

## Youth Ministry Sunday - Why do we celebrate in Niagara?

The primary goal of Youth Ministry Sunday is to celebrate youth ministry in our parishes and in the diocese. Each parish is unique in its approach to youth ministry. It is these efforts that we celebrate today. The celebration allows us also to thank the parishes and volunteers who support youth ministry at the diocesan level. The Diocesan Youth Ministry programs touch over 400 youth representing all six regions each year. Youth Ministry in Niagara is a vital, exciting movement encompassing a large number of people and a broad variety of programs and resources. This year we would like to highlight a motion from Youth Synod 2009 linking the Diocesan vision with the role youth ministry plays in the Diocese.

**WHEREAS:** diocesan youth ministry has embodied a **flourishing culture of innovation** by modeling and teaching how to take intelligent risks and to try out new ideas in programming, in worship, in leadership, in stewardship, in interpersonal skills, and in myriad other ways;

**AND WHEREAS:** the actions of Diocesan Youth Ministry show a longstanding track record of commitment to **prophetic social justice-making** e.g. Youth Synod influencing Diocesan Synod's decision to include issues of social-justice making in its two-day synods, advocating for the full inclusion of gays and lesbians in the entire life of the church and for the ordination of women to the episcopacy, speaking out against sweatshop labour and advocating for fair appeals for refugees, supporting the use of fair trade products, and several poverty reduction motions and actions;

**AND WHEREAS:** youth ministry has been a leader in moving toward **effective resource management** in terms of greening youth ministry events and parishes, of managing volunteers, of bringing food for food banks and generally living out of a theology of gratitude for the abundant blessings which God has given to us;

**AND WHEREAS:** youth ministry has helped to give training and opportunities for Christians, young and old, in **outstanding leadership for ministry** for both volunteer staff and event participants via the Youth Leadership Training program; Youth Synod in general and its Young Adult Mentor program in particular; the Niagara Youth Conference; SpiritQuest; the Diocesan Synod Orientation Program; and many, many more events and programs as well as advocating for leadership training for clergy and laity through Youth Synod;

**AND WHEREAS:** we are renowned across Canada for both creating and advocating for contemporary, **life-changing worship** services that fully engage laity and clergy in designing, creating and participating in transformative liturgy that is Spirit-driven, affirming, inclusive, diverse, and highly participatory as well as for training events designed to help participants develop liturgical skills and best practices;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** Youth Synod 2009 affirms the Diocesan vision and resolves to continue its leadership role as the vision is fully realised in the Diocese of Niagara.

## Resources

**Diocesan Program Consultants:** Christyn Perkons and Joyce Wilton are available to answer questions, suggest resources, lead workshops, facilitate visioning & planning sessions and provide on-site consultations.

**Other resources** are available for loan through the Diocesan Resource Centre and are detailed on the Youth Ministry website.

**The Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee** supports and evaluates diocesan youth events, responds to initiatives from parishes and regions, recruits volunteers and is committed to a vision of youth as a vital and active part of the whole church.

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# Come As You Are



## Youth Ministry Sunday 2010