

LCC

YTH

## YOUTH & PARENT MEETING – Fall 2024

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July 31, 2024

- CHARTER STATEMENT
- Pastor/Parent Partnership
- Your Child and the Youth Ministry Setting
- What's Next in Youth Ministry – Harrison
- Q&A
- Resources: "Gospel Centered Youth Ministry" (Edited by Cameron Cole & Jon Nielson), "A Biblical Theology of Youth Ministry" by Michael McGarry

- **CHARTER STATEMENT**

The purpose of our charter statements is to help create a unified vision and emphasis that is shared by the elders, the ministry leaders & deacons, those participating in that ministry, and the church body.

- **PASTOR/PARENT PARTNERSHIP**

- The Family - God's plan for birth, nurture, life-training, family belonging, provision, care, etc. (Proverbs; Deut. 6)
- The Nation - God's plan for influence, mission, culture creation, mutual support, 'beyond-family gifting'
  - ...The influence of prophets, priests, & kings (Extra-family offices that God placed among the people to bring a different type of influence into people's lives)
- The Church - God's plan for influence, mission, culture creation, mutual support, 'beyond-family gifting'

**Eph 4:7-8, 11-14** <sup>7</sup> But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

...<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

...there is "unique grace" given and imparted through God-ordained ministry gifts

...the activity and influence described by v. 12-14 are not placed in the context of the family, but the church

**Rom 12:1-8** <sup>1</sup> I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

..."Worship" & "non-conformity to this world" are set in the context of how people experience the "distributed grace of God" ...and again, the context of that distributed grace in this verse is not the family but the church.

- Ministry Leaders are to be "specialists" in their area of focus & responsibility.

...Children's Ministry Leaders are "specialists" in children & family

...Senior's Ministry Leaders are "specialists" in the unique challenges of life that accompany later-life and aging

...Youth Ministry Leaders are "specialists" in teen development, culture, needs, and discipleship ...and in family ministry support.

**God intended our children to be influenced by more than just the family. Fathers & mothers have unique roles to play but not exclusive roles to play.**

"I'm alarmed on a personal level due to my own youth ministry history. When I launched into what's now become 40 years in the youth ministry world, my approach was far too pragmatic. Rather than first taking the time to ponder the more serious foundational theological questions that could have and should have informed my ministry practice, I quickly skipped that step and defaulted into the pragmatic. ...I am a firm believer in the fact that youth ministry holds a valuable place in the life of the church. I also believe that youth ministry is an endeavor that should support rather than supplant the primary role of parents to nurture children in their faith." **Walt Mueller** (from the foreword of *"A Biblical Theology of Youth Ministry"*)

"Youth ministry has begun a shift over the past decade. ...This has set the stage for a new era of youth ministry, where the entire church is being called to renew its commitment to the next generation and to family discipleship. As youth ministry continues to transition into a new era marked by a renewed emphasis on ministry to parents and integration of youth into the life of the church, we must consider the foundations. **Michael McGarry**, *A Biblical Theology of Youth Ministry*, p. 2

"[the Family Integrated Church Movement] asks legitimate and serious questions that should be considered. Is youth ministry biblical? Have we been doing youth ministry in a way that has produced short-term 'results' but, in the long-term, feeds into the drop-out rate? Are we so reliant on pragmatism and 'what works' that we have forsaken biblical teaching about evangelism and discipleship? Why do so many Christian families off-load their children's discipleship to workers in the church while neglecting their biblical calling to instruct their children? Is the local church structured and programmed in a way that silently encourages this parental negligence? ...The purpose of 'A Biblical Theology of Youth Ministry: Teenagers in the Life of the Church' is to address these questions by presenting a biblical, historical, and theological foundation for youth ministry." **Michael McGarry**, *A Biblical Theology of Youth Ministry*, p. 2-3

"It is time for the whole church to get involved, for parents to be equipped, and for youth workers to see themselves as a bridge between the church and home. Youth ministry is for adolescence, the family is for life, but the Church is for eternity. May youth workers lead and serve accordingly." **Michael McGarry**, *A Biblical Theology of Youth Ministry*, p. 4

