2019 Nurture and Retention Summit
Discipling, Nurturing, and Reclaiming
WE LOSE AT LEAST 50%
Like Water Between Our Fingers

An increasing number of young adults are leaving the Church

Adventist Review 2010
“The reason for leaving and staying away from the church is not doctrinal but relational.”

Very much has been lost to the cause of truth by a lack of attention to the spiritual needs of the young. Ministers of the gospel should form a happy acquaintance with the youth of their congregations. Many are reluctant to do this, but their neglect is a sin in the sight of Heaven. . . .

Gospel Workers, p207.
ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP CURRICULUMS

JUNIOR YOUTH
- ADVENTURERS CLUB
  - ADVENTURERS
    - 4 - 9 YEARS OLD
- MASTER GUIDE
- PATHFINDERS
  - PATHFINDERS
    - 10 - 15 YEARS OLD

SENIOR YOUTH
- AMBASSADORS
  - AMBASSADORS
    - 16 - 21 YEARS OLD
- SENIOR YOUTH LEADER
- YOUNG ADULTS
  - YOUNG ADULTS
    - 22 - 30+ YEARS OLD
Youth Ministry Relocated
The Local Church must become the primary target of global youth ministry. Our core function is to resource and build up youth ministry in the local church.

Youth ministry is only effective when it is a response to local needs, guided by local convictions in the hands of local people.
SEEKING A HOME

“Among emerging adults, we turn to the idea of seeking a home, that is, searching for belonging in a safe, communal sphere that provides an established worldview and access to peers, mentors, and elders...empirical research demonstrates that spiritual and religious communities and role models represent an enormously significant resource for the value formation and development of religiousness in emerging adults.”

“Intergenerational ministry occurs when a congregation intentionally brings the generations together in mutual serving, sharing or learning within the core activities of the church in order to live out being the Family of God and body of Christ to each other and the greater community.”

• God made us **Relational**
• **Love** is the fulfilment of the law. Rom 13:10
• Without **Love**, you are nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
• **Love** reflects the character of God. Matthew 5:44-48
• Fruit of the Spirit is **Love**. Galatians 5:22-23
• Church is built in and through **Love**. Eph 4:15,16
 BASIC THEOLOGY APPLIES TO THE COMMUNITY

- Incarnational
- Transformational
- Relational
DECISIONS FOR CHRIST BY YOUNG PEOPLE

86.3%
“In terms of world missions, young people form the largest, most crucial, and most dynamic ‘unreached people group’ in the world...[the youth] should be the first ‘foreign’ mission of the church.”

Dean Borgman, When Kumbaya is not Enough – A Practical Theology for Youth Ministry (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1997)
YOUTH SALVATION HISTORY

- Joseph
- Samson
- Samuel
- David
- Josiah
- Daniel and Friends

- Mary
- Jesus
- Disciples
- Mark
- Timothy
HOW DID THE ADVENTIST CHURCH BEGIN?
When the Seventh-day Adventist Church was newly formed, it was teenagers and young adults who held many leadership positions and helped to transform the church into the organization it is today.
• E.G. White – 17
• James White – 23
• J.N. Andrews – 15, at 21 Gospel Minister
• O.R.L Crosier – 24
• Uriah Smith – 12, at 23 he was Editor of Review
• J.N. Loughborough – 12, at 20 he was a full time Pastor
iCOR offers the church a comprehensive frame work and structure of indispensable values to build homes for all generations.
RELATIONSHIPS

CONNECTING ➔ Connecting churches strive to form authentic and loving relationships across generational, cultural and social boundaries.

CARING ➔ Caring churches foster a loving attitude that reaches out to others with empathy and accepts them the way they are. They actively serve their good and support them in all areas of life.

PARTICIPATING ➔ Churches that encourage participation value the gifts and skills of their fellow human beings and create room for them to take part in forming all aspects of church life. In this way, they foster a sense of belonging and identification with the church.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

WORSHIPPING ➔ Churches understand worship as the daily practice of making the Gospel reality. They search for creative opportunities to celebrate worship in everyday life and are committed to making the Sabbath a meaningful experience.

