

## CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EFFECTIVE YOUTH MINISTRY

Effective youth ministries do not occur randomly and haphazardly. They have certain characteristics in common that describe ways in which they operate or practices they seek to develop and maintain.

Listed below are a number of characteristics observed through both study and experience. They are not necessarily definitive, and they are certainly not all equal. They do however provide us with a helpful guide in identifying our own youth ministry's strengths and weaknesses. They consist of 28 strategic assets and are grouped together in seven indicators.

CCCNZ Youth can work with you not only to identify areas to focus on but to suggest strategies to adopt in order to grow in effectiveness.

INDICATORS	ASSETS	DESCRIPTION
<u>Christ-Centred:</u> Christ is central to the life and activities of the youth ministry.	Christ-led	The ministry intentionally seeks to discern and follow Christ's leadership and can give examples of how He has led.
	Christ-focussed	The youth ministry is "all about Jesus". The message of His life, death, resurrection and the new life is frequently taught.
	Christ-conscious	There is a sense of expectancy when the young people meet, as Christ is recognised as immanent and desiring of intimacy.
	Christ-honouring	The youth ministry is a place where Christian values are upheld, and God is glorified in all that takes place.
<u>Intentional:</u> The youth ministry deliberately maintains Biblical purposes and strategies in all it does.	Purposeful	The youth ministry emphasises making disciples who live out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.
	Values-based	The youth ministry has a conscious culture based on shared Biblical values and unique strengths.
	Strategic	The youth ministry has a clear sense of direction and is working purposefully toward achieving God-given goals.
	Assessed	The youth ministry regular assesses itself and identifies areas which need to be strengthened or developed.
<u>Equipped:</u> An intentional strategy for employing and developing leaders is present and working effectively.	Exemplary	Youth leaders are good role models for young people showing maturity and a genuine Christian faith that is evident to all.
	Trained	Youth leaders are experienced and are receiving ongoing training, mentoring and support in their leadership role.
	Diverse	Those involved in leadership in the youth ministry are drawn from a wide range of ages and personalities.
	Youth-led	Leadership responsibilities, training and opportunities to serve are given to young people.

<u>Integrated:</u> The youth ministry operates as an integral part of the wider church.	Body	The youth ministry is an integral part of the church body and young people are known, valued and supported by all.
	Belonging	Young people regard the wider church as “their” church and are engaged and involved in its activities.
	Family	The youth ministry acknowledges the importance of the family and seeks to work with and support parents.
	Transition	The youth ministry successfully manages age-related transitions into and out of the youth ministry.
<u>Relational:</u> The youth ministry sees relationships as being vital to its life and deliberately seeks to enhance these.	Individual	Every young person who comes to the youth programme is individually cared for and prayed for by at least one leader.
	Attendance	Attendance at programmes is monitored and leaders follow up absentees letting them know that they were missed.
	Newcomers	Newcomers are made to feel welcome by youth and leaders alike and quickly gain a sense of belonging and involvement.
	Positive	The youth ministry is a safe place where acceptance, affirmation and encouragement is experienced by all.
<u>Disciple-making:</u> Programmes effectively disciple young people toward maturity in Christ.	Comprehensive	The youth programme seeks to build well-rounded disciples through Bible study, fellowship, worship and prayer.
	Appropriate	Programming is effective in meeting the needs of those at various stages of maturity and Christian growth.
	Missional	Young people understand the importance of mission and are engaged in service and evangelism.
	Excellence	Programmes are prepared and run to a high standard and effort is made to continually improve their quality.
<u>Ordered:</u> Systems and strategies are in place that contribute to the smooth and effective running of the youth ministry.	Planning	There is an intentional long and short-term approach to planning that includes curriculum and weekly programmes.
	Outcomes	Leaders and programmes have clearly defined purposes that include expectations and outcomes.
	Database	An accurate database of contact information for all the young people and their parents exists and is used.
	Communication	Good lines of communication and accountability exist between the youth ministry and all interested parties.