

Archdeaconry Coffeehouse Conversations Response

February - April 2016

September 15, 2016



YOUTH AND INTERGENERATIONAL (YIG) ARCHDEACONRY COFFEEHOUSE CONVERSATIONS RESPONSE

The Youth and Intergenerational (YIG) team of the Diocese of Fredericton, has worked hard in 2016 redefining how Youth and Children's Ministry is shaped and viewed in the 21st Century. The YIG team set out for an ambitious but achievable 2016 year with the Archdeaconry Coffeehouse meetings, youth and leader training events, CLAY and promoting all of the Diocese youth related events. The YIG team has continued to build on communication with Parishes and Archdeaconries using all the available mediums. For 2016, the YIG team has used the E News, NB Anglican, YIG Facebook page, email correspondence, and year at a glance posters.

Our vision is to assist and support parishes in regards to all areas of youth ministry (children, youth, young adults and families) into the 21st Century; dealing with the various issues and challenges of our today's youth. YIG focuses on two areas; developing disciples in our youth through training and mission opportunities and training and developing leaders in regards to new, modern and innovative youth ministry practices.

The YIG team currently consists of Colin McDonald, Debora Kantor, Dylan Nicoll, Gary Hoyt, Rev. Allen Tapley, Rev. Eddie Quann, Ven. Richard Steeves, Rev. Christian and Maren Persaud and Jason Smith.

Archdeaconry Coffeehouse Conversations - February to April 2016 -

The YIG team held several Archdeaconry Coffeehouse Conversations from February to April 2016. It was clear from the Bishop's charge from the November 2015 Synod that youth is a priority to the Bishop and for the Diocese. These Coffeehouses were a response to the Bishop's charge and to gather information of the current status of Youth Ministry within the Diocese for the YIG team.

YIG's vision for the Diocese is to develop our youth as disciples of Christ and to support and encourage parishes to develop these disciples in innovative ways. To achieve this, we need to help train and develop leaders in all aspects of Youth Ministry and to help Parishes in youth development programs and events and to re-define what Youth Ministry is as it is not just youth group and Sunday School anymore. As a Diocese we need to be laying down foundations and training opportunities for youth leaders, developing disciples in our youth (of all ages) and connecting with families. This task does not just fall on the shoulders of the youth minister or Sunday School teacher.

The overall goal of these Coffeehouse Conversations was to provide the YIG team with a general understanding of what is going on concerning Youth Ministry in the Diocese. Each Coffeehouse began with an overall vision of what YIG is doing and had discussions of the following topics:

- What is working in the Parish and Archdeaconry level?
- What are the struggles?
- What are your dreams concerning Youth Ministry in your Parish/Archdeaconry?
- How can the YIG team can help?

Below are the results from each Archdeaconry Coffeehouse. The results are based on the information that was provided by the participants from each Parish who attended the Coffeehouse. These results may not be a true representation of what actually may be happening. If the YIG team did not hear from a particular Parish it may mean that that Parish does not have any youth related programming or that someone was unable to come.

Archdeaconry of Fredericton - February 26, St. Mary's, York

Parishes	17	Churches	34
Attendance	8 including 4 YIG members		
Parishes Represented	2 - Cathedral, Cambridge and Waterborough*		
Parishes Not Represented	15 -Fredericton, Fredericton Junction, Gagetown, New Maryland, Oromocto and Maugerville, Prince William Dumfries Queensbury Southhampton, St. Margaret's, St. Peter, Bright, Douglas Nashwaaksis, Ludlow and Blissfield, Marysville, Minto and Chipman, St Mary (York), Stanley		

*Representation based on YIG members attendance

Sunday School Programs		Youth Group Programs	
Have Sunday School	2	Have Youth Group	2 (1 joint with Baptist)
Average Teacher/Volunteers	2	Paid Leader	1
Average Attendance	7.5	Average Volunteers	4
Kids church- Cam -Waterborough		Average Attendance	18
Other Church Related Youth Programs: Messy Church, VBS, Camp Medley, Godly Play after school, Spaghetti Tuesdays			
Other Non-Church Community Youth Programs: Scouts, Boys & Girls Club, Big Brothers/Sister, Preschool drop in, Young Naturalists school group, sports groups			
Parish Comments: Would like purpose-based youth ideas, sponsored Diocesan events.			
Challenges: Parent engagement			
Highlights: N/A			

Archdeaconry of Kingston and Kennebecasis - March 3, St. Paul's Hampton

Parishes	13	Churches	24
Attendance	14 including 4 YIG members		
Parishes Represented	7- Quispamsis, Hampton, Central Kings, Upham, Hammond River, Gondola Point, Rothesay*		
Parishes Not Represented	6 - Kingston, Renforth, St. Mark's, Sussex, Upper Kennebecasis, Waterford		

