

Connecting Young People within our Churches

An Intergenerational Model for Spiritual
and Church Growth

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Young People Church Health Assessment

based on your experience of young people (infants-35yrs.) in your church,
is your church:

5-Healthy and Living

4-ILL

3-ICU

2-Hospice

1-Deceased

Critical Questions to Ask

- **Why do you want young people in your church?**
- **Why would young people want to come to your church?**
- **What is your tolerance for young people in your church?**
- **What are you willing to implement to accommodate young people?**
- **Does your pastor love/relate to young people? If a pastor, do you love/relate to young people?**
- **Does the mission and vision of your church reflect your commitment to young people?**
- **Does your church budget reflect your commitment to young people?**

An Intergenerational Model for Connecting Young People

The “Cascade 11:30” Story

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- **Appointed to Cascade in July 2012**
- **Leaders indicated two things:**
 1. Aging Congregation (average age near 60)
 2. Needed to Connect Young People (12-35yrs)
- **Asked the Leaders the “Critical Questions”**
- **Created a New Ministry Division called, “The Young People’s Division”**
- **Given responsibility in February 2013 for the “Contemporary” worship experience**

Guiding Principle #1

1. Connecting Young People begins with WORSHIP and follows with PROGRAMS.

John 4:23 - *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

truth in the numbers...

- **Before March 10, 2013-average attendance=250**
- **On March 10, 2013 (new 11:30am Intergenerational Worship Experience begins)-attendance=511**
- **Sunday, January 19-attendance=694**

Professions of Faith, Rededication's, Uniting through Membership (since March 10, 2013)=164









connecting young people through WORSHIP

Who helps plan your worship experience?
(pastor and a team of committed, passionate

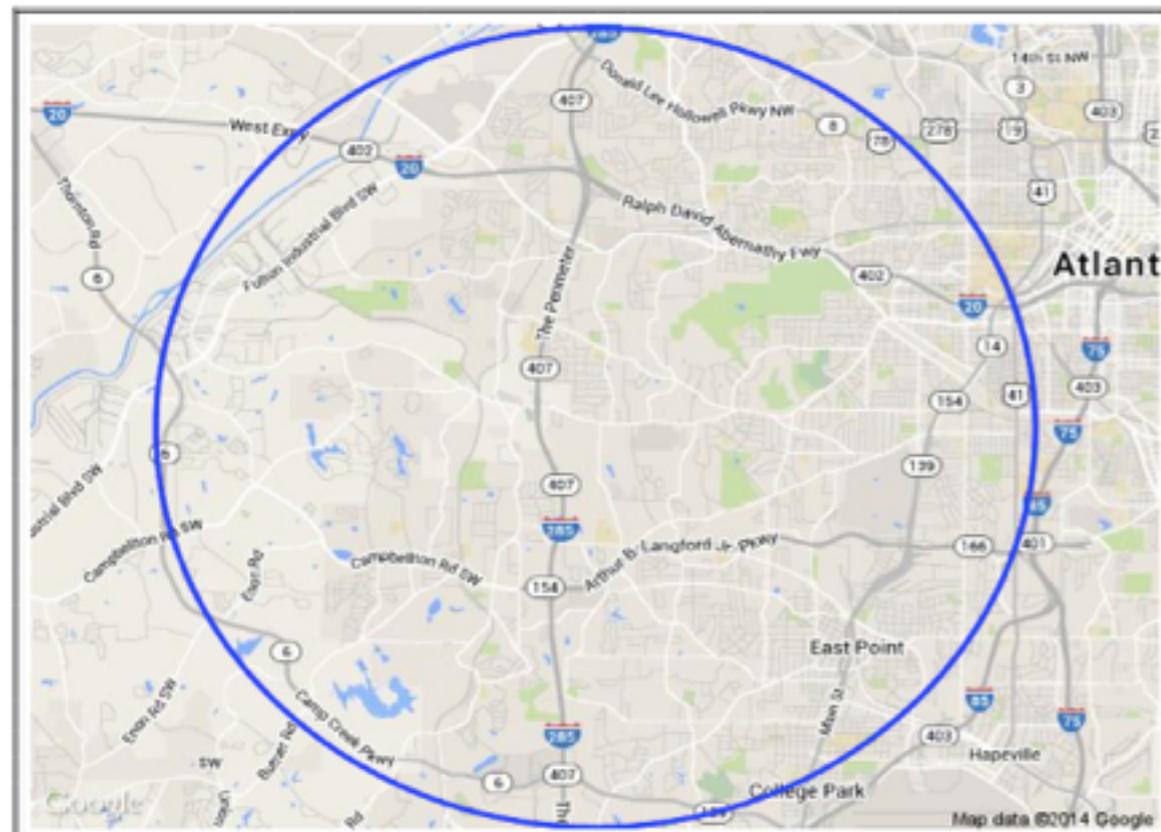
11:30am Worship Planning Team: 6 People

**demographic: (3) young adults, (1)
youth, (2) over 40yrs of age**

connecting young people through WORSHIP

Who is in your immediate “5”? (the 5-mile radius around your church?)

