

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Vision

As accepted by the 36th General Council

1 Corinthians 12:14–20

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less apart of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as God chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

As a part of the body:

- We believe youth and young adult ministry is an essential part of the church,
- We believe that youth and young adults need to gather separately within the church and together with the whole church,
- We believe that youth and young adults are active, vital participants in youth and young adult ministry,
- We believe that, for youth and young adult ministry to be effective, this ministry needs to be done in partnership with the whole church,
- We believe youth and young adults bring to the church a variety of special gifts because of their life experiences,
- We believe youth and young adults in the church, and beyond, hunger for spiritual nurture and pastoral care,
- We believe the church has much to offer to, and receive from, youth and young adults.

“Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young shall see visions, and your old shall dream dreams.” (Acts 2:17/Joel)

We have a vision of a church that...

- I. Recognizes that youth and young adult ministry must be owned by and integrated into all parts of the church community.
- II. Provides a Christian environment where youth and young adults are welcomed, heard, valued, nurtured, and supported both personally and spiritually as equals in local congregations, church courts, at camps, and on campuses.
- III. Provides opportunities and resources for youth and young adults to gather in faith, friendship, and community locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.
- IV. Continues to identify, develop, and update the youth and young adult ministry network across the church to facilitate the sharing of ideas, resources, and people.
- V. Provides training and continuing education to support ministry with youth and young adults for paid accountable ministers, and specific training programs for youth and young adult ministry leaders (lay and ordered).
- VI. To provide leadership opportunities and training for youth and young adults that nurtures both their leadership skills and spiritual life.
- VII. Provides programs and opportunities with a global perspective that develop and encourage the mission and outreach awareness of youth and young adults, both in Canada and around the world.

- VIII. Respects, values, and ensures youth and young adult ministry within the Ethnic Ministries Council, the All Native Circle Conference, and le Consistoire de Laurentien, while recognizing and valuing the gifts their ministries bring to the whole church.
- IX. To encourage worship that inspires youth and young adults' participation and spiritual development.
- X. Ensures appropriate and safe pastoral care for youth and young adults, including those outside of church membership, especially in times of change, challenge, and crisis. This care recognizes the diversity of our life experiences and commitment to the inclusion of marginalized youth and young adults.
- XI. Honours and respects all expressions of faith that are searching and questioning, and that draws from and challenges our traditions and historical faith in God and Jesus Christ, so that we can be both rooted and dynamic.
- XII. Recognizes and responds appropriately to issues of particular importance to youth and young adults.