

International Youth Leadership Conference

Visionary Goals

GOAL 1

The General Conference Youth Department will mobilize resources for the salvation of young people. The primary focus of our youth ministry is the salvation of our youth. Increased at-risk behavior among our youth, falling standards of morality, and an increase in the rate of youth apostasy brings us again to challenge the church to refocus on our true goal and restate our commitment to the salvation of our youth. We must build on our current strengths but also stretch the Youth Department beyond its traditional boundaries. We must improve the quality of youth ministry for the youth of the church and strengthen our programming to reflect our goal and effect the salvation of our youth.

STRATEGIES

- A. Collaborate with other departments and institutions to make quality youth ministry a church priority.
- B. Contribute to the development and dissemination of knowledge about effective programs and methods for educating youth in salvation and service.
- C. Influence church administrators to provide adequate financial and other support for programs and practices that will significantly improve youth ministry.
- D. Support effective, professional development for directors in youth ministry.

EXAMPLES FOR GOAL 1

1. BACKGROUND OF THE GOAL

- a) Primary focus of youth ministry is the salvation of youth
- b) Salvation of all people is the essence of the plan of redemption

2. CURRENT PROBLEM

- a) Morality falling
- b) Apostasy 20% - 40%

3. WHAT GOAL ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE

- a) Commitment to salvation of youth
- b) Build on our current strengths but also stretch the Youth Department beyond its traditional boundaries
- c) Improve quality of youth ministry for the youth of the church
- d) All programs to strengthen the salvation of youth

4. HOW TO

- a) Work with other departments
- b) Advocate for excellent spiritual youth programs
- c)

5. PLANS

- 1. Financial support for AY Societies
 - a) Championing for effective youth programs and practices
 - b) Disseminate information about youth programs and practices
 - c) Leadership development

6. CONCLUSIONS

Our mission statement declares our determination to achieve the salvation of all youth. This goal commits the General Conference Youth Department to translate that commitment into reality.

GOAL 2

The General Conference Youth Department will be one of the most influential forces in the placement of youth directors at all levels of the church and in the promotion of a high level of professionalism among youth leaders.

In the past, youth ministries has concentrated its efforts on producing quality spiritual products and services for youth leaders. It is becoming increasingly clear that such efforts, whole necessary, are not sufficient in themselves. If youth organizations are to be markedly different, we must inform and persuade not only the youth but those that deal with youth, including their leaders, church administrators, parents and members. The Youth Department will be in the forefront operating a ministry with a worldwide reputation for saving its youth.

STRATEGIES

- A. Publicly promote youth ministry; its mission, goals, and beliefs.
- B. Position General Conference Youth Department as a recognized and valued leading authority on youth issues.
- C. Deliver concise, quality information to church administration.
- D. Identify and advocate positions on significant issues that affect youth ministry.
- E. Create and pursue opportunities to exercise influence with current and new Adventist youth organizations.
- F. Create and pursue opportunities to integrate with other departments and institutions for the improvement of youth ministry to youth.

EXAMPLES FOR GOAL 2

1. BACKGROUND OF THE GOAL

In the past the GC Youth Department has concentrated its efforts on producing quality spiritual products and services for youth leaders. It is becoming increasingly clear that such efforts are necessary, but not sufficient.

2. CURRENT PROBLEM

If youth organizations are to be markedly different, we must inform and persuade the church administrators and those who influence them.

3. WHAT GOAL ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE

- a) To influence church administrators
- b) To capitalize on our strengths and our reputation for quality

4. HOW TO

- a) To provide information to other department
- b) To take positions on significant issues affecting youth ministry.

5. PLANS

- a) To develop new processes/strategies and a different way of thinking
- b) To become a model of systematic change
- c) To seek innovative approaches
- d) Our mission, beliefs, and values of the GC Youth Department are powerful force for influencing youth ministry.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- The GC Youth Department will become one of the most influential forces promoting an outstanding religious education through its ministries to church administration worldwide.
- The General Conference Youth Department will be in the forefront operating a youth ministry with a reputation to save its youth for Christ worldwide.

