

Report of the Task Force on Ministry to Youth and Children

Caireen Stewart and Joyce Chanay, co-chairs | *Submitted September 3, 2020*

Creation of Task Force

The 2019 Convention affirmed the work to date of the Youth Commission and passed a resolution for the Council of Advice to create a task force to familiarize the Convocation with children's ministry resources of The Episcopal Church. The task force is also missioned to develop a comprehensive strategy and to authorize significantly expanded Convocation resources to engage children, youth and young adults in our congregations, and to welcome, include and integrate youth participation in all Convocation gatherings. The task force is asked to strongly consider creating a Children Ministry Commission comparable to the Youth Commission and report back to the 2020 Convention

In consideration of the distinction between children and youth ministry, as well as the fact that there is an existing Youth Commission in place, the initial task force was asked to only focus on Children's Ministry. Further discussions however suggested a need to consider children and youth ministry in a holistic approach.

The final task force composition, which includes all members of the Youth Commission, is as follows :

Co-Chairs: Joyce Chanay (Paris), Caireen Warren (Youth Commission Chair)

Members: Meghan Bresson (Geneva)

Seth Hinkley (Paris, Youth Commission)

Katie Osweiler (Waterloo, Youth Commission)

Scott Moore (Nuremberg, Youth Commission)

Sabrina Poeppel (Augsburg)

Marc Smets-Tolley (Waterloo)

Council Liaison: Chris Easthill

Work of the Task Force

Through the initial work of the task force, we hoped to lift up the Youth and Children ministry, its volunteers and workers, to get the necessary attention, resources and focus required for the formation of young people, and to reinforce and create habits of engagement and belonging to allow the place of young people in our church.

The 2020 Academy for Parish Leadership (APL) provided an invaluable opportunity and platform for the launch of such discussion across the Convocation, involving participation from both clergy and lay. The session on Youth and Children was led by speaker Bronwyn Clark Skov, Officer for Youth Ministry, The Episcopal Church, on the topic of "Youth and Children in our church today—the future or the present? Do they belong? How can we engage them? How can we learn with and from them? "

In order to establish an understanding of the current state of the children and youth ministry in the Convocation, two surveys were designed—one for the Children Ministry, and one for Youth.

The surveys were sent to all relevant parishes—11 for Children and 10 for Youth, and there was an average of 90% return rate. (see Annex 1 and 2 for a copy of the surveys)

The feedback from the surveys and the APL sessions provided valuable information on the various concerns and challenges—and blessings!—of the children and youth ministry in our Convocation. These findings form the base for the recommendations for the development of a strategy to engage children and youth in our congregations and in Convocation gatherings.

The task force also set out to determine the principal sources of information on children and youth ministry within The Episcopal Church. Recommendations will be made on how best to communicate the availability of the information to the Convocation at large and consider ways to commit to keep this resource list updated and to be shared easily with leaders/ teachers.

The Diocese in Europe (Church of England) and the Old Catholic Church

The task force was also asked to “Consider the practices of the Diocese in Europe, the Old Catholic Church and other significant neighbouring church communities”.

The Diocese in Europe has no budget for children and youth, with the exception of safeguarding. However, they have a strong focus on creating community, sharing resources and regular web conference style training, all provided at no cost, by a group of volunteers. Their network of youth leaders currently stands at approximately 50 people.

Youth leaders of The Episcopal Church Europe are warmly invited to participate in the network, and in the online training sessions. We will continue the conversation with our Anglican colleagues both to avoid recreating the wheel and to provide access to as wide a range as possible, of resource sharing and training opportunities for both them and us.

At a local level (parish/national), cooperation initiatives like sharing costs of events and staffing, might make sense, as has been the practice for example in Germany via the Council of Anglican and Episcopal Churches in Germany, and historically in Geneva, where Emmanuel Church (TEC) and Holy Trinity Church (CofE) shared the cost of the salary for a youth minister.

The Old Catholics have at various times held youth gatherings or pilgrimages which we have been invited to that for various reasons we weren't able to participate. However, it is difficult to identify what their regular offerings are and who in their organisation has the responsibility for children and youth. Perhaps a working relationship with them is something the Commission could explore in the future.

