourself”

At the **district and conference levels**, youth feel youth ministry:

- Provides them with opportunities to meet different people throughout the area
- Gives them a chance to learn things they might not otherwise learn in their local church group
- Teaches them how to interact with other youth and adults in an open healthy manner; meeting people of other ethnicities and backgrounds
- Helps find common interest with other youth
- Offers insight to how other youth learn about the Bible and prayer life
- Gives them ideas for their own youth group
- Provides or connects youth with large scale events

Goal No. 1:

Foster communication, cooperation, and coordination of youth ministries in our conference with local churches and districts

Action Plans:

1. Build involvement in District Youth Councils for each district. Meet with each district to talk about DCYM and CCYM.
2. Reach out to churches with larger racial and ethnic diversity to youth involved in district and conference events.
3. Develop a core of certified adult volunteer leaders working with youth at district and conference events.

DATE: Complete by August 2008

Goal No. 2:

Develop strategies to increase and integrate the voice and presence of youth at the local church, district, conference and area levels. Invigorate our current DCYM and CCYM structure through shared leadership.

Action Plans:

1. Provide training for youth in leadership skills and development.
2. Provide training for adult church leaders in youth ministry.
3. Develop youth as a voice for General Conference 2008.
4. Develop DCYM adult leader support groups.
5. Communicate closely with Kansas Area counterparts to promote area quadrennial youth events.
6. Encourage each district to have a two-person adult team as DCYM coordinators.

7. Add an additional Conference Council on Youth Ministry Coordinator (unpaid position) to work with the Conference Youth Coordinator (partially restored to only a half-time position, February 2005 special session of Annual Conference)

DATE: Complete by 2008

Goal No. 3:

Identify opportunities and develop strategies for post-secondary education and leadership development for youth. (Bridge the high school/college gap!)

Action Plans:

1. Build partnerships with United Methodist-related seminaries, colleges, universities, and campus ministry units, to reach out to young people for the purpose of cultivating leadership and involvement.
2. Develop a data base of students who participate in conference events that can be shared with United Methodist Colleges and Universities
3. Develop strategies for recruiting and retaining United Methodist youth at United Methodist-related colleges, and universities.
4. Continue to develop relationships between churches and state college and university campus ministry programs to inform them of United Methodist students attending those colleges.
5. Develop strategies for equipping clergy and other Kansas Area leaders to be responsive to God's call in the lives of youth.

DATE: Complete by 2008

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Our current personnel strategy does not provide enough energy to accomplish the above goals and plans. Given the cost of travel and the expectation of the CYC to participate in youth events (many of which are overnight or even week-long); a half-time paid position will not achieve these aims. Therefore our goal is to having the Conference Youth Coordinator position become fulltime by 2008.

Our Current Guidelines for CCYM (abbreviated to save paper):

A. PURPOSE

Paragraph 648 in the *2004 Book of Discipline* states that the purpose of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) is to strengthen the youth ministry in the local churches and districts of the Annual Conference.

B. VISION

The vision of the CCYM is to reach out to the youth of the Kansas East Conference by providing opportunities for spiritual growth and service to others, enhancing leadership development, raising awareness of social justice and empowerment, and creating a Christian atmosphere where faith, fun, and fellowship come together.

C. MEMBERSHIP

The council will consist of the following persons:

1. With vote
 - Six (6) youth representatives from each district
 - One District Youth Coordinator (DYC) from each District
 - One adult co-convenor for each CCYM-sponsored event
 - Cabinet representative
 - At-large youth and adults as deemed necessary, including youth members of the Jurisdictional Youth Team (JYT) or Division on Ministries with Young People.
2. With voice only
 - Conference Youth Coordinator (CYC)
 - Conference Council on Youth Ministries Coordinator (CCYMC)

- Ex-officio representatives from United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, the Ministry Area on Camping, and Young Adult Ministry, Campus Ministry
- One District Youth Coordinator from each District
- Two adult co-conveners (1M, 1F) for each CCYM sponsored event