- **Your Child and the Youth Ministry Setting**

- "People Settings" are a gathering of fallen human beings—i.e., we're not always going to do what's right in our influence on one another.
  - The Family ...is ordained by God but also the setting of great influential neglect, harm, conflict, harshness, unkindness, rejection, unbiblical ideas, poor examples, etc.
    - Cain & Abel! ...King David's household (Amnon slept with his sister; Absalom murdered Amnon and sought to take David's throne; Adonijah sought to seize the throne)
    - The Family you grew up in

- Your efforts as a parent and your own family setting
- Not all of your children will be saved; "foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child" (our children)
- Husbands & Wives don't always agree on how misbehavior should be addressed from incident to incident and from child to child.
- The Nation/Church ...is ordained by God but also the setting of great influential neglect, harm, conflict, harshness, unkindness, rejection, unbiblical ideas, poor examples, etc.
  - As a nation ...a family's setting included wayward, disobedient, immature & idolatrous fellow Israelites
  - As a church ...your family's setting will include wayward, disobedient, immature, & idolatrous fellow church members
  - Be prepared to give your children frequent "fallen-world-explanations". They should not have the idea that the church/youth group is filled with people who have finished the sanctification process. ...Seeing the sins of others gives me the humble opportunity to be aware of my own "flavor" of sin & temptations (Welcome to the Baskin Robbins Church)
- Teen-Years are TUMULTUOUS Years! (Severe season of physical, mental, emotional shifts--plus HORMONES! ...Youth Ministries are NOT the one setting on earth where sin won't be encountered. They're not the "West Point" of Ideal Teen Behavior ...they're a setting for teen growth, guidance, discipleship, & maturity to take place--and these come with success/failure, clarity/confusion, anger/anxiety, self-denial/self-consciousness, etc. )
- Younger kids amidst older teens
  - How is this setting affecting my younger child?
  - How is my older child doing with the way they relate to others (particularly the younger kids)?
- Outreach/Evangelism
  - The church lives under the banner of the Great Commission. It would be a failure for the church (including youth) to not have a vision for reaching the lost.
  - There will be a variety of lost people in the youth ministry setting. They may be children in our church families who have not been born-again. They may be friends who have been invited who have not been raised in the church.

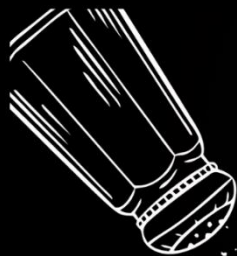
## **Youth Ministry – Charter Statement (Draft)**

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Youth Ministry is to help the church to engage and address the unique season of life that accompanies the teen years. Understanding that these years contain the moments where young people are moving toward more independence, but they are not yet adults, ministry is designed to be introductory, thought provoking, relevant, experiential, and partnered with parents (where possible) ...and to help teens develop an affection for pursuing a life of discipleship.

### PRIORITIES:

- Create gatherings and ministry settings that are conducive to a balanced emphasis of teaching, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, discussion, fellowship, friendship, and fun.
- Bring Biblical teaching that is relevant, convicting, instructive, insightful, encouraging, equipping, and compelling.
- To present a biblical life-philosophy that addresses their origin/creation/existence, their life-purpose, their self-definition, and their eternal destiny.
- To build a biblical worldview that effectively interacts with their culture.
- To introduce sound doctrine, spiritual disciplines, gospel community, and a great commission lifestyle.
- To recruit and equip youth leaders who care for and serve the youth of LCC.
- To help equip parents to disciple their children through the teen years.