Current Situation

In the Convocation, we face issues that The Episcopal Church in America doesn't usually face. We have, mostly, small congregations, that usually have a high rate of turnover of membership. We serve a population that speaks a number of different languages, sometimes with English being a second or third or fourth language. We have many congregations that need programs for multiple ages in one class or group. With all of these non-traditional situations (at least in the American Episcopal experience) we need children and youth formation that can make the children and youth feel that they belong, are accepted, and are loved by their church.

Demographics and Activities

8 churches have an existing children ministry, 3 would like to create one.

In terms of Youth, 6 have an existing youth ministry, 2 would consider creating one.

Number of children and youth in our churches :

- 6 churches have between 0 – 20 children and youth
- 3 of them have between 21 – 50 children and youth
- 2 have more than 50

The general definition of age groups for “children” in the Convocation is from toddler to elementary school age of 3 to 10 years old. For “youth”, it is mostly from 10 to 18 years old.

In terms of groups, a majority of the churches in the Convocation have under 10 children in their congregation, and most offer one class for all ages mixed together.

Most youth programs have one youth group, with a maximum of 15 youth involved in youth ministry in most cases.

Most meetings happen on the weekend. One church offers mid-week gatherings for children.

Most churches involve children and youth in the main church service on a regular basis.

Participation includes acolytes, choir, lectors, ushers, prayers, stewardship.

Many of the churches struggle to reach out to new families who would be long-term residents of the area, who could in turn provide longevity in attendance and in volunteer support.

It is noted that while the size of the adult congregation is critical for feasibility of separate activities, it is also important to offer children’s activities and childcare services that could encourage young parents to attend church.

With specifics to the Youth ministry, while the challenges faced in each of the youth groups differ, some common themes include attracting youth, maintaining a critical mass, developing lessons and activities which encourage discussion, and facilitating strong relationships between the students.

Resources and Volunteers

Teaching resources are varied based on teaching preferences, volunteer availability, and number of children in attendance.

Most churches are satisfied with their current children ministry curriculum/curricula. As for youth, only one church uses a curriculum for its youth program.

The budget of the children ministry in each church ranges from 0 euros to 1200 euros per year, while that of the youth ministry ranges from 0 euros to 4700 euros. It is observed that the budget amount is relatively proportionate to the church size.

Training offered to staff and volunteers centers mainly around safeguarding, with some churches offering curriculum and “hands-on” training.

Most children and youth programs are led by lay volunteers. 3 churches indicated clergy as leaders for the Youth program. Many congregations are often (too) heavily dependent on parents (burnout / can’t attend services). The struggle to recruit teachers is a real challenge, as is the reliance on a few people without a succession plan.

Perception and Place of Children and Youth in Church

Ministry to and with children and youth is considered essential.

However, there is a tension between the advantages of separate activities for children and youth on Sundays (which enables bonding, targeted teaching) and of inclusion / participation in regular services. Some parishes would like to include young people more in the gathering and embrace their curiosity but struggle to visualize this, let alone implement some small steps.

Supportive clergy, who are willing to innovate, are essential for the success of children and youth work..

Ideas for Action

In response to the situation as identified above, the task force proposes some areas in which churches and the Convocation could consider for immediate and short-term implementation, while a longer-term children and youth ministry strategy continues to be developed.

Demographics and Activities

Issue : How to connect with / reach out to families? Attracting long-term families with children, as many families struggle to fit in culturally in their area if they are to stay long-term, and church doesn't always "fit in" culturally. Comfort level for those whose first language is not English.

Ideas : Create outreach events which target bilingual families, and which celebrate the local culture's traditions/holidays (i.e. a church-sponsored Bastille Day gathering).

The Convocation could help with advertising different churches to attract new families.

Use parish/church Facebook page to your advantage, eg. pictures with all-age or children (with permission to use photo). Create a private sub-group for families that new/potential families can checkout and sign up to.

