Introduction to Youth Ministry
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a Youth Leader, working with youth can be the greatest source of joy and satisfaction as we see them grow in Jesus and become His disciples. As the church continues to fulfill its prophetic divine mission from the Bible, the youth leader, as well as the youth of the church need a clear understanding of the church structure, departmental structure and Adventist mission as it relates to being a prophetic church in these last days. Only then can the youth leader understand the prophetic role the youth department plays in the work and mission of the church and its prophetic existence in these last days.
QUICK QUESTIONS

- Which is the most important level of our organization structure?
- Which combination of Resources will be most helpful in your ministry?
- Would you continue using Online Platforms to do Youth Ministry post the Pandemic?
AGENDA

- Organizational Structure of Adventist Church
- NAD Youth Ministries Structure
- History of Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM)
- History of the JMV Classes - AY/AJY classwork
- Name Changes of Department
- Philosophy and Mission of AYM
- Vision/Mission
- Objectives of AYM
- Organizational Chart
- Ideals of the AYM
Church structure
In the North American Division (NAD), they are aligned into Club Ministry, Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry.

**Adventurer Club Ministry (pre-Kindergarten to Grade 4)**
A family club where the parent-child relationship grows through age appropriate activities that let the child, with the assistance of their parent/guardian discover more about their God, themselves and the world around them.

**Pathfinder Club Ministry (Grades 5 - 10)**
Assists in the critical years of identity formation and adolescent transformation for boys and girls. Pathfinders guides the energy of young people to focus on their community, offering intentional activities of service and mission.
Youth Ministry (Grades 9 – 12)

Includes all aspects of youth ministry at the local church. Sabbath School, outreach, discipleship and mentorship.

Young Adult Ministry (collegiate and post-collegiate)

This includes Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) for students on public campuses, Adventist campus ministry and integrating young adults into local church life.
LOCAL CHURCH

The local church must become the primary target of global youth ministry. Our core function is to resource and build up youth ministry in the local church. Youth ministry is only effective when it is a response to local needs, guided by local convictions, in the hands of local people.
Local Church

Youth
World Advisory Resolution: Local Church

The 2016 General Conference Youth Ministries Advisory, as part of its ongoing re-visioning of youth ministry, wishes to recognize the local church as the primary location and target of its ministry for young people around the world. While it affirms the significance of large corporate events such as summer camps, rallies, camporees and congresses to foster fellowship with the wider youth community and to provide opportunities for decision making, it chooses to place ministry to young people in local churches at the center of its priorities and process. The local church is the spiritual home of our young people; their membership is in the local church. It is in their families and in their local churches that young people are spiritually nurtured, step up to follow Jesus, embrace his call to discipleship and find their place in god’s service. While many of them make decisions at or during wider church events, the location where they are mentored to become devoted followers of Jesus and to live out their Christian experience is the local church.
HISTORY OF ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES

• The first youth organization in the local Seventh-day Adventist church began in 1879 when two young boys, Harry Fenner (17 years) and Luther Warren (14 years).

• 1901 the General Conference officially voted into existence the young people’s organization, under the Sabbath school department.

• 1907 General Conference Council approved the formation of a Youth Department within the General Conference where Elder M. E. Kern was elected the first GC Youth Director.

• 1907- name finally agreed upon was “Seventh-day Adventist Young People’s Department of Missionary Volunteers.”
HISTORY OF THE JMV CLASSES AY/AJY CLASSWORK

• 1947 1st North American Division youth congress- San Francisco, E. W. Dunbar as world youth director.

• 1969 the first World Youth Congress was held in Zurich, Switzerland, Theodore Lucas as world youth director.

• The Character Classics Reading Plan (later changed to Encounter) was adopted in 1946.

• 1946- John Hancock organized the first conference-sponsored Pathfinder Club in Southeastern California Conference at Riverside, California.
• 1922 - General Conference session - introduced the work of the Junior Missionary Volunteer Society - “progressive classwork.”

• 1927 - General Conference Autumn Council, enlarged the Progressive Classwork to include three classes, Friend, Companion and Comrade, for junior youth and one class for senior youth and adults

• 1928 - MV Honors and the Master Comrade Class—developed for senior youth and adults “who desired to prepare for junior leadership.” The first Master Comrade (later called Master Guide) was invested in 1931.

• 1950 General Conference adopted the Pathfinder Club organization.
NAME CHANGES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES

• 1907 as “Seventh-day Adventist Young People’s Department” (known as MV – Missionary Volunteers), changed to “Youth Department of Missionary Volunteers” in 1972.

