



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

Congregational Assets

- Faith Maturity
- Pastoral Leadership Strength
- Congregational Characteristics
- Youth Involvement

Youth Ministry Assets

- Youth Minister Strength
- Youth and Adult Leadership
- Youth Ministry Effectiveness
- Family Involvement

➤ 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 strengthen 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