

YOUTH MINISTRY MISSION STATEMENT

To **engage** our community's youth in a relationship with God; to **equip** them to grow in their faith in Jesus Christ; and to **enjoy** and share God's love.

YOUTH MINISTRY CORE VALUES STATEMENT

Core values are standards that reflect the attitudes, styles and beliefs that promote one or more of the concepts articulated by the mission statement. They are not descriptions of the actual activities we do or the strategies we employ to accomplish our mission, but they are the basic elements of how we will bring about our ministry culture, interact with each other, and select criteria to fulfill our mission.

STUDENT **ENGAGEMENT** SHOULD BE:

Culturally Relevant

Jesus Christ was sent to the world out of God's love (John 3:16). Jesus himself preached, taught, healed within a specific culture. There is no "cultureless gospel". So we are sent as "ambassadors for Christ" to share our lives with youth and to be present in their world. At the same time, our lives are to be shaped not by any culture rather by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Our witness to students is a demonstration of a life not of the world. (John 17:14-19).

Conducted in a Safe, Consistent, and Structured Atmosphere

We want to welcome others as God welcomes us. (Rom. 15:7). That means we want to invite youth to know and experience God's love. We live in a society that is full of fear, aggression, selfishness, greed, envy, and harm. We desire to provide a place that exhibits openness, compassion, patience, kindness, and peace so that the Good News will be better heard and demonstrated. (Col. 3:12-14).

Conducted in Partnership with Families and the Community of Faith

Even though we serve in the youth ministry, we belong to the larger body of Christ at Trinity. As part of our common covenant, we are committed to one another and are accountable to live the Christian life together. That commitment is expressed through collaboration, interdependence, partnership, and unity of spirit, particularly with the student's families. (Eph. 4:11-13, 16).

Relationship Focused

God chose to meet us in the person of Jesus Christ – to reconcile a broken relationship with God that was caused by sin. Building relationships and being a part of that reconciliation process is central to the Christian message. It is also central to the youth ministry. However, a message cannot be separated from the messenger. Relational ministry remains our foundational practice; following our Savior's example (John 1:14).

EQUIPPING STUDENTS SHOULD RESULT IN:

Spiritual Growth

The Bible is normative for our lives and the ministry. Listening, reading, studying, and obeying the Scriptures is integral to our shared lives. Becoming a Christ-follower is a life-long journey that is guided by the scriptures and shaped by the Spirit's activity in the life of the community of faith. (2 Cor. 13:11)

Leadership Development

The power of the Holy Spirit is apparent in the gifts given to the body of Christ. As we grow in learning what it means to be a disciple of Christ, we are called to encourage and nurture the gifts God has given us, for the good of the whole community. (1 Cor. 12)

Being Service Minded

As Christians, we want to make an observable impact that contributes to the helping of humanity by addressing societal issues that affect us all, whether locally or globally (i.e. hunger, poverty, homelessness, etc.) (Matt. 25:35-40)

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN YOUTH GROUP SHOULD BE ENJOYABLE:

A joy-filled life is a chief characteristic of a Christ-follower. The Gospel is a message of joy and celebration. The ministry to youth must be characterized by gladness, happiness and joy. Besides, it's a sin to bore a kid. (Gal 5:22)

Youth Ministry Organizational Chart

