

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Are you between the ages of 18 to 30 years old? Do you feel that you have a place to belong in your local church? Can you remember the days when you went to church each Sunday and enjoyed the ministry that was being offered?

I can remember attending church and loving my Sunday school teacher. I appreciated and received so much from the lessons she taught. As I went through my teen years, I enjoyed church because it gave me an opportunity to go church, see friends, and most importantly, grow spiritually with Christ.

As I college student, I attended various churches around the state of South Carolina. I do recall attending many churches and not having a place to belong. The churches were very welcoming but did not relate to my age group or me. Many churches had ministries that focused on children, older adults, and adults that were over 30 years old.

Young adults (between the ages of 18-30) are yearning for a place to belong in church.

It is young adults who go to church all their lives and just one day decide they are too old to be a part of youth group, but too young for "senior" adult Sunday school" or other ministries.

It is young adults who just graduated from high school or college and need ministries and programs that teach how to handle finances, the workforce, how to be a young adult in church.

The young adult ministry has multiple categories where ministries are needed. After a recent meeting and survey, young adults would like to see ministries on prayer life, belonging in local churches, and how to worship as young adults.

Young adult ministry has such a broad age range from 18-30. There are young adults that further their education and those who go straight into the workforce. Many young adults are single, in serious relationships, or are married with children.

The wants and needs for young adults are going to be different as we grow in our walk with Christ.

The Division on Ministries with Young People has a young adult council (YAM net) for all young adults across the state. Our vision is to help young adults stay in their local churches and find ways to help our churches grow.

The YAM net is starting a model in the Columbia and Rock Hill districts that focus on young adults. The Columbia District will hold socials and meetings starting in September 2008, January, March, and June of 2009. For more information concerning young adult ministry in the Columbia district contact Joel McMakin at Joel.Mcmakin@unionunitedmethodist.org

The Rock Hill District young adult ministry is being conducted by the Rev. Narcie Jeter, contact her at winthropwesley@gmail.com

It is true that the youth people are the future. We must start now so we may continue to have growth and spread the love of God for young adults. We are working on starting a young adult movement in the state of South Carolina. For more information, contact Angela Johnson, chairperson of YAMnet at angelarenee.johnson@gmail.com

Angela Renee Johnson, Chair