Issue : How to maintain consistency in a transient community? Having regular attendance, and able to get to know the children and youth well and in a personal way.

Ideas : Try to find out from families what meeting times could work better, consider other ways of keeping contact (email, WhatsApps, Zoom, buddy system).

Be open to considering mid-week events. Have social family events outside of Sunday morning.

Issue : How to attract youth?

Ideas : Organize events to which youth are comfortable bringing friends, such as bowling, movie nights, theme park outings, day trips, etc.

Organize lunch get-togethers near local schools with students already connected to the youth group and encourage them to invite their friends along for discussion and dessert.

Ask for the permission to advertise youth activities in public and private schools (this is quite difficult, of course, but is possible in some places).

Post advertisements on locally based expat websites/ forums for your youth events.

Issue : How to encourage consistent participation in youth meetings and events?

Ideas : Connect one-on-one with youth and their parents early on. Invite youth out (with at least 2 leaders and with other youth, if possible) for ice cream or coffee to get to know them. Maintain direct communication, and personally invite youth to each event, rather than relying on solely group communication. (All these should be done under safeguarding guidelines for contact and communication.)

Encourage youth to take on some of the leadership of the group, whether it be bringing the snack for the event, leading a lesson or devotional, or organizing an outing for everyone. Give them ownership so that they will feel the group is not someone else's, but their own.

Plan to hold meetings with ongoing themes or a series of messages in order to increase interest in regular attendance.

Resources and Volunteers

Issue : Attracting and maintaining volunteers who are not (only limited to) parents for children's ministry, in consideration of the transient nature of our communities.

Ideas : Encourage congregants to visit a children's class to see if they might be fit for volunteering; reaching out to au pairs and/or university students who are interested in weekend volunteer opportunities (with suitable background checks in compliance with Safeguarding Policy)

This could also apply to the youth ministry, to attract and equip suitable motivated youth leaders.

Our Safeguarding policy states that Sunday school or youth groups must have a minimum of 2 adults present. However, it is not necessary for both those adults to be "Teachers" or "youth leaders". Try creating 2 separate rotas; one for the "teacher / leader" and another for the "2nd adult present".

Try to create a rota of leaders/teachers which allows everyone on the rota to get at least 1 Sunday a month in a church service. Ideally have min 2 and max 3 leaders/teachers to allow for bonding between leaders/teachers and attendees.

Create a separate rota for the second adult present, who could be anyone in the congregation. Ideally there should be approximately 8 second adults so each one only has to help out once every couple of months. This is not a big commitment of time, and doesn't scare people who don't feel they have the desire/skill to lead. It also makes it much easier to get people to agree to help out, and leaves less of a dent in the rota if someone leaves the congregation!

Note: both teachers/leaders and 2nd adult present volunteers must **ALL** complete the safeguarding training and checks as defined in the Safeguarding policy of TEC.

Issue Volunteer and staff training that would reach beyond mandatory safeguarding—time and availability is an issue for many volunteers.

Ideas : Provide training in a format that works for your group—eg. a 3h training could be done as 3 x 1hour, or via Zoom. Training could be offered for curriculum development and/or implementation.

Issue : Increase in funds for children and youth ministry.

Ideas : Engage in discussion with local church leadership regarding the desire for investment in children and youth ministry—and the need for it; encourage leadership to see the importance of the investment, even if the investment is small!

Have children or youth do some fundraising events, Christmas fair, afternoon tea in the garden that they have made cakes and cookies for, car washing if your church has a car park, etc.. This not only gains funds but builds relationship with the children/youth and makes what they do more visible in the congregation.

Issue : Communication and connectivity among the Convocation youth ministry leaders and teams.

Ideas : Hold a regular Zoom meeting with youth leaders in the Convocation as a way to support one another and to promote the sharing of best practices, resources, questions, and concerns.

Change the platform through which the Convocation communicates with youth ministry leaders to be one which tracks engagement, open rate, and click rate.

Perception and Place of Children and Youth in Church

Issue : An understanding between clergy, congregants, families and children and youth ministry volunteers/staff as to what “involving children and youth in the church service” means.