*Did not attend but sent in Parish form after

Sunday School Programs		Youth Group Programs	
Have Sunday School	5	Have Youth Group	1
Average Teacher/Volunteers	4	Paid Leader	0
Average Attendance	8	Average Volunteers	5
		Average Attendance	15
Other Church Related Youth Programs: Messy Church, VBS, Camp Medley, Family Camp, servers guild, after school program			
Other Non-Church Community Youth Programs: Scouts, Guides, Various sports, dance			
Parish Comments: Would like to develop and empower new leaders			
Challenges: Competing with sports, reaching out to new youth			
Highlights: Listening to children ask questions during children's talk; VBS; Tuesday after school Godly Play			

Archdeaconry of Woodstock - March 19, St. Luke's Woodstock

Parishes	8	Churches	18
Attendance	15 including 3 YIG members		
Parishes Represented	4- Woodstock, WWPA, Andover, Denmark		
Parishes Not Represented	4 - Canterbury, Benton and Kirkland, Madawaska, Richmond, Tobique		

Sunday School Programs		Youth Group Programs	
Have Sunday School	4	Have Youth Group	1
Average Teacher/Volunteers	3	Paid Leader	0
Average Attendance	10	Average Volunteers	1
		Average Attendance	5
Other Church Related Youth Programs: Messy Church, VBS, Camp Brookwood, Family Camp, servers guild, after school program			
Other Non-Church Community Youth Programs: Scouts, Guides, Various sports,			
Parish Comments: Would like to get direction and ideas for getting youth involved; programs for special needs children			
Challenges: Getting youth to church; have youth but no programs or leaders			
Highlights: Keeping the fun in all programs and building youth into leaders			

Archdeaconry of St. Andrews - April 2, All Saints, St. Andrew's

Parishes	12	Churches	21
Attendance	9 including 1 YIG member		
Parishes Represented	5- St. Andrew's, St. David and St. Patrick, St. Stephen, Pennfield, Nerepis and St John*		
Parishes Not Represented	7 - Lancaster, Musquash, Westside Anglican Mission, Campobello, Grand Manan, McAdam, St. George		

*Representation based on YIG members attendance

Sunday School Programs		Youth Group Programs	
Have Sunday School	4	Have Youth Group	3
Average Teacher/Volunteers	5	Paid Leader	1
Average Attendance	9	Average Volunteers	2
		Average Attendance	12

Other Church Related Youth Programs:

St. Michaels, VBS, Camp Medley, Family Camp,

Other Non-Church Community Youth Programs:

Scouts, Guides, Various sports, other church youth groups

Parish Comments:

Questioned YIG's and Colin McDonald's role within the Diocese; wants more Diocese lead events; more Parish involvement; connect with other Parishes more effectively; time management

Challenges:

Keeping volunteers; not enough youth to keep programs running; competing with other community activities such as sports; help with engaging youth to attend church

Highlights:

Serving Outflow, mission trips, community engagement

Archdeaconry of Moncton - April 2, St. John the Baptist, Riverview

Parishes	12	Churches	20
Attendance	16 including 3 YIG member		
Parishes Represented	4- Riverview, St. Andrew's Sunny Brae, Kent, Shediac		
Parishes Not Represented	8 - Dorchester, Hillsborough Riverside, Moncton, Sackville, Salisbury and Havelock, St. James, St. Philip's, Westmorland		

Sunday School Programs		Youth Group Programs	
Have Sunday School	4	Have Youth Group	3
Average Teacher/Volunteers	2	Paid Leader	0
Average Attendance	8	Average Volunteers	7
		Average Attendance	16
Other Church Related Youth Programs: Mother's Union			
Other Non-Church Community Youth Programs: Scouts, Guides, Various sports, breakfast club, improv			
Parish Comments: Would like help organizing local deanery events; volunteer training; rural youth ministry materials; program resources;			
Challenges: Competing with other community events; finding and keeping volunteers			
Highlights: Kids Group, VBS, trying a youth group			

Archdeaconry of Chatham - April 9, St. Alban, New Bandon

Parishes	6	Churches	15
Attendance	19 including 3 YIG member		
Parishes Represented	5- Bathurst, Chatham, Derby and Blackville, New Bandon, Restigouche,		
Parishes Not Represented	1 - Newcastle-Nelson-Hardwicke		

Sunday School Programs		Youth Group Programs	
Have Sunday School	3	Have Youth Group	1
Average Teacher/Volunteers	6	Paid Leader	1
Average Attendance	5	Average Volunteers	0
		Average Attendance	5
Other Church Related Youth Programs:			
Other Non-Church Community Youth Programs: Beavers, cubs, scouts, figure skating, hockey			
Parish Comments: More opportunities to discuss and learn from other parishes; alternate programs			
Challenges: No or very little youth present in church; lack of interest			
Highlights: Youth attended Camp Medley and said she was changed; puppet ministry			

