

Metro Church of Christ Youth Ministry Philosophy

Vision - The goal of our Youth Ministry is to nurture our young people so that they become life-long disciples of Jesus Christ. The following three convictions guide the ministry:

- 1) Centered on Family Because parents are primarily responsible for the spiritual development of their children, the Youth Ministry seeks to equip and encourage parents to nurture spiritual growth in all of our teens.
- 2) Integrated with the Body as much as possible. The youth program will seek to integrate young people into the life of our congregation. Consequently, youth activities will be planned to complement other important congregational activities.
- 3) Purposefully Inter-generational. Our congregation is a family of God where Christian discipleship is learned and shared from generation to generation. Our youth ministry purposefully encourages the development of intergenerational friendships and mentoring between our teens and other members of the congregation.

Components of the Youth Ministry

Monthly Activity – One activity per month for middle-school and high-school students will be scheduled, promoted, and administered by the YSM (Youth Steering Ministry). This activity is mainly a “fun” or “service” experience designed to build positive relationships between Christian teens. Each monthly activity will also include some deliberate spiritual content (devotional, prayer time, Bible study).

Bible Classes – Bible Classes for Middle School and High School will be organized and coordinated by the YSM. Emphasis will be given to substantial biblical content, parent involvement and cooperation with the larger congregational education program.

Weekly Devotional – Wednesday evenings our teens meet for an informal time of devotion. These devotionals may include all of our teens, or only the high school students, from quarter to quarter, depending on the make-up of our group.

Devotionals consist of singing, prayer, and open discussion of the Bible and its direct application to the life of young people. Each fall in this context our teens also select a Memory Verse for the group for the year.

Youth Spiritual Development Plan (YSDP) In the fall quarter during the Wednesday PM devotional our teens will work together with one another, and our Teen Mentoring Couple, to define group goals for spiritual growth. These will be

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recorded in the Youth Spiritual Development Plan and referred to regularly throughout the year.

Family Retreat - The YSM will strongly encourage all youth to participate. The committee will work closely with the planning of the Family Retreat.

Other guiding principles

- Focus on nurturing the parent/child relationship.
- Teach Christian parenting.
- The youth steering committee will work closely with the Family Ministry.
- Intergenerational events/classes will involve not only parents, but grandparents and younger siblings.
- While it is important to have parents involved, there must also be opportunities for teens to be without their parents and to develop an ability to think on their own and behave properly on their own.

Other components to consider

- Various families to host devotionals in their home.
- Small groups to host devotionals or other youth activities.
- The weekly devotional should have a fun component and a prayer and singing component.
- Classes that span all age groups, ie: A men's class or a women's class or a topic of interest to all ages.
- Ask students to determine what their favorite scripture is. Have them speak about it and then post a creative version of it on the wall.