Ideas : Hold a discussion with representatives from each relevant group in the church to encourage open conversation regarding the possibilities of involving children and youth in the service; try to reach solutions which are beneficial for all involved.

Issue : Perception of children’s program as babysitting / childcare service.

Ideas : Establish with the church leadership a clear positioning and communication of the children’s ministry and its program.

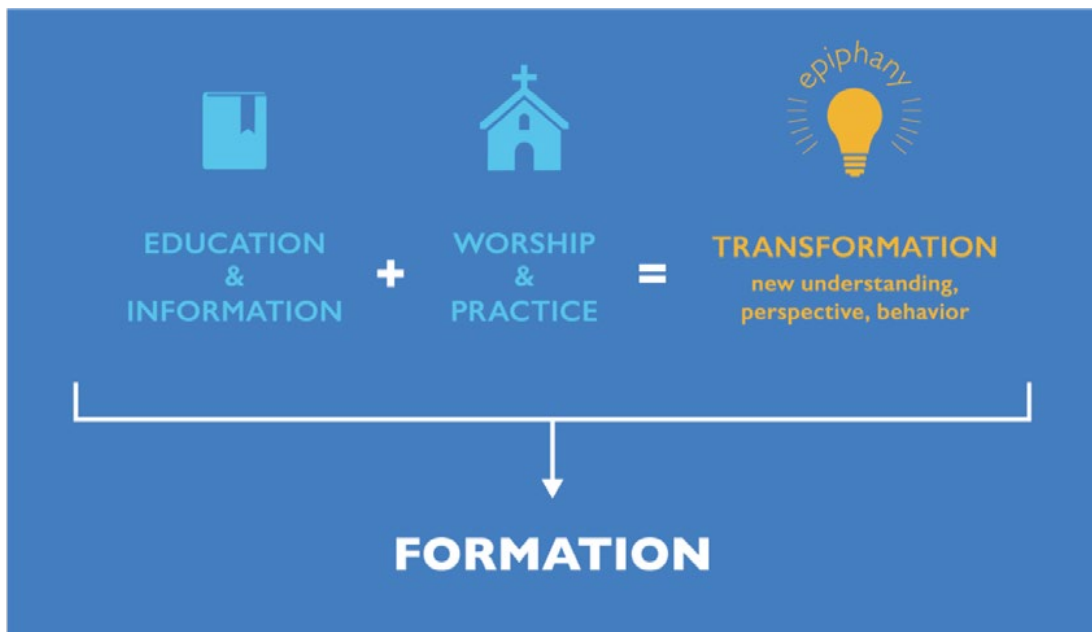
Make a statement about your church’s view of children which has been agreed by all church leaders and put this statement on your website and/or church information sheets.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on the assumptions that

1. The primary goal for children and youth formation is to have children and youth feel that they belong, are accepted, and are loved by their church;
2. This loving environment should be engendered by the people who work with children and youth, as well as the congregation at large; and,
3. Programming and resource choices for children and youth formation should all be made in furtherance of this goal.

The task force recommends that the Convocation and its churches **adopt the Faith Formation strategy**, as proposed by the Episcopal Church, which recognizes the two-prong importance of education and worship in the faith journey of a young person.



In recognition that one's faith formation is a journey, and of the necessity to adopt a holistic approach from childhood to adulthood, the task force recommends that the existing "Youth Commission" be modified to embrace children's ministry and **create a "Children and Youth Commission."** The Commission will be responsible for Children, Youth and Young Adult ministries (ages 3-29).

The task force recommends that the new Children and Youth Commission consists of a minimum of 8 adult members, and considers a creation of a 6-member youth sub-committee. All Commission members are appointed by the Bishop.

The Commission will explore ways to increase communication throughout the year with non-JAE/YAE information and support. It will also be responsible for reaching out to the children and youth ministry leaders to ask how things are going and what support they need, and establish a two-way relationship.