GOAL 3

The General Conference Youth Department will have fully integrated its belief in and commitment to diversity throughout its governance, programs and affiliation.

This goal expresses the determination of the General Conference Youth Department for the full participation of diverse groups within the activities of the Seventh-day Adventist youth organizations. During the past decade church youth surveys have shown that we are faced with many new challenges and new needs. Our focus and priorities have changed with the problems that are endemic in the society in which our youth live—AIDS, poverty, street kids, secularism, drugs, single parent families, etc. to mention just a few. The achievement of this goal is almost a prerequisite to the primary focus of youth ministry: the salvation of all our young people.

STRATEGIES

- A. Build the capacity of every youth leader to advocate for adversity.
- B. Instill in every youth leader a passionate commitment to diversity.
- C. Influence those who do not yet share the General Conference Youth Department values for diversity.

EXAMPLES FOR GOAL 3

1. BACKGROUND OF THE GOAL

Organization represents diverse role groups.

2. CURRENT PROBLEM

During the last decade church/youth surveys have shown that the Youth Department is faced with new challenges and new needs to welcome diversity as a priority e.g. Aids, poverty, street kids, secularism, drugs, single parent families, etc.

3. WHAT GOAL ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE

The goal expresses the determination of the General Conference Youth Department for the full participation of diverse groups within the Seventh-day Adventist youth organization activities.

4. HOW TO

- a) Collaborate with other departments
- b) Become involved with educational institutions
- c) Long-term strategic diversity plan to meet these new trends

5. PLANS

- a) Influence youth leaders
- b) Activities to reflect this new challenge
- c) Information focusing on the diverse needs of youth

6. CONCLUSIONS

This goal is an essential prerequisite to the primary focus of youth ministry salvation for all young people.

GOAL 4

The General Conference Youth Department will actively engage in enhancing the capacity of Adventist youth organizations in the local church and educational systems for change and self-renewal.

By focusing our energies on this goal we intend to develop a new level of youth leadership that will help our youth organizations at the local level not only to initiate but also to sustain the capacity for change and self-renewal. We need to equip our leaders in all youth cultures to achieve the goals and mission of the church relative to its youth.

STRATEGIES

- A. Provide structures and supports that help Adventist youth organizations, conferences, educational institutions and other affiliates to initiate and sustain change efforts overtime.
- B. Encourage and assist AY Societies in local churches and educational institutions to plan for implement and institutionalize knowledge based curriculum and instructional innovations.
- C. Provide objective information on knowledge-based programs and practices to parents, church boards, civic leaders and citizens that result in eternal decision making.

EXAMPLES FOR GOAL 4

1. BACKGROUND OF THE GOAL

- a) Tremendous potentials of local youth programs
- b) Potentials not realized

2. CURRENT PROBLEM

- a) Lack of trained leadership
- b) Lack of materials
- c) Lack of understanding of youth subcultures
- d) Lack of understanding of purpose and potentials of local youth organizations
- e) Lack of purpose leads to people just doing what is right in their own eyes: confusion
- f) Lack of a "blue print" for a youth organization brings in worldly influences

3. WHAT GOAL ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE

- a) Leadership. equip leaders in areas of youth cultures
- b) Strong youth organization worldwide
- c) When local youth organization is strengthened, local conference will thrive

4. HOW TO

- a) Youth Federations
- b) Seminars on "Philosophy and History of the Youth Organization"
- c) Utilize colleges/universities as resource or training centers supporting local church youth ministry

5. PLANS

- a) Establish Youth Federations and similar organizations
- b) Establish resource or training centers on educational campuses
- c) Orientation and consultation visits to educational institutions
- d) Utilize the campus youth organization to influence or support local church youth organization

CONCLUSIONS

By focusing our energies on this goal, we intend to devote a new level of youth leadership to helping youth organizations not only initiate, but also sustain the capacity of Adventist youth organization in the local church and educational systems for change and self renewal. Strong AY organizations of local churches and institutions.

