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97-GS-23 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "A Mission Statement for Youth Ministry and A Mission Statement for Young Adult Ministry® as amended.

RESOLUTION AA MISSION STATEMENT FOR YOUTH MINISTRY AND A MISSION STATEMENT FOR YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY®

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is committed to youth ministries and to young adult ministries;

WHEREAS the life and structure of the United Church of Christ is in transition and change; and

WHEREAS, the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries recognizes the need for a foundational statement to guide and define ministry with and by youth and young adults;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ embraces the following Mission Statements for Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry and calls upon all the ministry settings of the United Church of Christ to embrace them and put them into practice.

A Mission Statement for Youth Ministries

Youth Ministries within the United Church of Christ consists of diverse youth and youth leaders from various geographic regions, racial and cultural backgrounds, and theologies, who join in covenant, called and challenged by 1 Timothy 4:12:

"Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity"

As partners and leaders in service to God within local churches, associations, conferences, and national bodies, the mission of Youth Ministries in the United Church of Christ is to:

- Affirm the unique gifts and talents of youth;
- Create "safe places" where youth can examine their faith journeys;
- Develop youth leadership, promoting spiritual growth, encouraging stewardship, and strengthening a sense of belonging in the United Church of Christ;
- Affirm the diversity within the United Church of Christ by supporting involvement of youth from all racial/ethnic groups and acknowledging that differences are assets to ministry;
- Work to ensure fair and adequate representation by youth throughout the life of the United Church of Christ, including all boards, councils, and committees of the church;
- Develop, nurture, and sustain adult leaders in youth ministry through training, resourcing, and networks of support;
- Reach out to youth beyond the church, inviting all and ministering with all, to facilitate the spiritual growth of the community of faith through evangelism.

A Mission Statement for Young Adult Ministries

Young Adult Ministries within the United Church of Christ encompasses a wide range of ministries, including campus ministries, military chaplaincy, and community-based ministry with young adults. While this ministry poses great challenges, we take to heart the commitment expressed in the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith:

"You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues, and races.

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,

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to be your servants in the service of others,...."

We strive to be inclusive of the whole body of Christ in local churches, associations, conferences, and national entities. The mission of Young Adult Ministries in the United Church of Christ is to:

- Affirm the unique gifts and talents of young adults;
- Provide opportunities for young adults, through programs and resources, to explore ways to integrate their faith in their lives and through their life transitions;
- Develop young adult leadership through resources and training programs that empower young adults and strengthen their commitment to the United Church of Christ;
- Support existing models and create new models for ministries with young adults in higher education;
- Work to deepen the multiracial-multicultural richness and understanding within the United Church of Christ by supporting involvement of young adults from all racial/ethnic groups and acknowledging that differences are assets to ministry;
- Work to ensure fair and adequate representation by young adults throughout the life of the United Church of Christ, including all boards, councils, and committees of the church;
- Nurture adult leaders of young adult ministries through training, resources, and creating environments of support;
- Fully embrace young adults in our churches and communities, addressing their needs and issues through evangelism and a spirit of Christian fellowship, renewing and supporting the growth of the body of Christ.

Financial Implications: Subject to the availability of funds for introduction, promotion and education about the statements, and implementation.

Implementation: Implementing bodies include all settings of the United Church of Christ (local churches, agencies, and ministries; Associations and Conferences; and national offices) with primary responsibility placed with the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. Implementation will involve developing programs and ministries to make known the vision and goals of these statements.