



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

"The measure of leadership is best seen in times of crucial decision. Millennials carry a new frame on reality that poses a major challenge to the church in the coming years; this new fame is not only different, it is better."

—David John Seel Jr. in *The New Copernicans: Millennials and the Survival of the Church* (Thomas Nelson, 2018)

Contact Information

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Intergenerational Mission Trip



Here is a wonderful story from the trenches of a volunteer-run youth ministry, written by Pastor Brian Kuyper of Taber CRC in Taber, Alberta.

What do a 13-year-old, an 81-year-old, a 43-year-old, and an 18-year-old have in common? They all spent a week in Middletown, California working with World Renew Disaster Response Services.

Early on February 17, ahead of a forecasted snow storm, 22 people ranging from 13 to 81 years of age departed Taber, Alberta, for Great Falls, Montana. Our final destination that night was Northern California, a small town called Middletown.

In 2015, Middletown suffered from "the Valley Fire." At the time, it was the third largest fire in California's history, burning an acre per second. Many people lost everything. Following this disaster, the CRC's World Renew partnered with Hope City to rebuild homes in the Middletown area. But the need was so great that two-and-a-half years later, some people are still living in trailers on their property where their homes once stood. (*cont'd on page 2*)

News from Faith Formation Ministries

Meet the CRC's New Children's Ministry Catalyzer

Faith Formation Ministries is pleased to introduce [Mimi Larson](#), our new children's ministry catalyzer. Mimi has been engaged in children's ministry for over 25 years as a Sunday school coordinator in churches of all sizes, as a children's curriculum writer, and as a college and seminary teacher in the area of children's ministry. She's eager to connect with you about your children's ministry challenges, large or small. Contact Mimi at childrensministry@crcna.org.

Rave Reviews for New Catechism Resource

The Big Question, a new four-session exploration of Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1 from Faith Formation Ministries, is receiving enthusiastic reviews from leaders and students alike.

Curtis Meliefste, youth pastor at Willoughby Church in Langley, BC, said, "Every youth group is structured differently, and I really appreciated the various options. There were always a few that fit with my students and our format for youth group."

The Big Question is informal, simple to lead, and the course materials cost just \$10 per group. [Learn more here](#).

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Here is how we became involved. In the past, our church alternated years for SERVE trips. One year was a "youth" trip, focused primarily on high school students with some adult chaperones. The next year was an "adult" trip. The destination was the same: an orphanage in Mexico. This year, there was a sense that we needed to change things up, so we planned an intergenerational mission trip with World Renew.

With us were 10 young people from 13-18 years old and 12 people ages 37 to 81. We lived in dorm-style housing (men on one side, women on another) in bunk beds. We ate all our meals together, played games together, and worked together side by side. It was the coolest thing to see people of various age groups interacting and socializing with each other in ways they hadn't done before.

The next Sunday after we returned, the Intergenerational team members all seemed to "find" one another, because they missed being together. We had spent so much time together that it felt strange to be apart.

We hope this trip will spur more intergenerational events. We also hope to initiate service projects within our own community and the surrounding area.

Suggested Resources for You

Check out [this video resource](#) on the top five talks to have with your high school seniors before they leave youth group.

David John Seel Jr.'s book *The New Copernicans* is, as Richard Rohr said, "a prophetic warning and a wise guide for the church." It looks at millennials' influence on culture and, by extension, the church.

Easy Win Resource of the Month!

Check out Faith Formation Ministries' [Intergenerational Church Toolkit](#)—a fabulous online resource collection with hundreds of ideas for intergenerational ministry.