



Youth Ministry Theology

Theologically, Youth Encounter conducts its ministry according to the Christian scriptures, the three ancient ecumenical creeds, and the confessional writing of the Book of Concord.

Missionally, Youth Encounter shapes itself in terms of its "ends policy." This policy states Youth Encounter's commitment to work and pray to make three things become reality for young people: that they be established in the Christian faith; nurtured in the Christian community; and equipped to serve all God's people. This commitment includes work with the families, congregations, and leaders that form the Christian contexts of the lives of young people.

Structurally, Youth Encounter conducts its ministry in partnership with local expressions of the church, especially with congregations.

Youth Encounter's Theological Statement of Faith is as follows:

Youth Encounter confesses the Triune God, made known through Jesus Christ, according to the Christian Scriptures. Youth Encounter also subscribes to the three ancient ecumenical creeds - Apostles, Nicene, and Athanasian and the confessional writings of the Book of Concord.

Youth Encounter's Theology of Youth Ministry is as follows:

Youth Encounter believes that Youth are called by the Holy Spirit through word and sacrament to full partnership in the community of faith and challenged to full participation in the life and mission of Jesus Christ and His church.

- Youth ministry is Christ-centered, nurtured through the proclamation and study of the Word, given through baptism, and strengthened through participation in the Lord's Supper.
- Youth are full members of the Church of today as well as the Church of the future.
- Youth ministry is ministry by, with and for youth.
- Youth share in shaping the Church's response to the Gospel in both its theology and its resulting mission to the world.
- Youth ministry is integrated with and not separated from the mainstream of the Church's life and mission.
- Youth Ministry is equipping youth to utilize their God-given gifts as faithful disciples.

Since all of life is included in the reconciling Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, youth ministry attends to the full range of life issues of the youth of the congregation and the community.

- Youth ministry is person centered.
- Youth ministry is family conscious.
- Youth ministry is congregationally based.
- Youth ministry includes witness and service as well as nurture and community.
- Youth ministry understands the youth group as one dimension of a larger ministry that involves young people, together with people of all ages, in the life of the congregation, the community, and the world.