

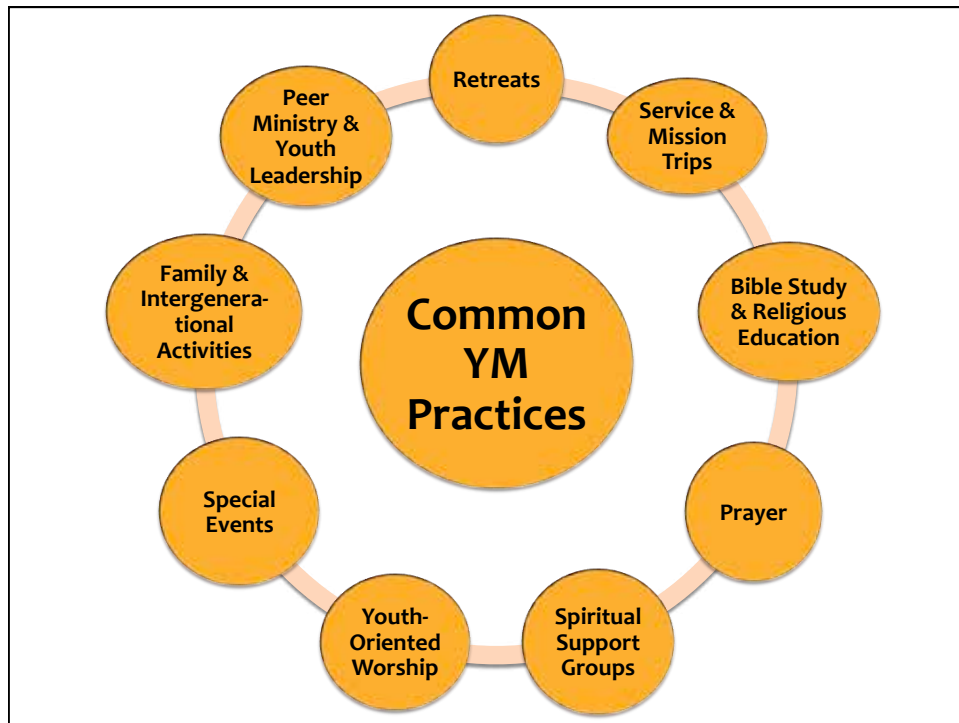


## Youth Ministry Practices

**What impact did involvement in youth ministry have on young people?**

1. Deepen my relationship with Jesus
2. Understand my Christian faith better
3. Apply my faith to daily life
4. Make serious life choices (future, relationships, values)
5. Share my faith

**These congregations are serious about making disciples of Jesus Christ.**



## Youth Ministry Practices

**Congregations have developed age-level ministries.**

- ▣ Marked by trusted relationships
- ▣ Custom-designed ministry practices and activities
- ▣ Caring atmosphere of high expectation
- ▣ Multiple nurturing relationships and activities intentionally planned to create:
  - ▣ atmosphere of respect
  - ▣ growth
  - ▣ belonging
- ▣ Generates an “alternative youth subculture”

## What Do Young Adults Want

- A church that takes our experience seriously
- A church that emphasizes the inclusive ministry of Jesus
- A church that embraces that God is everywhere
- A church that engages struggles and is open to dialogue

(Annie Selak)

## Young Adult Ministry Practices: Summary

1. Creating deeper community through small groups
2. Making a difference through service
3. Experiencing worship – reflecting their culture and revering and revealing God (visual, musical, artistic, experiential)
4. Exploring the Bible and Christian tradition with depth, questioning, and applying faith to life
5. Utilizing the technology to communicate the message and to connect people
6. Building cross-generational relationships
7. Forming the spiritual life – spiritual practices & disciplines

## Young Adult Ministry Practices

1. Intentionally involving young adults in leadership
2. High quality worship; informal, innovative, experimental; use of new media and technology
3. Innovation and use of technology in communication
4. Hospitality: accepting of young adults (and everyone)
5. Intentional about reaching out and connecting with young adults
6. Investing time, energy, and money
7. Location (urban and suburban) and Newer Congregations

(FACT Research Studies)

## Young Adult Ministry Practices

1. Creating deeper community
2. Making a difference through service
3. Experiencing worship
4. Conversing the content with religious depth
5. Leveraging technology
6. Building cross-generational relationships
7. Moving toward authenticity
8. Leading by transparency
9. Leading by team

“Characteristics of Churches Reaching Young Adults”

(Lost & Found, Stetzer, Stanley, & Hayes)

## Young Adult Ministry Practices

1. Young adults want to feel that their presence is valued.
2. Young adults want a sense of ownership in their congregations.
3. Young adults' interests in religion are multifaceted.
4. Young adults thrive when they are "met where they are."
5. Young adults welcome opportunities to feel emotionally affected.
6. Young adults respond to a theoretical and practice balance between the particular and universal.

("Congregations that Get It" - Belzer, et al.)

## Young Adult Ministry Practices

1. Congregations that provide a "home" for emerging adults; where older adults are welcoming, inviting them into leadership and participation.
2. Congregations that appreciate emerging adults – their ideas, their work, their prayers – and their limitations (\$).
3. Congregations that offer short term, significant projects and involvements.
4. Congregations that are diverse, inclusive communities.

## Young Adult Ministry Practices

5. Congregations that effectively use media and social networking, and that have a contemporary, current website.
6. Congregations that have a strong, nurturing pastor. They like good preaching and teaching. They like pastors who have a vision of the work of the Gospel in that congregation; and someone who has a good sense of outreach.
7. Congregations that provide worship at times they can come; and opportunities to gather and socialize.
8. Congregations that go “off campus” with ministry and faith formation.

(Changing Spirituality of Emerging Adults Project)

## Young Adult Ministry Practices

- “Religious Tinkering”: piecing together ideas about spirituality from many sources
- “Expressive Communalism”
  - need for expressive/experiential activities
  - and physical community with others
  - and a faith that makes cognitive sense to them but is also an expressive, embodied spiritual experience.

