



Christian Reformed Church  
**Faith Formation  
 Ministries**

## Youth Ministry in the CRCNA

### Vision for Ministry

We believe that 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 that have a strong commitment to lifelong faith formation.

### Quotes of Note

"It is time for the church to rediscover the preeminence of the Word. And to value the teaching of the Word. We need to value truth over feeling. Truth over emotion."

—John Cooper of the band Skillet. Read his full thought-provoking Facebook post here: [bit.ly/JohnCooperPost](http://bit.ly/JohnCooperPost).

### Contact Information

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### Hungry for the God Story

There is a wonderful little book entitled *The God Hungry Imagination* written by Sarah Arthur.

This little treasure looks at the art of story telling for the post modern youth ministry world. For me, it has been a joy to read and a great reminder of the larger narrative that envelopes the work we are called to swim in called local church ministry.

Arthur writes, "One of the primary ways 'a more spacious world opens up to us' through scripture is by offering formative experiences that nurture the imagination. The Bible-as-story works. It works in all the ways that story itself works: in offering transcendence, identity, intimacy, timelessness, wonder and so forth..."

My wife and I are recent grandparents (we have been told that we are Oma and Opa to our dear precious little granddaughter Aria).

Little Aria has been surrounded by literature since before she was born and soaks up any book her little hands can grab. And to be shared the wondrous story in a quiet moment with her Great Opa is a treasure we can only hope continues throughout the years she is given.

*Cont'd on page 2*

## National Youth Workers Convention 2019—Youth Specialties

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**Tampa, Florida, November 21-24, 2019**

Are you a youth worker? Do you find yourself pouring out to others while at times needing to be poured into yourself? This year we are celebrating 50 years of TOGETHER at National Youth Worker Convention. No matter if you are tired, lonely, underappreciated, or misunderstood, NYWC is for you.

The National Youth Workers Convention (NYWC) is a gathering of people from all around the country (and the world!) who work with and care about teenagers. When youth workers get TOGETHER we realize we are in a safe place to process our frustrations or to simply just be—whether it's tired, vulnerable, or just ourselves.

Because when we are TOGETHER we can also be refreshed, recharged, reenergized. When we are TOGETHER we become one body, strengthening each other, encouraging each other and working TOGETHER to reach the world. So let's get together. The veterans, the G.O.A.T.s, the rooks, and everyone in between.

We are better.

We are stronger.

We are ready for what's next.

When we are TOGETHER.

Youth Specialties has been helping Christian churches of every denomination lead students to find and follow Jesus for 50 years. For more details or to register, visit [nywc.youthspecialties.com](http://nywc.youthspecialties.com).

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[Cont'd from page 1]

The grand narrative of God the Father, Jesus the sacrificed Son, and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter, is the story we are called to share! And we in youth ministry are privileged to engage on the front lines of this calling because we love the local church and long for young people to understand the stories of Creation, Fall, and Redemption so that God's story becomes their story.

This year, Youth Unlimited celebrates 100 years of doing ministry alongside the Christian Reformed Church. The YU staff have been poring over a 100 years of youth ministry stories that illustrate where God has gone out ahead of us to redeem a chaotic, complex world. This year, 23 communities around North America hosted SERVE mission trips ([youthunlimited.org/serve](http://youthunlimited.org/serve)). About 1400 participants lived out the big story of Grace, Love, and Truth—the story of an innocent child born of a virgin, grown to be a perfect human of divine calling, hung to die, and resurrected to new life.

We praise God that our youth willingly share the God story through actions and words in a variety of ways!

### Suggested Resources for You

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Check out *Growing With: Every Parent's Guide to Helping Teenagers and Young Adults Thrive in Their Faith, Family, and Future* by Kara Powell and Steven Argue of the Fuller Youth Institute: [growingwithbook.com](http://growingwithbook.com)

Have you met Mimi Larson yet? She is the CRCNA's Children's Ministry Catalyzer. Meet Mimi and check out children's ministry resources at [crcna.org/FaithFormation/childrens-ministry](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation/childrens-ministry)

### Easy Win Resource of the Month!

Are you looking for help in understanding the cultural influences that surround your youth? Check out the Cultural Translator ([axis.org/ct](http://axis.org/ct)) tool from Axis, a ministry that helps churches, parents, and support networks for teens get a better handle on what's going on. It's free, and with a subscription will show up in your email every Friday.