THE STUDY AREA



The area has experienced moderate growth, is homogeneous with a **growing population of singles/starters**, whose practices of religion and spirituality are above the state average, but **the percentage of those who see attending a religious service as important is low.**

connecting young people through WORSHIP

**Plan an intentional worship
experience considering the
social norms of your immediate
“5”**

Social Norms of the 11:30am Immediate “5”

Attire: Trendy but not too casual

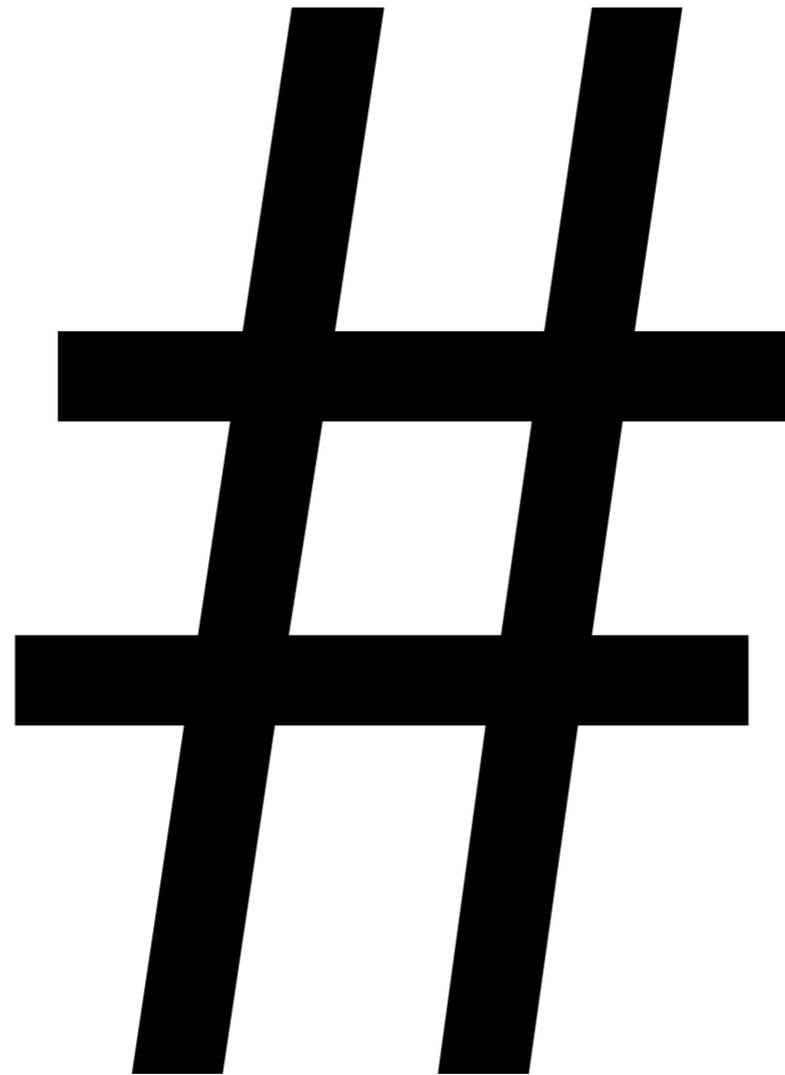
Music: Upbeat and Smooth with Lyrics about everyday life struggles

Hangout spots: Unique and colorful lighting

Language: Use of words that transcend traditional meaning (i.e. “turn up”)

Church experience: Experienced traditional church with parents/grandparents. Only wanted necessary parts of church (i.e. singing, prayer, communion on first Sunday’s, sermon, and benediction)

Social Norms of the 11:30am Immediate “5”