### PLAN



**SALT**

**&**

**LIGHT**



**Unjust Suffering**





**Skate Night - August 6**

**Back to School Breakfast  
Night - August 14**

**Beach Volleyball -  
August 30**





**Pickleball Tournament -  
September 13**

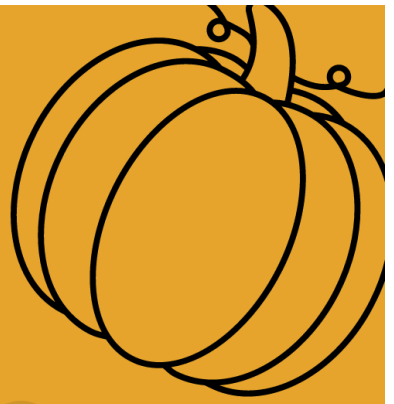
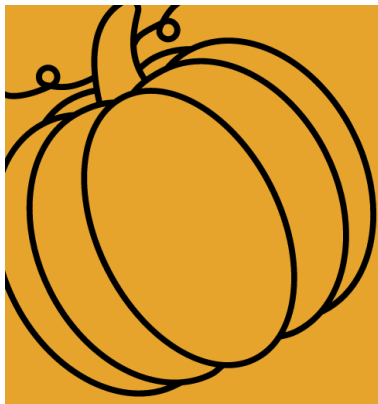
**Scarecrow Relay -  
September 27**



**Fall Retreat -  
October 11-12**

**Bowling - October 14**

**Fall Fest - October 27**



**Corn Maze -  
November 22**

**Turkey Bowl -  
November 27**



**Youth Banquet -  
December 6**





**Parent Prayer  
Night - January 15**

**Winter Retreat -  
January 17-19**

- **WAYS TO SERVE**

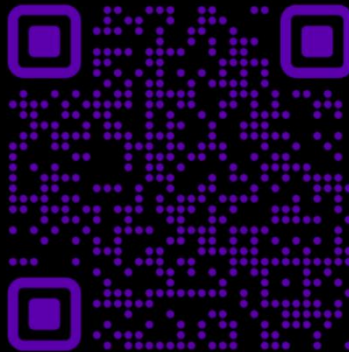
- Small Group Leaders
  - Small Group Leaders serve the Youth Ministry by leading a group consisting of 2 grades, gender specific, through questions regarding the sermons, building personal relationships, and mentoring the students by helping them navigate the challenging season of being a teenager. (Weekly commitment)
- Hall Monitors
  - As a Ministry Safe church, it is a priority that we provide the safest environment for our students to grow together for the glory of God. While the church has a fantastic process to ensure utmost safety on Wednesday nights and special events, we are lacking in the volunteer department. (Once every 2–4 week commitment)
- Camps
  - Winter Retreat & Youth Camp are some of the biggest highlights of the year for the ministry. To pull off such a large event, a multitude of volunteers is required. From the kitchen to games to worship, there is always a need! Volunteers are needed both at the campgrounds, as well as in areas such as check-in and packing. (2-5 day commitment)
- Prayer Team (Lead Ups to Camp)
  - We believe that events and activities are effective in our students' lives, but that spiritual change is most important. Because of this, we put a strong emphasis on intercession and prayer. The goal would be to have multiple nights of parent and volunteer prayer leading up to our camps. We believe the Lord will do amazing things through the work of an army of prayer warriors. (2-4 night/year commitment)
- Youth and Parent Nights
  - Once a month is Youth and Parent night. The goal of this evening is for the parents to come together, enjoy a meal, engage in conversation over light material presented, and participate in the sermon. We would love to add other food options in addition to pizza for the students. Ways to serve in this capacity would be the kitchen element of set up and clean up. (Once per month commitment)
- Host Homes
  - As events are planned, some of the locations end up at families' homes. Offering up your home for an evening for an event for the youth (either self-inspired or just providing a location) provides a 'homie' experience to bridge the gap between a church event and the body of believers.



LCC YTH YouTube



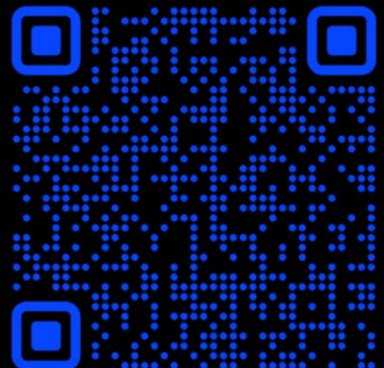
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**...GROWING  
TOGETHER  
FOR THE  
GLORY OF  
GOD...**