To support the work of the Commission and the implementation of the proposed strategy, the task force further recommends the **creation of a paid staff position for a “Convocation Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator .”**

Due to the characteristics of the majority of churches in the convocation (most churches are small, with only volunteers working in children’s and youth ministry), having a children and youth ministry coordinator at the Convocation level to be a resource to all the parishes could assist the rectors, lay leaders and volunteers at each parish in establishing and/or improving their children and youth formation, in the context of the faith formation model recommended, and include education, information, worship and practice. The coordinator should be in touch with each parish, learn about their individual situations and needs, and suggest options for staff and volunteers to implement. The coordinator should be familiar with the differing options of resources available and have the skills to combine resources to fit needs when necessary.

Upon approval and adoption of these two above recommendations, the relationship between the Commission and Coordinator will need to be defined.

Proposed Strategy for Education and Information

Compilation of resource and curricula list for children and youth ministry—see Annex A. This compilation will be available on the Convocation website. It will also be the responsibility of the Coordinator to have a good grasp of these various resources and be able to recommend suitable options according to the respective parish’s needs.

Develop a network to share best practice within the Convocation, including best practice examples and ideas for recruiting teachers and leaders, and exchange of ideas on projects and recognition for important milestones (First Communion, Confirmation, Rite 13, Senior Send-off...). It is also noted that there is a desire expressed from at least two churches for a site visit and one-on-one consultation.

Develop (with EICS) an APL for Children’s Ministry, to include Sunday School teachers/ leaders (training and networking). Teaching methods, curricula, typical problems, how to encourage verbal expression and sharing of views and experience.

Re-design the Youth Leaders Training Workshop with the objective of facilitating participation and sharing of best practices, views and experiences, in view of the feedback from the Youth survey. Consider supporting the youth ministry work in churches by offering training (Zoom), discussions about effective strategies for youth ministry and for attracting and keeping families (Zoom), and curriculum resources which are both engaging and, for one church, designed for English Language Learners.

Promote the use of online tools for meetings, which could include :

- The creation of an online Convocation-wide Vacation Bible School in the summer,
- Initiatives to facilitate and encourage smaller churches/missions to join together to offer activities like online Sunday School, Zoom Youth bible study.

Consider partnering churches within the convocation in a buddy system. The Commission could help to matchmake churches according to various identified needs, eg. a big church with a

smaller church for support and ideas sharing, or churches of similar profiles to share experience of similar challenges. This could also include churches of The Diocese in Europe as the relationship grows and develops.

Proposed Strategy for Worship and Practice

Develop a Worship and Practice workshop focused on children and youth and ways they can be intentionally included in the life of the church.

Support parishes to consider the options and ways of intentional inclusion, to embrace young people in the worship life of the congregation and develop a sense of family and belonging.

Some ideas for parishes include :

- Encourage churches to offer regular (quarterly or monthly) all-age worship
- Encouraging children's and youth's participation in services (acolyte, reader, usher, choir, prayers...), with preparation and training by the respective ministry leaders.
- Be in the service with adults. Participation in coffee hour

Collaboration with other Task Forces

- Liaise with Task force on Racism and Inclusion to establish teaching tools for children and youth
- Liaise with Taskforce on Refugees and Migrants to explore the possible link between ESL teachers helping or teaching in multilingual Sunday Schools
- Liaise with Task force on Climate Stewardship to establish teaching tools for children and youth and to ensure that the climate stewardship commitments (e.g. minimising or balancing CO² emissions) are included in our children and youth ministry.

JAE and YAE events

- Both JAE and YAE events should continue, and be based on a Faith Formation model
- The Commission will re-consider the design of JAE and YAE events based on the feedback from the Youth survey, and continued conversations with the youth leaders.

Proposed Timeline

3 September 2020	Report Submission to Council of Advice
24 October 2020	Adoption of report at the 2020 Annual Convention
November 2020	Appointment of Commission Members
December 2020	Recruitment of Coordinator ; Communication of Task Force report and resolutions adoption to all churches.
February 2021	Commission submits action plan to Council of Advice

Annex A

Compilation of resource and curricula list for Children and Youth ministry

1. Web links to children ministry resources

<https://www.epicenter.org/recommended-formation-resources/>

(multiple links to resources for children's and youth ministry, as well as adults and families – curated by the staff at the Episcopal Diocese of Texas)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1704766459786099>

The Youth Ministry Network

For people involved in youth ministry who are full time, part time and volunteers in international English speaking Anglican churches.