D. ELECTION/APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

1. Youth representatives from districts will serve a one-year term
 - CCYM election: Each District Council on Youth Ministry (DCYM) will elect, six (6) representatives to the CCYM. (must be in grades 9-12 during the year in which they serve. It is strongly recommended that at least one (1) of the representatives be a racial/ethnic minority and that each DCYM consider other aspects of diversity when electing its CCYM representatives.)
 - DCYM election: Each church will be asked to elect two (2) youth to be members of their DCYM. Other youth may be added as deemed necessary by the DCYM. These youth will have voting rights on their respective DCYM. Members of the DCYM are to be in grades 7-12 during the year in which they serve. District youth coordinators will be responsible for contacting local churches.
2. District Youth Coordinators will be elected/appointed by the District Superintendents and/or District Council on Ministries. DYC's must complete the conference certification process for the protection of children, youth, and adults with developmental disabilities.
3. The adult co-conveners for CCYM-sponsored events will be chosen by the CCYM at the spring meeting. The following guidelines will be used in the s/election process:
 - At least two districts will be represented.
 - Both genders will be represented.
 - It is recommended that one adult will have previously attended the event.
 - The adult will serve no more than three (3) consecutive times on any one specific event.
 - All adults will have completed the conference certification process for the protection of children, youth, and adults with developmental disabilities.
 - It is recommended that the adults be s/elected for two-year terms, in alternating years, with consideration given to gender, district, ethnicity, and other aspects of diversity.
4. Each conference will elect two voting representatives to the JYT, at least one of whom will be a person whose heritage is not European Caucasian. The two representatives will be elected in alternating years so that terms are staggered, with each serving a two-year term.
 - a. The conference/jurisdiction covers travel, housing, and meals, as funds permit.
 - b. Youth must be able to serve a two-year term at time of election; July to July.
 - c. Responsibilities include:
 - Attending the annual JYT meeting.
 - Attending the jurisdictional youth event for three (3) summers [the one when elected and the following two (2) years as a JYT member].
 - Serving as an at-large member of CCYM.
5. The Conference Council on Youth Ministries Coordinator (CCYMC) will be elected by the annual conference, upon the CCYM's nomination submitted to the conference's nominating committee.
6. Vacancies on the CCYM will be filled by the body from which they were originally elected or appointed.

E. RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUTH MEMBERS

- Membership on CCYM requires a **“COMMITMENT” of time, energy, and participation.** There will be conflicts with school-related and other activities. Members must make a decision about their commitment to CCYM and the priority given to it.

- Members will sign and abide by a covenant of commitment, which will also be signed by parent(s)/guardian(s). Members will take their covenant seriously to fulfill the tasks/assignments they take on as a CCYM member.
- Members will attend **all** CCYM meetings and event committee meetings.
- Members will serve as a functioning link between the districts (specifically the DCYM) and their local church. Attendance at district and local youth functions is expected.
- Members will participate in at least one event committee and will be expected to attend committee meetings and the event.
- When feasible, members will attend CCYM-sponsored events. (Attendance is strongly urged, not required.) While in attendance, members will be aware of the example that they are setting as a youth leader in the conference.

F. ORGANIZATION OF THE CCYM

1. The CCYM will be led by a group of six (6) youth known as the Coordinating Team. These six youth will serve on an equal basis, with the entire team being consulted on and consulting in all decisions.
 - b. Each member of the Coordinating Team will:
 - 1) Work with other CTMs to set the agenda for CCYM meetings (in consultation with the Conference Youth Coordinator/CCYM Coordinator).
 - 2) Take turns filling the following roles at CCYM meetings:
 - Convener
 - Devotion/worship leader (Others may be involved.)
 - Secretary
 - Scribe
 - 3) Take “up-front” leadership and approve all nomination slates for the event committee on which serving.
 - 4) Meet with the team at least twice during the year if needed (for long-range planning, reviewing the guidelines, etc.).
2. Youth CTM leadership will serve as youth co-conveners of events or committees, including Vision Team and Institute and serve as one-vote for Annual Conference.

G. TASKS

- Sponsor/organize at least one (1) conference-wide event besides Institute per year. A conference-wide event is that which seeks to include youth from all five (5) districts.
- Select the goals and priorities of the CCYM at the “new” meeting.
- Set a yearly YSF goal.
- Participate in Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Organization
- Approve an annual budget for the CCYM.
- S/elect annually youth representatives to conference-wide committees. These youth need not be members of the CCYM.
- Advocate youth concerns and form youth caucuses.
- Promote and make available scholarships, as funds are available, to youth for conference/jurisdictional/national youth events.