

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 the new Youth Ministry Mission Statement found on the cover.

aWay An intimate spiritual retreat for youth aged 14-24 highlighting Life Changing Worship, Outstanding Leadership for Ministry, and a Continuous Culture of Innovation which takes place in takes place in January or February and is an opportunity for young people to explore their spirituality in the quiet of an intimate small group in a rural setting.

Youth Leadership Training Program (YLTP) A three-year leadership training program (now in its third decade) held during March Break to develop youth leaders who can offer Outstanding Leadership for Ministry. In addition to an emphasis on developing servant leadership skills, participants experience and create Life Changing Worship and focus on a Generous Culture of Stewardship.

Youth Synod The largest youth ministry program in Niagara with a dual focus on Prophetic Social Justice Making and Outstanding Leadership for Ministry offers youth delegates ages 13-21 the opportunity to debate and strategize about issues important to their faith and their communities as well as providing opportunities to experience Life Changing Worship; takes place in early May.

Youth Synod Council drafts motions for the upcoming Youth Synod, follows up on motions post -Synod, and functions as the voice of youth in the Diocese of Niagara between Youth Synods; participants develop Outstanding Leadership for Ministry skills and broadening their understanding of Prophetic Social Justice Making and Generous Culture of Stewardship.

Niagara Youth Conference (NYC) The cornerstone event in youth ministry in Niagara with a multiple focus on Life Changing Worship, a Continuous Culture of Innovation, a Generous Culture of Stewardship, and Prophetic Social Justice Making - takes place the week before the Labour Day weekend and is full of fun, learning, worship, spirituality, peer support, and lots of community building.

Diocesan Synod: Youth Delegate Orientation & Residence offers training, support and community for youth members to Diocesan Synod allowing them to provide Outstanding Leadership for Ministry.

The Gathering is a youth-created and youth-led quarterly worship service in the Hamilton area featuring the NYC Band. A similar worship service, The Gathering North, is newly serving Greater Wellington. These events embrace a Continuous Culture of Innovation, Life Changing Worship, Outstanding Leadership for Ministry, and a Generous Culture of Stewardship.

Resources

Christyn Perkons, Coordinator for Congregational Support & Development, is 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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Check us out at www.zipsqueal.com



Anglican Tradition



Call to Ministry



Relationship with God



Safe Communities



Transformative Experience in Faith

Youth Ministry is called by the Spirit to *create and uphold authentic and transformative experiences in faith for youth*, young adults and those who minister to and with them. We equip them for *passionate leadership, ministry and advocacy*; empower them in their response to God's call and in *faith-based decision making*; nurture their spiritual gifts; and provide opportunities for them to *explore their relationship with God* through intentional *safe communities, creative and engaging worship, Christ-centred leadership development* and relationship-based programming, rooted in the *Anglican tradition*.

We honour and uphold volunteers and staff in youth ministry at the parish and diocesan level; *respecting their call to ministry* by providing continuing education, support, recognition, and resources, and *by encouraging them in faithful risk taking*. In our quest for *excellence in ministry*, participants, volunteers, staff and parents regularly provide feedback about programs, resources and goals which is integrated into our *continuously developing ministry*.

Youth Ministry Sunday 2011