<https://thinkorange.com/#>

(non-denominational curriculum and activities for children and youth – with good support, for an annual fee. They will work with you to customize so you can conform to the lectionary.)

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286016/Children>

(Not as customizable and responsive as Think Orange, but does have a lectionary basis. Books as resources. Flexible models.)

<https://www.illustratedministry.com/#>

(curriculum and materials – advent, lent, and other church seasonal offerings – downloadable)

<https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org>

(Membership based curriculum that offers training and resources)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EpiscoForma/>

(Forma FB group page – good resource for asking questions)

<https://rowsofsharon.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/april2019curriculumchartforchildren-1.pdf>

PDF chart of children's ministry resources with short blurbs on the publisher, foundation statement, content, teacher support, format, ages, and cost/usability

Web links to youth ministry resources

<https://rowsofsharon.files.wordpress.com/2018/04/april2018curriculumchartforyouthformation.pdf>

PDF chart of youth ministry resources with short blurbs on the publisher, foundation statement, content, teacher support, format, ages, and cost/usability

<https://rowsofsharon.files.wordpress.com/2018/04/april2018overviewconfirmationresources.pdf>

PDF chart of confirmation resources with short blurbs on the publisher, purpose & content, format, ages, and cost

<https://www.epicenter.org/recommended-formation-resources/>

(multiple links to resources for children's and youth ministry, as well as adults and families – curated by the staff at the Episcopal Diocese of Texas)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EpiscoForma/>

(Forma FB group page – good resource for asking questions)

<https://buildfaith.org/about-us/>

(Building Faith is published by Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary. Our mission is to equip and inspire churches and individuals for the ministry of Christian education and faith formation.)

Annex B

Children's Ministry Survey

Children's Ministry Survey

Please use the PDF version of this survey as a tool for discussion with your team, regarding the current state of your children's ministry in your church.

Please then have ONE representative complete the digital version of the survey to submit to the Task Force on Ministry to Youth and Children.

The responses from each Episcopal parish in Europe will be compiled and used to inform curriculum development, resource availability, and training for ministers to children.

***Obligatoire**

SECTION 1 - CONTACT INFORMATION

1. What is your first and last name? *

Votre réponse

2. What is your email address? *

Votre réponse

3. What is the name and location of your church? *

Votre réponse

8. Who are the main leaders of the children's ministry in your church?

- Clergy
- Paid staff member
- Lay Volunteer
- Autre :

9. What is the total number of CHILDREN and YOUTH in your church - individuals between 3 and 19 years of age?

Votre réponse

10. What ages are included in your church's definition of "children"?

Votre réponse

11. What is the total number of CHILDREN involved in your children's ministry? ("Children" refers to those individuals whose age matches your church's definition of children.)

Votre réponse

12. What is the name of your children's ministry: Sunday School, Children's Church, Childcare, or other?

Votre réponse

4. What is your role in your church? *

Votre réponse

5. Do you agree for your contact details and information provided in this survey to be used by the Convocation and members of its appointed task force and commission relevant to the Ministry to Children and Youth? *

- Yes
- No

SECTION 2 - CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DATA AND STATUS

6. If your church does not have an existing children's ministry, would you like to create one?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Our church already has a children's ministry.

7. If your answer to the above question was "yes" or "maybe", what would be 3 key obstacles for the creation of a children's ministry in your church?

(If you have answered "yes" or "maybe", please respond to the questions below that are relevant to your church's current ministry status.)

