

The Anonymous Findings from Pastoral Interviews
Part 3 Recommendations

Recommendations How the District Can Help the Local Church

The pastors were asked how they felt that the district could help them in their endeavors to reach young adults. Although the majority of pastors see their churches as autonomous entities and not extremely dependent on the district, very few had objections to the district playing a limited role in several key areas such as district-wide awareness, resources, funding, training, and networking.

Young Adult Ministries Education and Awareness

Making young adult ministry a part of the overall ministry of the district is of special importance to several of the pastors. Many hope to have it mentioned at sectional and district meetings. They would like the district to help network people who are interested in young adult ministry with others who are successfully doing so in the district. They desire to be exposed to viable models that are working here and have the chance to dialogue with others.

Resources

Pastors stated that they would appreciate websites which provide resources as well as links to relevant materials on the subject. Over seventy-four percent (f=20) of them said that they would be interested in having high-quality (doctrinally sound) discipleship material for this age group.

Funding

Still others have suggested the possibility of funds being released to churches that did not have the finances to pay workers. Perhaps these funds could be used to help

supplement the budgets of XA workers who, in turn, could work as a staff member in a local church. Others felt it would be advantageous to see the district use funds for district retreats, trainings, and awareness of the needs of this age group. Perhaps materials could be financed through the district for smaller churches which do not have the funds.

Training

Over fifty-percent (f=14) of those interviewed said that they had lay people in their churches who would like to minister to young adults, but they would require training to do so. The pastors felt it would be helpful if the district could help provide training for them.

Networking with Others

Seventy percent (f=19) of those interviewed expressed their desire to collaborate with other churches in their areas, sections, or regions in view of providing social, as well as, training events for young adults. Additionally, they express their interest in having a list of speakers, artists, and musicians who are known for their ministry to young adults.

Networking Students from Churches

Approximately ten percent (f=2.7) felt it would be good if the district played a stronger role in setting up a system that would help network our AG students to local churches and ministries in the areas where they attend college. They would like to see a data base or record keeping system that would allow them to easily access the list of names with contact information of students who will be moving into their area.

District Priority

Eleven percent (f=3) thought it would be important to have a designated person whose full-time ministry would be to make sure education, resources, networking, and

training for this age group was kept in the forefront of our district. This key spokesperson would do research, provide updated tools, keep models available, send out relevant emails, and facilitate networking among those interested in this ministry. Many felt that, unless there was someone whose full-time position was to focus solely on reaching young adults, then young adult ministry would continue to be an area that would not move forward in pace with the current demands of cultural shifts.