

## **BC Conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries Strategic Plan**

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*Youth and Young Adult Ministry of BC Conference of the United Church of Canada* offers a connected, thriving, strong, and vital ministry for youth and young adults throughout BC Conference.

Youth, Young Adults, and their Leaders are inspired by the life of Jesus to seek justice, love kindness, and walk with God.

### **In the face of uncertainty, we affirm these scriptures:**

This is what GOD says, the God who builds a road right through the ocean,  
who carves a path through pounding waves,  
The God who summons horses and chariots and armies—  
they lie down and then can't get up; they're snuffed out like so many candles:  
"Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history.  
Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new.  
It's bursting out! Don't you see it?  
There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.  
Wild animals will say 'Thank you!'  
—the coyotes and the buzzards—  
Because I provided water in the desert, rivers through the sun-baked earth,  
Drinking water for the people I chose, the people I made especially for myself,  
a people custom-made to praise me. *Isaiah 43:19 The Message*

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8:38-39 New Revised Standard Version*

### **In the face of uncertainty, we affirm these Ends/Goals:**

#### **1. All youth and young adults in BC Conference will have access to high quality age specific ministry.**

- The church recognizes the value of supporting this ministry and offers commitment financially and prayerfully
  - BC Conference allocates adequate money for conferences, training, and travel
- *Youth & Young Adult Ministry* leaders are equipped, trained, and supported
  - Facilitation of training events, workshops, and courses
- Each region of BC Conference is supported with resources and leadership
  - Conference will have staff who network and offer resources to regional areas of the church
  - Youth and Young Adult Ministry leaders and participants in regional areas are aware of and participate in other events in their regional area and beyond
- Youth and Young Adult Ministries in BC Conference work together collaboratively and effectively
  - Conference YAYA staff reach out to connect with and include congregational YAYA leaders and participants from across the Conference
  - United Church Camps in BC are included as partners in this ministry with YAYA and networking and connection happens
  - Naramata Centre is a key partner in this ministry

- An annual Calendar of all BC Conference YAYA programmes is circulated

**2. Youth, Young Adults and their leaders gather in safe sacred communities at all levels of the church.**

- There are standards of practice regarding theology, safety, codes of conduct clearly outlined and adhered to at all gatherings of YAYA sacred communities
- Accessible information about safe practices
  - Youth Leaders handbook
  - Code of Conduct for Youth Ministry
- Screening process for leadership
- Life-giving transformation of people and communities where faith is explored and formed and where spiritual practice is taught, engaged with and nurtured.
- Intentional communities
  - Online community, events live-streamed
  - Young Adult community houses
  - Gatherings for worship and faith formation

**3. Faithful accompaniment of youth, young adults, and their leaders through times of change.**

- Leaders accompany youth and young adults
  - Pastoral care
  - Mentorship programs
  - Support of life journey, discernment about future, building of community of support for each young person
- Intentional transitions from children → youth → young adult → adult
  - Reach out to children and guide them into YAYA programming
  - support programmes like winter session that seek to guide youth into young adulthood.
  - Nurturing leadership of young adults to assume roles of responsibility
  - Recognition and preparation of rites of passage

**4. Youth and young adults lead the church through times of change with passion and compassion**

- In these uncertain times, accompany and mentor the United Church, leading by example
- Be advocated for authentic, resonant, and relevant, expressions of worship
  - Honour tradition, listen for the call to new directions
  - Express diversity of worship and liturgy styles so that all people feel nurtured in their practices of worship

**5. Youth, Young Adults, and their leaders are equipped to respond with courage to the needs in the world**

- Seek justice and care for God's world
- Provide opportunities to engage social justice issues
- All events will be conscious of the use of resources
- Exposure to world issues
- Resources for education about global issues

***In these times of uncertainty, we affirm these values:***

- Regional Equality in YAYA ministry across BC Conference
- Grounded in Christian identity
- Centred around spiritual practice
- Inclusion, hospitality, love, accessibility
- Effective and flexible leadership
- Justice making
- Widespread, effective communications
- Connecting, strategizing, communicating, including, accessing, grounding, practicing, collaborating, stretching, listening

**Means** – (ideas about how to achieve our Ends/Goals list)

- Conference Staff Team supporting the regions of BC Conference in YAYA ministry
- Budget at the conference level to support these staff and this work
- Intentional community houses of young adults across BC Conference
  - Associated and participating in the life of a United Church congregation
  - Near a university campus, providing a United Church presence on the campus
  - National student interns in each residence
- Connection with Camps and Naramata centre with regards to their programmes for Youth and Young Adults
- Coordination of all Conference wide events for Youth and Young Adults
- Building up of the Imagine Fund to support travel to wider church events
- Youth leader network – congregational youth groups are connected
- Online community of connection, where events are live-streamed and there are places for networking and resource sharing
- Develop a forum for all that work with YAYA's across BC Conference
- Communications staff person
- Consistent covenant for for all events and gatherings
- Grouping youth groups in similar areas for resource sharing and connection