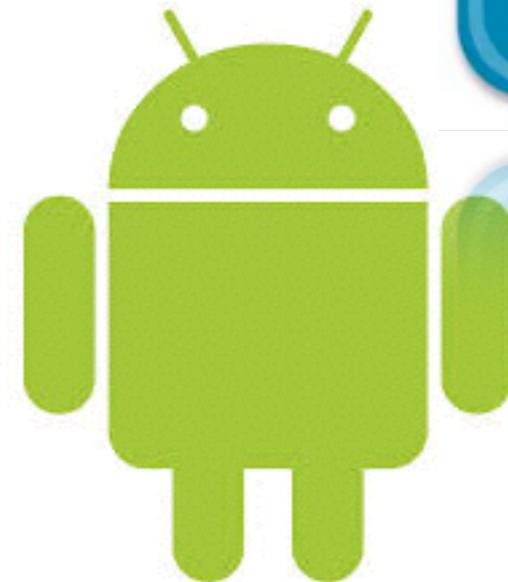




Instagram



You Tube



Guiding Principle #2

2. Compromise is critical in effective Intergenerational Worship

What are your “Must Haves” in worship?



11:30am DNA

Social Norms of Immediate “5” merged with traditional elements.

Our Must Haves:

- Dynamic Praise and Worship
 - Timeliness
- Continuous Flow of Worship (not a programmed experience)
 - Social Media Integration
- Meaningful and Life-changing Sermons

Guiding Principle #3

3. Worship structure is proactive rather than reactive.

Deciding to modify the worship experience “after they come” is too late.

If you are modifying your worship experience, how does the community know about it?

Questions?

connecting young people through
PROGRAMS

connecting young people through PROGRAMS

- Sitting with **key leaders** in your church, answer the questions: “**Why are young people important for our continued growth?**” “**To what extent are we willing to go to allow young people to be active here in ministry?**”
- **What will be our financial commitment to our young people?** (how you budget young people related ministries)

[Matthew 6:21] *“for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

Young People's Division

Cascade

YP

Developing Leaders. Changing Lives.

officially instituted: December 2012

**Mission: To develop respectful,
disciplined and compassionate young
people who know and love the Lord, and
seek to share the love of Jesus Christ
with others.**

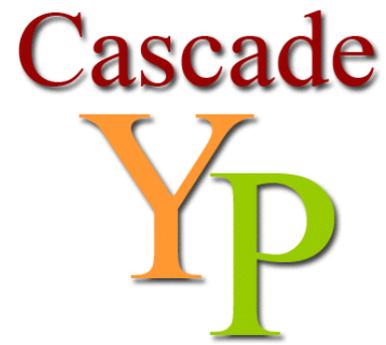
Guiding Scripture: *Don't let anyone look down on you
because you are young, but set an example for the
believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.*

-1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)

Objective: To proceed in ministry with young people with better **organization, communication, collaboration, and effectiveness** by bringing all ministries related to young people under one functional division.

Rationale: Combined, we had more than a dozen youth, young adult, and children-related ministries spread across various divisions and areas within the church. For example, **acolytes** and **ushers** were in the **Worship Division**; **young adult ministry**, **youth ministry**, **scouting** and **CRoP** were in the **Witness Division**; and then there are the **choirs**, the **step team** and **dancers** in the **Music and Arts Ministry**.

Functionality



MINISTRY LISTING

Acolytes

Children's Bible Study

Children's Church

Children's Ministry

Christian Doorkeepers

Christian Rites of Passage (CRoP)

Higher Education and Campus Ministry

Confirmation

Middle School Sunday School

High School Sunday School

R.O.C.K/Pre-K

Scouting

Vacation Bible School

YAM 1 (18-24)

