



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

"It may seem that there are many followers of Jesus, but if they were honestly to define the relationship they have with him I am not sure it would be accurate to describe them as followers. It seems to me that there is a more suitable word to describe them. They are not followers of Jesus. They are FANS of Jesus. The most basic definition of a fan is 'an enthusiastic admirer.'"

—Kyle Idleman in *Not a Fan* (Zondervan, 2016)

Contact Information

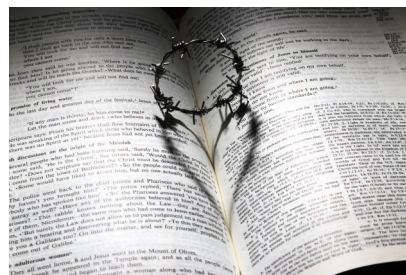
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The Bride of Christ

Ephesians 5:25-27 beautifully captures an image of the relationship between Christ and his bride, the Church. We read, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."

For all its blemishes, wrinkles and stains, the local church is always on a journey in this relationship, wrestling with what it means that Christ gave himself up for me, for us, the broken vessels we are. It is a beautiful mess of unique stories that Christ, through his compassionate love, filled with unconditional grace, redeems to be radiant, holy, and blameless.

What fantastic news! And we in youth ministry are privileged to engage on the front lines of this incredible adventure because we love the local church and dream of a time when our beloved children fully understand the words of Ephesians 5 for themselves and the broader community—a time when they will share in the story of an innocent child born of virgin birth, grown to be a perfect human of divine calling, hung in death, and resurrected to new life.

As a called people, we hope to live out and speak this story in our ministries so that the younger ones

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Inspire 2019

August 1-3, 2019

Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Inspire 2019 is an event designed specifically for ministry volunteers and leaders from Christian Reformed and Reformed churches across North America.

Each day will include spirit-filled worship led by a diverse worship team, workshops on topics covering every aspect of congregational life, and plenary speakers who will challenge and equip us to return to our local congregations with new ideas, renewed passion, and deepened commitment to God's kingdom.

And, of course, there will be good food, fellowship, and plenty of time to connect with people from across our denominations to share stories and learn from each other.

Whether you're a deacon, elder, Sunday School leader, Bible study participant, worship leader, mission team member, community outreach coordinator or fill another role in your church community, you will find relevant workshops to help you in your ministry.

Come, discover new resources that can benefit your congregation. Connect with people who are involved in similar types of ministry. Share your stories and learn from others. You won't want to miss it.

Inspire 2019 builds on the success of the 2017 event. Read about Inspire 2017: crcna.org/gatherings/past-gatherings/inspire-2017

Learn more about this event here: eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event_id=4685

Promotional Resources

A variety of resources are available to help you promote Inspire 2019 to your congregation. You can find them under the Resources tab found here: eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event_id=4685

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among us can share in our joy of the redemptive act of Jesus Christ

But in life, we will hit roadblocks. When we do, knowing that caring people are praying for you and will listen when you are celebrating or struggling, can be such a comfort and encouragement.

Your local Classis Youth Ministry Champions are those people. They are great listeners who have been there in the trenches. They have toolboxes full of youth ministry materials and resources for you. Those resources include:

- faith formation coaches who can walk with ministry leaders
- ministry assessment tools to help your church determine next steps.
- a hiring guide for churches considering calling/hiring a youth pastor or director.
- youth ministry book recommendations.
- youth ministry curriculum suggestions.
- soul care events for people who serve in ministry.
- a cup of coffee for when you just need to vent.

To find out who your Champion is, please visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/youth-ministry. If you don't see your classis represented, please contact me (Ron) at rondevries@crcna.org or call 780-619-6566.

As we enter the year 2019, let this be the year that you have coffee with your Classis Youth Ministry Champion. Let them buy you a cup on me.

Suggested Resources for You

Check out FFM's Family Faith Formation toolkit. (crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits).

Have you met Mimi Larson yet? She is the CRCNA's Children's Ministry Catalyzer. Meet her and learn more about children's ministry at crcna.org/FaithFormation/childrens-ministry.

Easy Win Resource of the Month!

If you're planning to talk with teens about the movie Eighth Grade, here is a downloadable resource to add to that discussion. cpyu.org/resource/eighth-grade-film-discussion-questions