• 1978 the department name changed to “Adventist Youth” commonly known as AY department

• 2005 General Conference Session voted the name, “Youth Ministries Department” which encompassed all the three age levels of youth ministry (e. g. Adventure Club, Pathfinder Club, and Senior (Young Adult) Youth Society.

• 2015 General Conference session further adopted a name change to “Adventist Youth Ministries” (AYM).
PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION OF ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES (AYM)

• The basic philosophy of AYM is securely grounded in the Biblical revelation of who Jesus Christ.

• Not only did Jesus show the Father’s immense love for humanity through “servant leadership” (Jn. 13:1-17), but He also showed them how to receive power to overcome sin in this world through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus showed His disciples how to live a life in the Spirit and become disciples of the Kingdom of God in a sinful world.

• It is Jesus who is our model of “incarnational ministry” (e. g. allowing the character of Jesus and the power of Holy Spirit to be revealed in the life of our young people, thus becoming true disciples of His in this generation.)
The youth are the objects of Satan’s special attacks; but kindness, courtesy, and the sympathy which flows from a heart filled with love to Jesus, will gain their confidence, and save them from many a snare of the enemy. . . . there must be more study given to the problem of how to deal with the youth, more earnest prayer for the wisdom that is needed in dealing with minds. . . . we should seek to enter into the feelings of the youth, sympathizing with them in their joys and sorrows, their conflicts and victories. . . . we must meet them where they are if we would keep them. . . . let us remember the claim of god upon us to make the path to heaven bright and attractive.

MISSION       VISION

To lead young people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and help them embrace His call to discipleship
Aim

“The Advent message to all the world in my generation.”

Mission

“To lead young people in a saving relationship with Jesus and help them embrace his call to discipleship.”

Motto

“The love of Christ compels me.”
“YOUTH MINISTRY BUILT ON THIS MODEL (LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS) SEeks TO MEET YOUNG PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE, AND TO OFFER THEM PASTORAL CARE NOT ONLY AS SPIRITUAL GUIDES, BUT ALSO AS COUNSELORS AND FRIENDS, FELLOW PILGRIMS ON A SIMILAR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY. WITH JESUS AS OUR MODEL WE ARE CALLED TO MINISTRY, A PERSONAL AND RELATIONAL MINISTRY, THAT WILL INVOLVE A GOOD DEAL OF ONE TO ONE TIME.”

“Adventist Youth Ministry is that work of the church that is conducted for, with, and by young people.” (Pastors and Elders Handbook for Youth Ministries, 2002, p. 2)
OBJECTIVES OF AYM

Ellen G. White spelled out the key objectives for the department in a letter published in the Signs of the Times, May 29, 1893:

1. To train the youth to work for other youth,
2. To recruit the youth to help their church and “those who profess to be Sabbath-keepers”
3. To work “for those who are not of our faith”
In seeking to reach these objectives, the youth are called upon:

- to pray together and study the Word together
- to fellowship together in Christian social interaction
- to act together in small groups to carry out well-laid plans for witnessing
- to develop tact and skill and talent in service to Jesus
- to encourage one another in spiritual growth
In 1907, at the General Conference Council at Gland, Switzerland, M. E. Kern, the first elected youth director for the department, set out the following objectives:

- To raise the level of the devotional life of the young person
- To lift up the standard of attainment of the youth
- To educate and train youth for service
- To provide opportunities for outreach and service
- To teach the principles of stewardship
- To lead youth to discover their individual worth and develop and discover their spiritual gifts

(GC Pastor’s and Elder’s Handbook for Youth Ministry, 2002:13)
HAS ANYTHING CHANGED?
GROWING YOUNG

6 ESSENTIAL STRATEGIES TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE DISCOVER AND LOVE YOUR CHURCH

KARA POWELL, JAKE MULDER, BRAD GRIFFIN
RESOURCES
1. The AY Story, 2019, GC Youth Ministries, AdventSource
2. Getting It Right, 2005, GC Youth Ministries, AdventSource
3. www.adventist.org - Church
4. www.youth.adventist.org - GC Youth Ministries
5. https://adventistyouthministries.org – NAD Youth Ministries
WORKBOOK
CONTACTS

▷ Email: mokgwanep@gc.adventist.org
▷ Instagram: pakoedson
▷ Twitter: pakoedson