TEACHING ➔ Churches that teach the Word of God communicate in a relevant, creative and practical way.

MISSION

SERVING ➔ Mission and ministering always require an attitude of service. Serving churches follow the example of Jesus by ministering to the needs of others and seeking to discover new ways to serve.

RECONCILING ➔ Reconciling and reconciled churches actively foster reconciliation and healing in the name of Jesus, both in the relationship to our heavenly Father and to each other.

EMPOWERMENT

MENTORING ➔ Churches that care about personally accompanying their children and youth in particular, but also adults in their walk of faith are committed to fostering spiritual mentoring relationships.

TRAINING ➔ Churches that are open for learning provide training opportunities for their members to develop individual gifts and skills and promote services and ministries in the church.

LEADING ➔ Strategical and purpose-driven churches lead with a vision and passion, integrating the younger generation in the leadership activities of the church.
1. Connecting…

Connecting churches strive to form authentic and loving relationships across generational, cultural and social boundaries.
Connecting with young people opens up ineffable prospects for spiritual leadership.

RELATIONSHIPS

2. Caring...

Caring churches foster a loving attitude that reaches out to others with empathy and accepts them the way they are. They actively serve their good and support them in all areas of life.
“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men [women, and children] as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow me.’”

Ellen G. White, The Ministry of Healing, p. 143
3. Participating

Churches that encourage participation value the gifts and skills of their fellow human beings and create room for them to take part in forming all aspects of church life. In this way, they foster a sense of belonging and identification with the church.
“Keeping youth and young adults engaged in the church must be one of our highest priorities... I don’t have the words to express the depth of my conviction that we must give young adults meaningful roles within the church. It can’t be mere ‘busywork’, but we must vote them into substantive roles that bespeak a high level of trust, include them in decision-making processes, seek their involvement in ways that say: ‘We want to hear your voice!’”

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

4. Worshipping

Churches understand worship as the daily practice of making the Gospel reality. They search for creative opportunities to celebrate worship in everyday life and are committed to making the Sabbath a meaningful experience.
“God’s people have always included all ages in their worship.”

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

5. Teaching

Churches that teach the Word of God communicate in a relevant, creative and practical way.
MISSION

6. Serving

Mission and ministering always require an attitude of service. Serving churches follow the example of Jesus by ministering to the needs of others and seeking to discover new ways to serve.
“The church is organized for service.”

Ellen G. White, Education, p268
MISSION

7. Reconciling

Reconciling and reconciled churches actively foster reconciliation and healing in the name of Jesus, both in the relationship to our heavenly Father and to each other.
RECONCILIATION

“As a people, we have received great light. This light the Lord has entrusted to us for the benefit and blessing of the world. To us has been given the ministry of reconciliation. With power from on high we are to beseech men to be reconciled to God... The power given will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their love for God and for one another.”

Ellen G. White, Central Advance February 25, 1903
Churches that care about personally accompanying their children and youth in particular, but also adults in their walk of faith are committed to fostering spiritual mentoring relationships.
Youth who have a mentoring relationship with caring adults are less likely to engage in delinquent behavior.

EMPOWERMENT

9. Training

Churches that are open for learning provide opportunities for training for their members to develop individual gifts and skills and promote services and ministries in the church.
“With such a great army of workers as our YOUTH, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world.”

EMPOWERMENT

10. Leading

Strategical and purpose-driven churches lead with a vision and passion, integrating the younger generation in the leadership activities of the church.
According to Mitra (2009), in Youth-Adult Partnerships, youth are decision makers rather than consumers or consultants.

Change begins with leaders. Pastors/Elders are influential, and God requires much from them because of the sacred responsibility they carry. John Maxwell rightly calls it influence. But service is not about the leaders; it is about the led. It is about leading them into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and helping them embrace His call to discipleship. How each local church passes the ball, the strategy for scoring, and the skills of the players all remain unique. But we can never lose sight of the goal. What matters most is that the ball gets to the back of the net.
“AND THE HEART OF THE FATHERS SHALL TURN TO THEIR SONS AND THE HEART OF THE SONS SHALL TURN TO THE FATHERS”

Malachi 4:6

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