Archdeaconry of Saint John - April 12, All Saints, East Saint John

Parishes	8	Churches	8
Attendance	17 including 2 YIG member		
Parishes Represented	7- Central Saint John Community Mission, Coldbrock and St Mary, East Saint John, Fundy and the Lakes, Portland, Saint John, St. Mark		
Parishes Not Represented	1- Millidgeville		

Sunday School Programs		Youth Group Programs	
Have Sunday School	2	Have Youth Group	2
Average Teacher/Volunteers	4	Paid Leader	0
Average Attendance	9	Average Volunteers	3
		Average Attendance	9
Other Church Related Youth Programs: Breakfast/lunch programs, Manwitch Mondays, Trinity Choir, Inner City Youth, Safe Harbour,			
Other Non-Church Community Youth Programs: PULSE			
Parish Comments:			
Challenges: Keeping youth involved; competing with sports; finances; average age is increasing and is hard to relate to youth			
Highlights: Despite not having a lot of youth present, Parishes do have a lot of programs available; youth group starting in the South End			

YIG Archdeaconry Coffeehouse Comments

Overall the YIG team is pleased with the Coffeehouse events. It's purpose was to hear from Parishes and get an idea of the basic 5W's of Youth Ministry within the Diocese. The goal was to hear from each Parish but that was not a reality and these results again are only a snapshot of what is actually happening. The YIG team would love to hear from all the Parishes of where they stand in regards to Youth Ministry and when YIG states Youth Ministry that includes children, youth and young adult. Youth Ministry should encompass all of those age groups. YIG would also like to keep the conversation going with Parishes who did participate and update their information and status. For example, since the Coffeehouses I know a few Parishes have hired a Youth Minister part-time or have started up a youth group or Sunday School class in the last few months. The results above do not reflect those changes.

Though YIG is pleased with the turnout, almost 100 participants and over 30 parishes represented, there are plenty of Parishes that did not attend or send the information sheet. YIG would love to hear from each Parish. Each Parish was supplied with an information sheet to fill in when the 2016 YIG and Medley posters were mailed in March. By not supplying YIG with the information this may show that for many Parishes, youth ministry may not be a priority for them. It could also indicate that they do not know how to engage or address Youth Ministry in their area. If a Parish does not have a youth program or youth, the YIG team would still like to hear from them and confirm this. YIG realizes and does not expect each Parish to have youth programs. This information is useful for YIG to carry on training, events and etc. For example, the YIG team was very disappointed with the lack of input from the Archdeaconry of Fredericton, where 15 of the 17 parishes in the Archdeaconry did not participant or show up for the Coffeehouse. We know that there are youth programs happening in the area but without the information sheet filled out or attending the Coffeehouse we could not include them in the stats. Granted that this was the first and poorly attended Coffeehouse, the YIG team hopes this is not a sign that youth ministry is not a priority within the Archdeaconry.

Some Archdeaonries came into the Coffeehouses with a different expectation from YIG. From the beginning the Coffeehouses were a conversation of what is going on and where does Youth Ministry stand at the Parish level. There was a miscommunication that YIG was revealing a Diocesan wide youth strategy that would be implementing. Unfortunately the Diocese is too large geographically, too diverse and unique to implement one Diocesan wide strategy. Another Archdeaconry was questioning the roles of the YIG team and Colin McDonald's role as Youth and Intergenerational Director. Again better communication is needed to address these concerns and avoid continuing miscommunication.

However, the overall feeling of Youth Ministry within the Diocese is a sense of tiredness, frustration and in some cases hopelessness. There are leaders and volunteers who are working

really hard but seeing numbers drop, inconsistent leadership, not enough resources or manpower to help. Most Parishes are competing with sports or other community programs. They feel the youth are over programmed or cannot “schedule” church into their busy schedules. Some feel if they stop volunteering or leading there will not be anyone else to pick it up. There are Parishes who are doing extremely well in regards to Youth Ministry. Sunday Schools in Moncton, Hampton and Grand Bay are over 20 kids a week. Many Parishes are doing unique ministries like Quispamsis’ Tuesday after school Godly Play, others are having mission trips or serving at Outflow are just a few examples. There needs to be more communication between Parishes in regards in what is happening, stories and opportunities to learn from each other.

The YIG team needed/wanted this information to get an idea of what is happening. The YIG team now has a start and see where and what to focus on in the upcoming years. There is no one fits all solution but the YIG team is willing to help Parishes out and to create opportunities for Parishes to work together. Parishes need to concentrate on what they have and maybe not on what they should have by creating and mentoring future disciples.

Youth and InterGenerational (YIG)Team

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