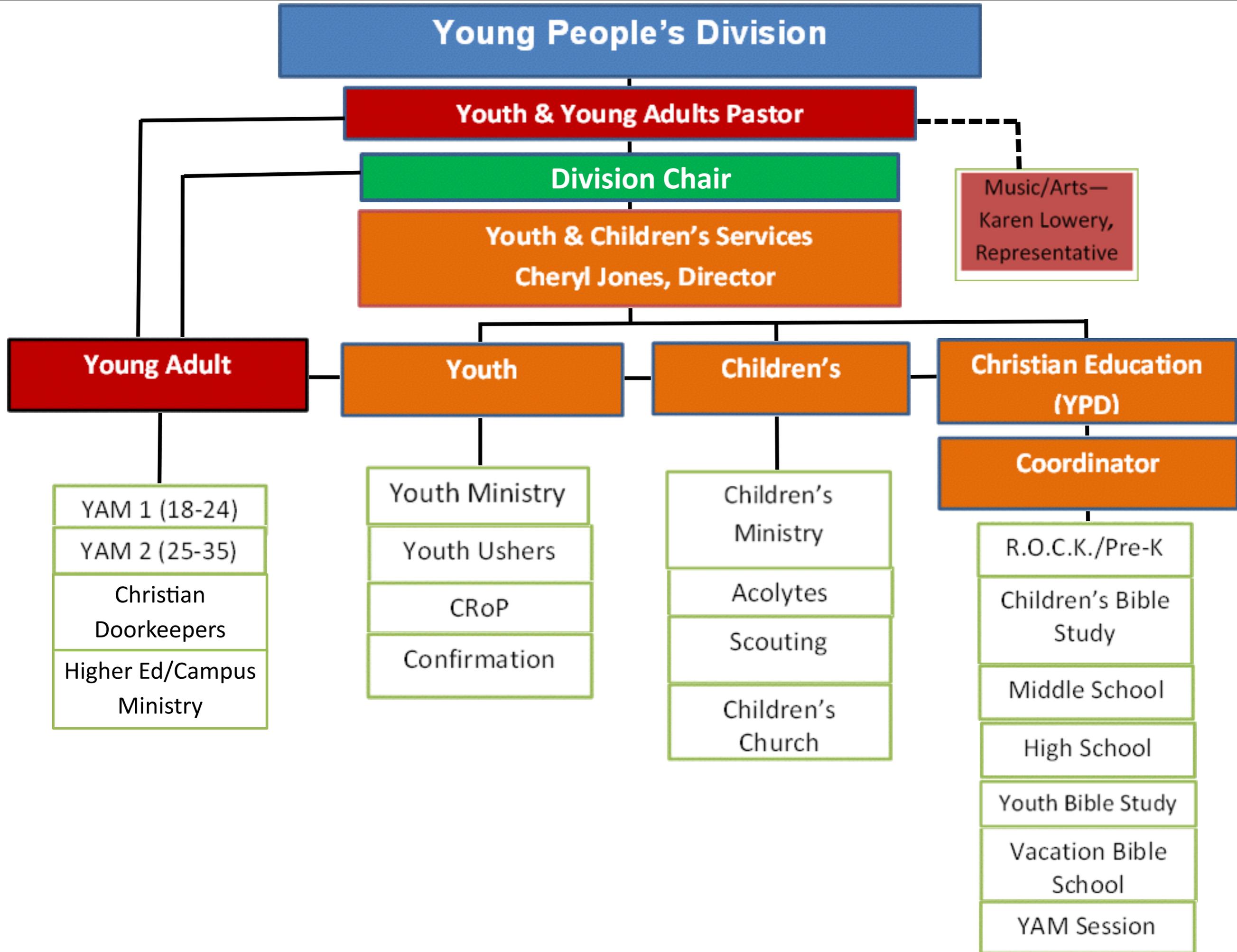
YAM 2 (25-35)

YAM Session

Youth Bible Study

Youth Ministry

Youth Ushers



strategies for getting young
people to your church

Guiding Principle #4

4. Disciples are invited to Christ

*[Matthew 4:18-20] Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, **“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”** Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.*

- **Locate the schools in your Immediate “5” and seek ways to form partnerships. (pastor(s) and laity)**
 - i.e. boy scouts, girl scouts, FCA, school supply drives.
- **Identify apartment complexes or developing neighborhoods in your Immediate “5” and host “reach-out” days.**
 - serve food, set-up space jumps for kids, hand provide information about your church.
- **Form a relationship with a local area grocery store that allow you to give away gift cards and information about your church**



**things they don't tell you about
Connecting Young People**

note: these are all positive things!

1. Young people will challenge you spiritually and theologically.
2. Young people will challenge traditional perspectives of church.
3. Young people will bring new (often misunderstood) ideas for making ministry effective.
4. Young parents will bring their young (often loud and active) children!
5. Mature young people today thrive on responsibility.
6. Young people bring other young people. (they are the best marketers and the best critics)

Guiding Principle #5

5. Young People are honored and loved by God and essential for the growth of the Church.

[Luke 18:16] *“But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”*

Questions?

presentation will be available at

www.kevinmurriel.com

Additional Resources

Yearning: Authentic Transformation, Young Adults, and the Church

By: Robert Hendrickson

You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church...and Rethinking Faith

By: David Kinnaman

Deep & Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend

By: Andy Stanley