

# **FY**                      **YOUTH MINISTRIES—** **DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES**

## **FY 05 Purpose**

Youth Ministry is a work of the Church that is conducted for, with, and by young people. The primary focus is the salvation of youth through Jesus Christ and their acceptance and involvement in the mission of the church.

The purpose of the Youth Department is to facilitate and support the ministry of the Church in winning, training, holding, and reclaiming its youth. The department shares the responsibility for developing a division-wide evangelistic strategy in consultation with administration and in co-operation with other departments of the Church. It is to assist the Division entities in forming objectives, goals, and plans, and to provide training that will equip the body of the Church to save its youth and prepare them to take the gospel to all the world. All of its activities are to be co-ordinated into a master strategy for discipling and youth retention.

## **FY 10 Objectives**

**FY 10 05 Objectives of the Department**—1. Provide youth with a Bible-based foundation that will enable them to develop a life-long relationship and commitment to Christ and His Church.

2. Lead youth to understand their individual worth in Christ and to discover and develop their spiritual gifts and abilities.

3. Equip and empower youth for a life of service within God's church and the community.

4. Ensure that local church youth organisations shall have three major objectives:

a. To work for the salvation of young people within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, helping them to grow spiritually, physically, mentally, and socially.

b. To provide fellowship for Seventh-day Adventist youth and organise them to work for the salvation of other young people.

c. To train Seventh-day Adventist youth for leadership roles within the Church and harness their energies for involvement in all branches of church activities.

To accomplish these objectives, the department is to achieve a balanced ministry by incorporating the biblical dynamics of fellowship, nurture, worship, and mission. It is to help the youth to develop their full potential physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially. The Youth Department is committed to maintaining relevance and effectiveness in ministry by relating all its ministry to the needs of youth. To accomplish this, it must listen to youth and be informed as to their perceptions, concerns, and suggestions.

## **FY 15 Departmental Staffing and Responsibilities**

**FY 15 05 Director and Associate Directors**—The Youth Ministries Department Director shall be elected or appointed on the basis of expertise and experience in ministering to youth and be able to care for the specialised ministries, activities, and responsibilities encompassed by the work of the department. The director works under the direction of the Division President and the Division Executive Committee.

**FY 15 10 Responsibilities of Departmental Personnel**—The director shall:

1. Initiate specific and long-term strategic planning to meet youth ministry needs in consultation with unions/attached fields.
2. Initiate ideas, plans, and programmes in co-operation with union/attached field youth ministries personnel.
3. Co-ordinate, evaluate, and monitor youth ministries work and resource materials division-wide.
4. Plan, develop, produce, and oversee, in consultation with the unions/attached fields, the implementation of youth research.
5. Provide core materials such as manuals and guidelines that are necessary to maintain division-wide unity of authorised and approved programmes of the church for its youth.
6. Prepare supportive materials and resources requested by unions/attached fields that may not be able to produce them.
7. Conduct training seminars, workshops and advisories, for departmental staff and the specialised ministries within the department.
8. Equip youth for witnessing by modelling spiritual leadership, by training, and by providing resource materials and consultant services.
9. Co-operate with other departments and services in the faith nurture of Seventh-day Adventist college and university students attending both denominational and non-denominational institutions of higher learning.
10. Give leadership and co-ordination to those programmes that the church body, through its councils, may decide should be given support around the world and may assign to the youth department as its responsibility.
11. Establish and maintain a close liaison with unions/attached fields through frequent consultation.
12. Maintain a system of measurement and evaluation in order to establish trends and to give direction to the work of the department.
13. Recommend policies relative to youth ministry.

**FY 15 15 Division Advisories**—The Division advisory is normally called at the beginning of each new quinquennium. During this time the director meets with the union/attached field directors to discuss ministry needs and opportunities and to lay strategic plans for the next five years.

## FY 20 Programmes and Activities

The Youth Department serves the church through the following specialised ministries and programmes:

1. Junior Youth Ministry
  - Adventurer Club 6-9 years
  - Pathfinder Club 10-15 years
2. Senior Youth/Young Adult Ministry
  - Ambassador Club 16-21 years
  - Senior Youth 22-30+ years
3. Co-operating with the Children's Ministries Department in ministry to younger children
4. Volunteer programmes voted by the Executive Committee.

## FY 25 Public Campus Ministry

**FY 25 05 Objectives**—The Youth Department collaborates with Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries and the Education Department in providing support to Seventh-day Adventists who, for a variety of reasons, attend public colleges and universities around the world. Working under the supervision of a General Conference appointed committee on Adventist Ministry to College and University Students (AMiCUS) and in co-ordination with unions/attached fields, these three departments promote and support initiatives designed to meet the spiritual, intellectual, and social needs of Adventist students on public campuses division-wide. In co-operation with leaders at various church levels, the committee aims to achieve these objectives by strengthening the faith commitment of these students to Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and mission, providing opportunities for Christian fellowship, preparing students to deal with the intellectual challenges that arise in a secular environment, developing their leadership abilities, and training them for outreach, service, and witnessing on the campus, in the community, and in the world at large.

The AMiCUS Committee co-operates with the Adventist Volunteer Centre and Global Mission by encouraging the involvement of these Adventist students as student missionaries or volunteers. It also engages the support of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department in order to obtain, at the regional or national level, Sabbath exemptions for class assignments and examinations for Seventh-day Adventist students.

**FY 25 10 Responsibilities**—The AMiCUS Committee provides overall supervision and co-ordination of this division-wide ministry and, in consultation with leaders in world divisions, promotes initiatives designed to:

1. Organise associations of Adventist students in public campuses and hold special meetings for them.
2. Publish and distribute *College and University Dialogue, a Handbook* and other materials that support this ministry.
3. Train campus chaplains, lay leaders, and pastors in university centres.

The committee also develops an annual budget to carry out its international ministry.

The Youth Ministries Department focuses on fostering the organisation and activities of student associations in college or university centres, training students for leadership and outreach and holding regional student conventions and retreats.

**FY 25 15 Role of the Division**—The Division shall assign to one or two qualified departmental directors the responsibility of leading the ministry to Adventist students on public college and university campuses, with support from the General Conference appointed AMiCUS Committee and in co-ordination with union/attached field leaders in their territory. This ministry seeks to:

1. Foster the organisation and activities of Adventist student associations on public campuses and maintain a current list of them.
2. Hold regional meetings for these students.
3. Budget funds for the free distribution of *Dialogue* and other needed materials.
4. Offer specialised training for campus chaplains, lay leaders, and pastors in university centres.
5. Train students for outreach, service, and evangelism on their campuses, in their communities, and beyond.
6. Promote the involvement of Seventh-day Adventist university professors and other professionals as mentors in this ministry.
7. Connect these students with Seventh-day Adventist colleges and universities as potential transfer students, where possible, and eventually as faculty members.
8. Assist local leaders in establishing and maintaining good relations with administrators of public colleges and universities where there are Adventist students.
9. Engage the services of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department in preventing or solving Sabbath observance issues related to Seventh-day Adventist students in public campuses.
10. Provide co-ordination and guidance for this ministry to their counterparts in the unions/attached fields, as well as periodic assessment.