



Christian Reformed Church
Faith Formation
Ministries

Youth Ministry in the CRCNA

Vision for Ministry

We believe that a healthy youth ministry takes place in congregations that are shaped by grace and committed to preparing God's people for works of service. All of us, from the oldest to the youngest, are sinners called to come to the cross to find new life in Jesus Christ. All of us, from the oldest to the youngest, are called to mature in that grace our entire lives. Youth ministry flourishes in congregations committed to lifelong faith formation.

Quotes of Note

"Healthy churches reach young people, and young people make churches healthier. If your church is reaching 20 year olds, your church will reach 60 year olds."

From the book **Growing Young**

Contact Information

Ron DeVries **CRCNA Youth Ministry Catalyzer**

780-619-6566

rondevries@crcna.org

www.crcna.org/youth **(NEW)**

twitter.com/crcna_youth **(NEW)**



The Wild Ride Adventure of CRC Youth Ministry in 2017

When I was a CRC teen, I attended catechism, youth group, "Young Calvinist Convention" and made profession of faith after my final year of high school.

That landscape has certainly changed.

Earlier this year, 55 CRC youth workers from all over the US gathered in Chicago to reflect on the support systems needed for youth ministry today. It was a US-only gathering because CRC churches in Canada already have a support system in place. Participants shared stories and observations, learned about the "Growing Young" approach developed by the Fuller Youth Institute, and explored appointing a Youth Ministry Champion in each classis who would serve to sharpen vision, encourage congregational youth ministry and intergenerational initiatives, and resource churches.

The group agreed that stronger support systems for congregational ministry to teens are needed. Why?

Continued on page 2

Symposium 2017: The Future of Faith Formation with the New Generation

When:

- October 5-7, 2017 - Avon Old Farms Hotel, CT
- October 26-28, 2017 - Park Plaza Hotel, MN

Faith Formation with the New Generation—the 2017 Symposium on the Future of Faith Formation— will focus on discovering innovative approaches for creating 21st century faith formation with children and youth. Every church knows it needs to find new ways to engage 21st century children and youth. The Symposium will be a time to explore promising innovations. Our team will guide you through a process of identifying and developing the most promising approaches for fostering faith maturing from 0-20 years old—approaches that you will be able to use in your congregation! The Symposium will be blend of theory and practice presentations, group discussion, strategy design, and practical application activities.

The Symposium will give you a chance to re-imagine faith formation with children and adolescents, and discover new models and approaches for congregations.

The Registration Fee is \$325 (US) which includes your tuition, five meals (Thursday lunch through Saturday breakfast), and all of materials.

For more information go to:
www.lifelongfaith.com.

To register go to:
www.lifelongfaith.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html.

We could give a dozen reasons, but here's a start:

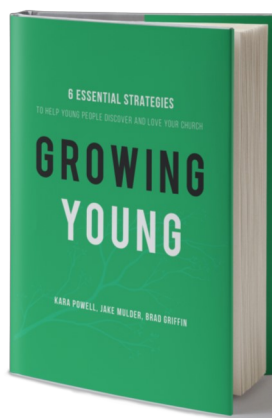
"I have two teenage sisters who love Jesus. National data says it is likely only one will keep her faith after high school. That's not good enough." (Steven Jansons, Classis Columbia)

"Because students and families are too busy, the 'one-size-fits-all' youth group doesn't always work. Students and families need various points of contact with a church throughout the week. More people and more commitment are needed for such a structural shift." (Bret Lamsma, Classis Rocky Mountain)

"People like to say that young people are the 'future of the Church.' I respectfully disagree. They're the Church now. They're already baptized members of the body, worshipping with us and learning to lead in our congregations. We need to do the best job that we can of helping them grow as disciples of Christ." (Brandon Haan, Classis Wisconsin)

We at Faith Formation Ministries were moved by the passion and vision evident in Chicago, and are engaged in building the support structure whose seeds were planted there.

Some Suggested Resources for You



For a compelling vision into ministry for all ages, a book from Fuller Youth Institute, called **Growing Young** is a great tool for group discussions. To order your copy for \$10 each through Faith Formation Ministries call Christine Dekker at 877-279-9994.

Check out this webinar called **"Top 14 Ways to Start Your Season Well"**: network.crcna.org/fait-forma-tion/top-ways-start-your-season-well

Check out the new **CRCNA youth ministry focused website**: crcna.org/youth

Easy Win Resource of the Month!

Top Ten Ways to Strengthen Your Youth Ministry: network.crcna.org/fait-nurture/ten-ways-build-stronger-youth-ministry