

Youth Ministry

The highlights of the youth ministry program are –

- ✦ Youth Events; each celebrating Christian community and offering its own unique faith building experience.
- ✦ Youth Action Council retreats provide another opportunity for Christian formation. Members develop and build leadership skills; are involved in the planning and carrying out of each event; and gain an understanding of evangelism.
- ✦ Volunteer and Youth Leader Retreats offering training, support and networking opportunities
- ✦ Provincial Youth Network meeting for the purpose of building community beyond the borders of West Missouri

Describe how these activities have furthered the work of the diocese and strengthened parishes and congregations - (Include the number of participants and/or people served.)

- ✦ Youth Ministry helps develop, encourage and support passion-driving, faith practicing, articulate people who have a personal story about God to share. Christian formation helps us develop compassion; reach out to solve problems and be a healing presence in a broken world – all of which is important to youth. Youth ministry goals further the work of the diocese by being life relevant – empowering youth with the tools they need to confront heartbreak and misfortune as well as helping youth identify a sense of purpose and hope. Enveloped within a supportive faith community we can challenge each other to take the risks necessary to live out our faith. Youth ministry encourages us to share our stories and make sacrifices for others. But as important as anything else, being involved in youth ministry helps us understand that faith is supposed to make us live our lives differently.
- ✦ 633 participants were involved in youth ministry events and youth leader trainings (207 Individuals)

What are your plans for ministry in 2012?

- ✦ Carry out the eight plus diocesan-wide events currently on the 2012 calendar for the purpose of nurturing Christian community; faith building and Christian educational opportunities; outreach and mission.
- ✦ Offer two Volunteer and Youth Leader Retreats for the purpose of training and support
- ✦ Continue to support members of the Youth Action Council in their formation as Christians and in the development of their leadership skills
- ✦ Be an active part of the greater church through involvement within the Provincial Youth Network

How will you measure success in 2012?

- ✦ Event evaluations
- ✦ Event attendance

How does your ministry reflect the promises made in the Baptismal Covenant (*The Book of Common Prayer*, pp. 304-05)?

- ✦ Christian formation is found in teaching, fellowship and the breaking of bread together during diocesan youth events.
- ✦ Christian fellowship and teaching offers us the support and encouragement we need to resist the thoughts, words and actions leading us away from God; as well as the support and encouragement we need to recognize our misdoings and return to our relationship with Him.
- ✦ Each diocesan-wide youth ministry opportunity has a point – to spread the Good News of God in Christ and encourage us all in the development of a relationship with the Living God.
- ✦ Involvement in youth ministry helps us see and serve Christ in both the personal relationships that are formed as well as the multiple opportunities for actual faith-in-action, hands-on missional and outreach service to others.
- ✦ Concern for the dignity of every human being is the reason this year's theme was chosen. *Love Louder* means caring about justice for others and striving for peace despite a culture that can tell us these things are impossible or unimportant.
- ✦ With God's help, "we will" continue to do this work in His name.