Exemplary Youth Ministry in Congregations

Outcomes: Evidence of Mature Christian Faith in Youth

A Mature Christian Young Person. . .

- **Seeks Spiritual Growth**: alone and with others pursues questions, guidance and commitment through conversation, study of faith, reading the bible, prayer, small groups, retreats

- **Possesses a Vital Faith**: keenly aware of God present and active in one’s own life, the lives of others, and the life of the world

- **Practices Faith**: actively practices faith in Jesus Christ privately and publicly through regular attendance at worship, participation in ministry and leadership in a congregation

- **Makes the Christian Faith a Way of Life**: recognizes God’s “call” and integrates one’s beliefs into the conversation, decisions, and actions of daily life

- **Lives a Life of Service**: involved in activities caring for others and addressing injustice and immorality

- **Reaches Out to Others**: reaches out to others who are different or in need through prayer, hospitality, conversation and support

- **Exercises Moral Responsibility**: lives with integrity utilizing faith in making considered moral decisions

- **Speaks Publicly about Faith**: speaks openly about Jesus Christ and God’s participation in one’s own life and the life of the world

- **Possesses a Positive Spirit**: reflects loving and hopeful attitudes toward others and life
Exemplary Youth Ministry in Congregations
Faith Assets™—Contributors to Mature Faith in Youth

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**Congregational Assets**

**Theological Character**

1. **God’s Living Presence**: possesses a sense of God’s living presence in community, at worship, through study, and in service
2. **Centrality of Faith**: recognizes and participates in God’s sustaining and transforming life and work
3. **Emphasizes Prayer**: practices the presence of God as individuals and community through prayer and worship
4. **Focus on Discipleship**: committed to know and following Jesus Christ
5. **Emphasizes Scripture**: values the authority of Scripture in its life and mission
6. **Centrality of Mission**: consistently witnesses, serves and promotes moral responsibility, and seeks justice

**Pastoral Leadership**

7. **Spiritual Influence**: knows and models the transforming presence of God in life and ministry
8. **Interpersonal Competence**: builds a sense of community and relates well with adults and youth
9. **Supports Youth Ministry**: understands, guides, and advocates for youth ministry
10. **Supports Leaders**: affirms and mentors youth and adults leading youth ministry

**Congregational Qualities**

11. **Supports Youth Ministry**: youth and ministry with young people are high priorities
12. **Demonstrates Hospitality**: values and welcomes all people, especially youth
13. **Strives for Excellence**: sets high standards, evaluates, and engages in continuous improvement
14. **Encourages Thinking**: welcomes questions and reflection on faith and life
15. **Creates Community**: reflects high quality personal and group relationships
16. **Encourages Support Groups**: engages members in study, conversation, and prayer about faith in daily life

17. **Promotes Worship**: expands and renews spirit-filled, uplifting worship through the congregation’s life

18. **Fosters Ethical Responsibility**: encourages individual and social moral responsibility

19. **Promotes Service**: sponsors outreach, service projects, and cultural immersions both locally and globally

20. **Demonstrates Effective Practices**: engages in a wide variety of ministry practices and activities

**Youth Involvement**

21. **Participate in the Congregation**: youth are engaged in a wide spectrum of congregational relationships and practices

22. **Assume Ministry Leadership**: youth are invited, equipped and affirmed for leadership in congregational activities

➢ **Youth Ministry Assets**

**Youth Minister**

23. **Provides Competent Leadership**: reflects superior theological, theoretical, and practical knowledge and skill in leadership

24. **Models Faith**: is a role model reflecting a living faith for youth and adults

25. **Mentors Faith Life**: assists adult leaders and youth in their faith life both one-on-one and in groups

26. **Develops Teams**: reflects clear vision and attracts gifted youth and adults into leadership

27. **Knows Youth**: knows youth and changes in youth culture and utilizes these understandings in ministry

28. **Establishes Effective Relationships**: enjoys effective relationships with youth, parents, volunteers, and staff.

**Youth and Adult Leadership**

29. **Equip for Peer Ministry**: youth practice friendship, care-giving, and outreach supported by training and caring adults

30. **Establish Adult-Youth Mentoring**: adults engage youth in faith and life supported by informed leadership

31. **Participate in Training**: evaluate and equip youth and adults for ministry in an atmosphere of high expectations

32. **Posses Vibrant Faith**: youth and adult leaders possess and practice a vital and informed faith

33. **Competent Adult Volunteers**: foster authentic relationships and effective practices with youth within a clear vision strengthened by training and support
Youth Ministry Effectiveness
34. Establishes a Caring Environment: provides multiple nurturing relationships and activities resulting in a welcoming atmosphere of respect, growth, and belonging
35. Develops Quality Relationship: develops authentic relationships among youth and adults establishing an environment of presence and life engagement
36. Focus on Jesus Christ: the life and ministry of Jesus inspires the ministry’s mission, practices, and relationships
37. Considers Life Issues: the full range of young people’s lives is valued and addressed
38. Uses Many Approaches: intentionally, creatively employs multiple activities appropriate to the ministry’s mission and context
39. Organized Well: engages participants and leaders in long range planning, implementation, evaluation and innovation in an atmosphere of high expectations

Family Involvement
40. Possess Strong Parental Faith: parent(s) possess and practice a vital and informed faith
41. Promotes Family Faith Practices: parents engage youth and family in conversations, prayer, bible reading, and service that nurture faith and life
42. Reflects Family Harmony: expressions of respect and love create an atmosphere promoting faith
43. Equips Parents: offers instruction and guidance that nurture parental faith and equips parents for nurturing faith at home
44. Fosters Parent-Youth Relationships: offers parent-youth activities that strengthen parent-youth relationships