



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

"Your soul is what integrates your will (your intentions), your mind (your thoughts and feelings, your values and conscience), and your body (your face, language, and actions) into a single life. A soul is healthy—well ordered—when there is harmony between these three entities and God's intent for all of Creation."

From the book ***Soul Keeping*** by John Ortberg

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Following the Lord's Steps

It is difficult to know how the plans we make will play out in reality.

The beginning of a new year leaves us wondering: what are we hoping for this year? How did we complete so much in 2017?

At Faith Formation Ministries we've been reflecting on this verse: **"In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps"** (Prov. 16:9).

This powerful piece of wisdom confirms that our plans and hopes are but small pieces of a larger whole that God has laid out for us. For those of us serving in youth ministry, our plans can often get caught up in events, visits, emergency room triage, and so many other things that pile up. We can get so lost in the details that we forget our Lord is laying out the roadmap ahead of us.

And if we open our eyes, he shows it to us.

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The Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry

April 24-27, 2018 The Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry

For over 20 years, the Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry has gathered Christian leaders who are passionate about young people and the church. The Forum brings together rigorous academic training, rich networks of support, and praxis-oriented community building. Youth ministers, Christian educators, pastors, ministry innovators, and emerging scholars from the U.S. and beyond gather annually for this 4-day event on the campus of Princeton Theological Seminary. The annual Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church, and Culture are featured at the Forum, presenting fresh scholarship for the field of practical theology.

This year, our theme is IMAGE. Explore what it means to practice youth ministry in a visual age.

This conference is for:

- Christian leaders who minister with young people
- Christian educators
- Chaplains who offer pastoral care to young people
- Volunteer youth ministry leaders and parents
- Emerging scholars who are exploring the intersection of innovation, theology, anthropology, sociology, and young people

<http://iymforum.com>

John Ortberg, in speaking with his friend Dallas Willard, asked, “What is required of me to stay spiritually healthy and ready for what comes my way?” Slowly and deliberately, Willard shared these words: “You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day.”

As we begin a new calendar year and prayerfully consider all the steps laid out before us, may the words of the Proverbs text establish a foundation for our year and the words from Dallas Willard help us to navigate it well.

May God bless you this coming year and give you strength. May his light shine on you and give you peace in the journey.

Ron and Syd

Suggested Resources for You



Looking for youth group resources? Check out [The Big Question](#). Written by youth ministry worker Sam Gutierrez, this four-session informal study is easy to lead, full of faith-forming activities and practices, and perfect for teens.

Find it at faithaliveresources.org

And as you plan for the new year, check out [Ten Ways to Build a Stronger Youth Ministry](#) from Faith Formation Ministries (crcna.org/FaithFormation).

Easy Win Resource of the Month!

If you missed the second part of our webinar titled The Spiritual Characteristics of Teens, you can view it here: network.crcna.org/faith-nurture/spiritual-characteristics-teens-part-two-webinar-recording.