



## **Mission and Objectives**

Youth Encounter is an evangelical and confessional Christian organization that offers youth ministry resources to the church. Incorporated in Minnesota by Lutherans in 1965, the organization serves churches of all denominations, nationally and internationally.

Youth Encounter seeks to fulfill its mission to strengthen the church through the Christian faith and ministry of its youth by achieving the following objectives:

### **With Youth**

#### **To restore broken relationships with Christ, His people, and His creation by:**

- Calling faithful church youth to daily repentance and renewal,
- Restoring uncommitted baptized youth of the Church to a meaningful Christian faith, and
- Evangelizing un-churched youth to be baptized into a meaningful Christian faith.

#### **To nurture young people in God's grace by supporting them:**

- To value their families,
- To value their congregations,
- To participate in their congregation's worship life,
- To develop healthy relationships with their family, friends, congregation, and neighborhood,
- To commune regularly with God through scripture and prayer,
- To reflect upon their lives and to make wise decisions in accordance with scripture,
- To understand and to live in God's grace,
- To tell the truth even when it is not easy,
- To accept and to take personal responsibility,
- To develop positive relationships without sexual involvement,
- To be able to resist negative peer pressure, dangerous situations, and the use of alcohol or other drugs,
- To have a high self-esteem,
- To have a sense of purpose in living,
- To be optimistic about their personal futures, and
- To learn to comprehend the scripture's understanding of life.

#### **To equip young people to serve others in Christ's name by training them:**

- To be responsible members of their family,
- To be responsible members of their congregation,
- To actively help other people,
- To act on their convictions and stand up for their beliefs,
- To have empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills,
- To live loving and unprejudiced lives,
- To seek to resolve conflict non-violently,
- To live with integrity as persons who are known to believe in Jesus Christ, and
- To share the gospel of Jesus Christ with others in a meaningful, caring way.

## With Families

### **To promote strong families by helping them:**

- To express appreciation to one another,
- To structure their schedules to spend time together,
- To commit themselves to their family and to each other,
- To engage in effective and caring conversation,
- To value their faith as a source of purpose, and
- To deal with crisis in a positive, hope-filled manner.

### **To promote the nurture of faith life in the home by helping families:**

- To engage in caring conversation from a Christian faith perspective,
- To practice their faith in their daily routines and choices,
- To serve others together, especially those in need, and
- To participate in daily family devotions involving scripture, discussion, and prayer.

## With Congregations

### **To promote healthy congregations hospitable to and enriched with youth by helping congregations to:**

- Affirm youth and adults in their commitment to the life and ministry of their congregations,
- Build community among youth and adults,
- Foster engaging, meaningful worship for all ages,
- Create intentional and specific settings which involve youth in the life and ministry of the church, and
- Reach out to youth who are not involved in the church

### **To advocate for youth and for effective youth ministry in the church by:**

- Encouraging the church to give high priority to youth ministry,
- Making youth and youth ministry more visible in and to the church,
- Equipping the church to deal with issues which affect youth, and
- Enabling youth to contribute their gifts to the church.

## With Leaders

### **To equip youth ministry leaders by helping them:**

- To be the kind of person they need to be to do youth ministry,
- To have the competency to do youth ministry, and
- To know the information they need to do youth ministry.

### **To develop effective youth ministry leadership by:**

- Encouraging youth, lay adults, and church professionals to commit themselves to intentional youth ministry,
- Creating resources supportive of youth ministry,
- Creating a network to support leaders in youth ministry,
- Advancing congregational youth ministry leadership as a vocation of the church, and
- Assisting congregations in their search for professional youth ministry leadership.