Votre réponse

13. What is the average attendance for your children's ministry on a "normal" Sunday pre-COVID ?

Votre réponse

14. How has your children's ministry adapted to the COVID situation?

Votre réponse

15. Do you have a registration form for your children's program?

- Yes
- No

16. If yes, how many children are registered?

Votre réponse

17. How many different groups/classes do you have for children, and what is the age range that matches each group/class?

Votre réponse

18. When, where, and for how long does each children's group/class meet?

Votre réponse

19. Does your church offer children's ministry events during the week? If so, what is offered and when?

Votre réponse

20. Does your children's ministry have any link with the youth ministry? If yes, how so?

Votre réponse

21. Does your children's ministry participate in the church service? If yes, how so?

Votre réponse

SECTION 3 - RESOURCES: CURRICULUM, PROGRAM, VOLUNTEERS, TRAINING

22. What are the titles of the curriculum/curricula you use with each age group of children?

Votre réponse

23. How and why did you select this curriculum/these curricula?

Votre réponse

29. If yes, how are parents involved?

- Sunday School teachers
- Class/Group volunteers
- Special projects or events
- Autre :

30. What are the difficulties you face, if any, in implementing the "Safeguarding God's Children" training?

Votre réponse

SECTION 4 - REFLECTION

31. What is the greatest blessing and/or strength of the children's ministry in your church?

Votre réponse

32. What is the biggest challenge for children's ministry in your church?

Votre réponse

24. How satisfied are you with your current curriculum/curricula?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
very unsatisfied very satisfied

25. What is your children's ministry total budget?

Votre réponse

26. How much of the children's ministry budget is spent on curriculum?

Votre réponse

27. What type of training do you organise for your children's ministry teachers/volunteers?

- Curriculum
- Safeguarding
- Autre :

28. Are parents involved in your children's ministry?

- Yes
- No

33. How could the Convocation support you in children's ministry? (training, curriculum, resources, etc.)

Votre réponse

34. If you had one free wish for children's ministry in your church, what would it be?

Votre réponse

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Annex C

Youth Ministry Survey

Youth Ministry Survey - Episcopal Church

Please use the PDF version of this survey as a tool for discussion with your team regarding the current state of your youth ministry in your church.

Please then have ONE representative complete the digital version of the survey to submit to the Task Force on Ministry to Youth and Children.

The responses from each Episcopal parish in Europe will be compiled and used to inform curriculum development, resource availability, and training for ministers to youth.

* Required

SECTION 1 - CONTACT INFORMATION

1. 1. What is your first and last name? *

2. 2. What is your email address? *

3. 3. What is the name and location of your church? *

4. 4. What is your role in your church? *

5. 5. Do you agree for your contact details and information provided in this survey to be used by the Convocation and members of its appointed task force and commission relevant to the Ministry to Children and Youth? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
 No

SECTION 2 - YOUTH MINISTRY DATA AND STATUS

10. 10. What ages are included in your church's definition of "youth"?

11. 11. What is the total number of YOUTH involved in your youth ministry? ("Youth" refers to those individuals whose age matches your church's definition of youth.)

12. 12. How many youth groups does your church have, and how are they defined?

13. 13. How often and when does each youth group meet?

6. 6. If your church does not have an existing youth ministry, would you like to create one?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
 No
 Maybe
 Our church already has a youth ministry.

7. 7. If your answer to the above question was "yes" or "maybe", what would be 3 key obstacles for the creation of a youth ministry in your church?

(If you have answered "yes" or "maybe", please respond to the questions below that are relevant to your church's current ministry status.)

8. 8. How many youth ministry leaders does your church have?

9. 9. Who are the main leaders of the youth ministry in your church? (Please check all that apply.)

Check all that apply.

- Clergy
 Paid staff member(s)
 Lay Volunteer(s)
 Parent(s)/Family of youth

Other: _____

14. 14. What are typical activities that you undertake with your youth? Please list up to 5.

15. 15. Are the youth included in your church's worship and community life?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
 No

16. 16. If yes, how are the youth included in worship and community life, and how frequently are they included? Please check all responses that apply.

Check all that apply.

	weekly	monthly	quarterly	annually
acolytes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
choir	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
lectors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ushers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
prayer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
stewardship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. 17. What are the ages of the participants who are involved in these different aspects of worship and community life of your church?

