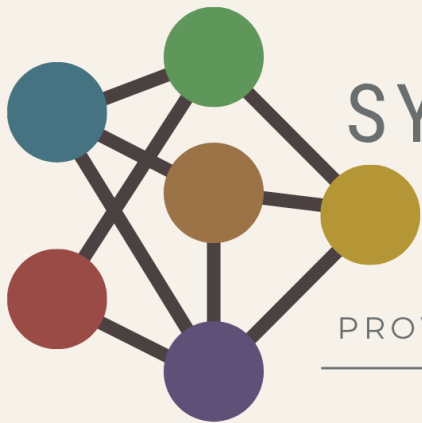


Introducing...



SYNOD YOUTH LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR SYNOD YOUTH MINISTRY

No worries, the SYMBOL Network is not leaving!

The SYMBOL Network has been redesigned to represent the current and emerging leaders who work with and are passionate about the evolving nature of synod youth ministry. While our goals remain the same - to provide resources, training, support, and encouragement for synod youth leaders - we invite you to engage with this new platform, and hope that it provides helpful tools that sustain you and the important work you do in your synod!

Stay informed and connected!

Email:

sylcollaborative@gmail.com

Website:

<https://sylcollaborative.wixsite.com/sylcollaborative>



Our Vision

“

The Synod Youth Leadership Collaborative exists to tend the vision for ministry with the ‘first third of life’ in synods so children, youth, and young adults might experience a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ.

”

Our Goals

- Connecting** with synod leaders and ELCA churchwide staff.
- Communicating** with synod leaders.
- Advocating** for first third of life ministry in synod and ELCA churchwide networks.
- Resourcing** and **Supporting** synod youth leaders.
- Gathering** for education, networking, and renewal.

Forum with Bishop Curry and Secretary Mills

All synod youth leaders are invited to join us on Thursday, March 12th at 11am CDT on zoom as we have a conversation with Bishop Curry and Secretary Mills about youth ministry and the church. [Register](#) to join the conversation. If you have a question for Bishop Curry and / or Secretary Mills, please submit it [here](#).

Resources

At our February training in St. Louis, Rebecca Jacobson from Youth Ministry Consultants came and shared a presentation about how the US church landscape is shifting. Younger generations are more spiritually open than previous generations. However, they are not necessarily finding that in an organized religious space. Small churches are the norm. Average attendance is 1 ½ - 2 times per month. There are volunteer shortages and congregations are moving from event-driven to rhythm based and from excellence to sustainability. We want youth ministry to be sustainable so ministry continues.

Relational ministry is important and matters more than programs. Intergenerational relationships are also very important.

What can we do: Normalize smaller, sustainable models; shift success metrics from attendance to relationships; protect pastoral longevity and prevent leader burnout.

How can Youth Ministry Consultants help? They have free resources for small youth ministry leaders: training, coaching, congregation discounts for synods; training, resourcing, coaching on sliding scales for congregations; there is a smaller church listening project (new project just got funding), and so much more. Find out more on their [website](#).

They also want to provide resources to Synods. There are online webinars with recording access, coaching, access to cohorts and trainings, denominational leader toolkit, Children & Youth Ministry Certification Program, Foundations of Faith Cohorts and more.

If you would like more information, contact Rebecca at rebecca@youthministryconsultants.org.

Our website has a number of resources. If you know of additional resources to add to the [list](#), please email us.



We are currently looking for synod leaders from Region 5 and Region 8 to be on the Leadership Team. If you are interested in learning more about serving on the Leadership Team, message us on Facebook or email us at: sylcollaborative@gmail.com

