Northern Synod

TASK TEAM YOUTH MINISTRY AFTER COVID

Report

Task team

Task team leader: Christiaan Ackermann

Task team members: Freddie Prozesky, Bernard van Wyk, Wynand Eloff and Fanie Fourie.

Meetings: The task team met five times.

Introduction

A need arose in the Northern Synod to find out how things were going with congregations' youth ministries after the Covic pandemic. A task team was appointed. The task team set up a Google form to find out how things stood with congregations' youth ministries. The Google form was sent to all the congregations in the Northern Synod. The questions were aimed at determining the possible youth ministry needs in the congregations in the Northern Synod.

The feedback showed that there is a need for community. People working with youth in congregations sometimes feel isolated and need a platform to communicate with one another. There is more than enough material for primary school ministries, but congregations struggle with young adults, especially because the contexts are so different from the available material. There are also many questions about what the best material is, seeing there is so much of it. That is why a WhatsApp group was started where ministers could ask questions about anything in the ministry. This communication includes the exchange of ideas and a platform as a sounding board for youth workers.

Activities

1. The task team decided to create an event where youth workers from the Northern Synod could meet. The event was held 9 and 10 January 2026. About 15 people were present—ministers and youth workers. The event focused on building relationships. An opportunity was created where attendees could get to know one another better.

   The was also a social worker present (Sonja Prozesky) who spoke to us about the correct procedures in legal matters regarding children and teenagers. It was really a very instructive session.

It was also an opportunity to hear what other congregations were doing in their youth ministries—what works and what does not—and to learn what challenges confront youth ministries in congregations.

This event was held at Badseloop camping site.

2. The task team also created an online platform where any youth workers in congregations can join in. There have already been two events. At the first event we talked about catechesis material—what is available and what various congregations are using. At the second event Dr Wicus vd Merwe instructed us about volunteers involved in youth ministry. He also helped us to think about how we should handle volunteers and what the challenges around volunteering are. Time was short and Wicus agreed to come to speak to us again. The plan is that this will happen in person. The date and place must still be confirmed.

Further planning

Although the task team has officially been dissolved, the work goes on. There will be another getaway event where we will further hang out together and think and dream about youth ministry. Date, time and place will be confirmed in the *Verskil* newsletter.

The online events will also continue, seeing that they address a great need. The date and time of the next event will be communicated.

There is also a WhatsApp group on which anyone can ask questions about youth ministry and where we can communicate—anyone is welcome. Send a message to Christiaan at 0662961650 to become part of the group.