Check all that apply.

	ages 10 - 11	ages 12 - 13	ages 14 - 15	ages 16 - 18	ages 19+
acolytes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
choir	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
lectors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ushers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
prayer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
stewardship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. 18. If you checked "other" in the questions above, please specify the other way(s) in which youth are involved in worship and community life in your church.

19. 19. What are some ways the Convocation Youth Commission can support your ministry and inclusion of youth in worship and community life?

25. 25. What challenges do you face in your youth ministry (i.e. attracting youth, having regular meetings and participation, recruitment of youth leaders, other)?

26. 26. How do you suggest the Convocation Youth Commission address your particular challenges to providing youth ministry?

SECTION 4 - CONVOCATION YOUTH ACTIVITIES

27. 27. With which Convocation Youth activities are you familiar?

Mark only one oval per row.

	Yes	No
Juniors Across Europe (JAE)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Across Europe (YAE)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Leaders' Retreat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Young Adults' Retreat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. 20. Does your church use a set curriculum/program for your youth group? If so, what is the title and/or publisher?

21. 21. How and why did you select this curriculum/these curricula?

22. 22. How satisfied are you with your current curriculum/curricula?

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

very unsatisfied very satisfied

23. 23. What is your youth ministry total budget?

24. 24. What type of training do you organize for your youth ministry teachers/volunteers?

Check all that apply.

Curriculum

Safeguarding

Other: _____

28. 28. Have youth from your church taken part in Convocation youth activities within the past 4 years (Juniors Across Europe (JAE), Youth Across Europe (YAE) and/or Young Adults' Retreat)?

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

I don't have enough information to provide a response.

29. 29. What are the barriers to participation in Convocation youth events (i.e. chaperone availability, leader/student relationships, low numbers of youth interested, travel constraints, other)?

30. 30. What would your parish need from the Convocation Youth Commission for you to be able to address your particular challenges to participation in Convocation youth events?

31. 31. What could the Convocation Youth Commission do to make these Convocation youth offerings more attractive to your youth? What could we offer during these events that we do not currently offer (i.e. outings, training, information, support, other)?

32. Please rank the times of the year when your YOUTH are most available for Convocation-wide events, 1 being the best time and 4 being the least-preferable time.

Mark only one oval per row.

	1 (best option)	2	3	4 (least-preferable option)
Autumn	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spring	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Summer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SECTION 5 - CONVOCATION YOUTH LEADER TRAINING AND EVENTS

33. Have youth leaders from your church taken part in Convocation youth leader retreats within the past 4 years?

Mark only one oval.

Yes
 No
 I don't have enough information to provide a response.

34. Please rank the times of the year when your YOUTH LEADERS are most available for a Youth Leaders' Retreat, 1 being the best time and 4 being the least-preferable time.

Mark only one oval per row.

	1 (best option)	2	3	4 (least-preferable option)
Autumn	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spring	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Summer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

39. The Convocation Youth Commission sometimes doesn't get responses to the communications sent to youth leaders / parishes. The Commission subsequently doesn't know if you have not received the information, haven't decided yet, or are not interested/available. This makes planning somewhat challenging. What would be the best method of communication for you moving forward? How could this method of communication also allow the Commission to know you have received the information and to receive a reply, even if it's simply to say, "No, thank you"?

35. How many members of your YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM would prefer a training / Youth Leader retreat via Zoom, and how many members of your youth ministry team would prefer a training / Youth Leader retreat face-to-face (in non-Covid times)?

Mark only one oval per row.

	0	1	2	3	4+
Zoom Training/Retreat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Face-to-Face Training/Retreat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

36. How many members of your Children's SUNDAY SCHOOL TEAM would prefer a training / teacher retreat via Zoom and how many members of your Children's Sunday School team would prefer a training / teacher retreat face-to-face (in non-Covid times)?

Mark only one oval per row.

	0	1	2	3	4+
Zoom Training/Retreat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Face-to-Face Training/Retreat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

37. How would you describe your experience of communication / sharing of information from / with the Convocation Youth Commission?

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5
Very good	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

38. Please explain the strengths and challenges of communication / sharing of information with the Convocation Youth Commission.

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