

St. David's Episcopal Church

Youth Ministry – Roles and Responsibilities

I. **Mission:**

This is the mission statement written by the Youth Advisory Group earlier this year:

- Every youth who walks through the doors of St. David's will be:
- Loved and accepted for who he/she is
- Safe physically, spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically
- Have opportunities to grow closer to God

II. **Chairperson**

- The Chair is supervised by the Rector and employed by the parish
- The chairperson will be evaluated once per year.

III. **Areas of Responsibility**

The youth ministry will oversee the following areas:

- Christian Formation
- Youth Group
- Nursery
- All-kid Activities
- Young Adult

Christian Formation

While there will be greater consistency with current staffing of Sunday School, the structure will not change. Connie Wold will continue to be Director of Christian Formation. Sunday school classes will run during the school year and be divided as follows:

- Pre-K: will learn Bible Stories and learn to love being part of church and Honor God, Love One Another
- K-1st grades: will learn Bible Stories and learn to love being part of church and Honor God, Love One Another
- 2nd - 5th grades: will learn that what we do in Sunday School is related to what we do in church, is related to what we do in real life
- Middle school: By now, kids should be making life choices based on being a follower of Jesus, and their curriculum will be more topic/issues based, helping youth to explore and discuss issues as Christians, and more specifically as Episcopalians
- High school: will put faith into action, learn to walk the talk. High school youth will participate in and often times organize events and activities based on themes voted upon by the youth.

Youth Group

This is the fun stuff, mixed in with some Christian Education and includes lock-ins, game nights, hockey games, parties, trips, retreats and diocesan events, etc.

Nursery

Providing excellent care for our really young children. Paid staff watch the young ones during services on Sundays and other events as necessary.

All-kids Activities

These activities include Vacation Bible School, and the Christmas Pageant. While we will not have a regular youth night for the under 5th grade crowd, we will plan and execute at least two big events for these kids. Current ideas being discussed are: skate party, bowling party, etc.

Young Adult

We will continue with a young adult group meeting called Seekers on Sunday evenings. We will also work with Michael Bell, the Campus Missioner to help the Washburn campus ministry grow. Whether it is a Canterbury group, or just a gathering, we would like to be involved.

Youth Advisory Group

The Youth Advisory Group, or YAG, is composed of adults and high school aged youth who are committed to our youth ministry. They are invited to participate by the Director of Youth Ministries. YAG will continue to meet every second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. With additional meetings called when appropriate for special events and planning.

In the absence of the Director of Youth Ministries, the Christian Formation Chair will be the point of contact for Christian Formation and the nursery. Bryan Irvine, Deb McGlohon will be points of contact for the youth group, and young adult ministry projects.

In addition to the goals put forth in the mission statement, the Youth Advisory Group aspires to:

- Encourage our youth to take ownership of their faith as Episcopalians, to provide them with language and ideas so they will be better able to define their faith, who they are, to people outside of St. David's and the Episcopal church. When confronted with people who regurgitate force-fed rhetoric, our youth will be able to draw boundaries correct misinformation and perceptions, and continue to feel proud of their heritage.

- Solidify and increase awareness of our youth's belonging to a faith community, their home faith community, St. David's faith community, the Diocese of Kansas faith community, the Anglican Communion, and the global Christian faith community.

Current Responsibilities of Director of Youth Ministries

- Plan, organize, develop and coordinate no less than 4 major youth events during the calendar year, and one BHAME (Big Holy Audacious Ministry Event), working with members of Youth Advisory Group
- Develop a 12-18 month calendar of upcoming events
- Develop regular communications with youth members through various means (i.e. email, txt, Facebook, mailings, phone calls) promoting upcoming events
- Oversee the recruitment as well as training of adult sponsors
- Develop and maintain a professional relationship with the youth program of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas and promote events sponsored thereby
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- **Outreach**
- Provide a ministry of outreach to youth of the broader community. This could include youth participation in and support of Let's Help, Doorstep, and Diocesan outreach events.
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- **Leadership**
- Develop congregational awareness of youth ministry programs to identify, recruit and develop potential adult and youth leaders for the various programs within youth ministry at St. David's Church
- Guide and coordinate efforts of volunteers in all facets of church youth ministry.
- Adhere to Diocesan and parish policy in regard to training, background check and other prerequisites for adult participation

Congregational life and worship

- Attend and coordinate Sunday morning High School time in the youth center (9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.) 3 Sundays per month
- Oversee planning of participation of youth involved in “ Youth Sunday” (This may be one of the 5 major events)
- Support youth who volunteer for service as Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Alter Guild Members, Choir and as Acolytes

Administration

- Attend church staff meetings
- Attend YAG meetings
- With YAG, develop the long range plan for youth ministry at St. David's

IV. Objectives for 2013

By the end of 2013, the youth ministry will have:

- Hosted Miqra in January for the fourth time
- Designed, decorated and erected a Peace Pole on the East side of the church facing Gage Blvd.
- Visited other faith communities and broadened our understanding of other religions and other Christian traditions
- Attended at least one hockey game
- Enjoyed Game Nights, Lock-ins
- Hosted “One World, One People”, invited other youth groups to gather and watch the documentary, “I Am” and discuss how we, as a united group of differing traditions, but similar philosophies, can work together to make Topeka a better place. (See Strategic Plan: seek opportunities to partner with local educational institutions and other churches)
- Attended New Beginnings (a diocesan event for middle school youth)
- Participated in Relay for Life
- Attended camp
- Staffed Vacation Bible School
- Led Stations of the Cross
- Attended Happening
- Led a Youth Sunday of Worship
- Had at least one retreat for middle school youth
- Had at least one retreat for high school youth
- Assessed the technological needs of the youth ministry and if appropriate, submitted requests for additional resources from the Vestry (Strategic Plan)
- Completed a continuity book for the youth ministry (Strategic Plan)
- Issued “Focused Invitations” from members of the YAG, at least twice to various individuals (Strategic Plan) to “come and see what we do”.
- Had at least one big activity for all kids at St. David’s i.e. skate party or bowling party
- Assisted with serving lunch at Let’s Help whenever possible, i.e. June and July
- Helped setting up the Doorstep Christmas Shop

V. List of members of all groups in 2012

Youth Advisory Group: Kirsten Goodman, Sam Hesse, Janelle Sparkman, Deb McGlohon, Rita Webb, Bryan Irvine, Kevin Hoffmans, Vestry Liaison: Anne Hesse

Christian Formation: Connie Wold, Jennifer Typer, Bryan Irvine, Chris Holman, Terry Hodge, and Vestry Liaison: Allison Malmstrom

Nursery: Holly Bowers and Chris Reader

VI. Youth Advisory Group members for appointment in 2013: Kirsten Goodman, Sam Hesse, Janelle Sparkman, Deb McGlohon, Rita Webb, Bryan Irvine,

Kevin Hoffmans, Arial Smith, Victoria Sparkman, Vestry Liaison: Anne Hesse

VII. Conclusion

As stated previously, the Youth Advisory Group will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Center, or as scheduled by the Chair.

**St. David's Episcopal Church
Youth Ministry**

**Christian
Formation**

Youth Group

Nursery

**All-kids
Activities**

Young Adult