GOAL 5

The General Conference Youth Department will have restructured itself to fully exemplify the principles of youth ministry which include learning, values and practices of a constantly changing society

The environment in society is constantly changing. To be successful our ministry must respond to challenges that the political, social, and economic pressures bring upon our youth.

STRATEGIES

- A. Organize General Conference Youth Department to promote flexibility among specialty areas and fluidity of staff roles.
- B. Foster an organizational climate that encourages the creativity and commitment of associates to fulfilling Youth Department's mission, goals and beliefs.
- C. Continually improve processes and structures that encourage the professional growth and development of youth leaders.
- D. Continually improve processes and structures with General Conference Youth Department that encourage and support shared decision-making and open communication.
- E. Develop and implement appraisal systems that attract and retain highly qualified and dedicated youth leaders.
- F. Continually improve processes to ensure the quality of internal and external communications, services and products.
- G. Develop and implement a financial management system that is participatory and recognizes future consequences of decisions.
- H. Continually influence the structures and processes used by the General Conference Youth Department affiliates, governing bodies, advisory groups so that they exemplify the values and practices of a self-renewing organization.

EXAMPLES FOR GOAL 5

1. BACKGROUND OF THE GOAL

- a) The changing environments or societies
- b) Ministries need to respond to the needs in these societies for successful accomplishment of the tasks (salvation of youth)

2. CURRENT PROBLEM

- a) New sets of challenges and problems--political, social, economical, etc.
- b) Youth ministry-challenged to meet needs of a rapidly changing society

3. WHAT GOAL ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE

- a) New initiatives
- b) Youth leaders adequately equipped to address the issues resulted from the challenges that affect youth ministry

4. HOW TO

- a) Leadership training
- b) Long-range planning (training)
- c) Research
- d) Networking

5. PLANS

- a) Dissemination of relevant information to youth leaders
- b) Intensive and purposeful training
- c) Raise the consciousness and sensitivity resulting from social, political and economical problems
- d) Revamping existing programs as needed

6. CONCLUSIONS

Youth ministry will fully meet the challenges of a changing society by exemplifying its principles, values and practices.

GOAL 6

The General Conference Youth Department will work together with administration, pastors, educators, and youth leaders throughout the organizational structure of the world church to promote quality youth leadership that will address both national and global youth issues for salvation of young people.

The whole church is to be united in working for the salvation of its youth. The structure and organization must reflect our common purpose. Increasing membership and often insufficient resources demand that we develop a unified approach and pooling of our joint expertise.

STRATEGIES

- A. Establish an organizational structure that can flexibly meet members physical, mental, spiritual, and social needs in national regional and international locations.
- B. Develop youth ministry products, programs and services that reflect international perspectives.
- C. Provide professional development opportunities for all youth directors which increase staff knowledge on an international level.
- D. Establish information pathways (networks) between General Conference Youth Department and all other levels of church organization by developing new communication structures.
- E. Target specific areas of strategic interest to General Conference Youth Department and division colleagues, devote resources to them, and coordinate international activities throughout the Adventist youth organizations.
- F. Provide access to information through the electronic mail system to enable participation in dialogue relative to issues in youth ministry.
- G. Develop a communication and marketing structure specifically designed for international youth organization.
- H. Develop internal and external structures that encourage the exchange of information about new initiatives and good practices in youth ministry around the world.
- I. Develop and participate in international meetings aimed at an improved youth ministry.

EXAMPLES FOR GOAL 6

1. BACKGROUND OF THE GOAL

- a) Synergize
- b) Outreach—together
- c) Inreach—fragmented

2. CURRENT PROBLEM

- a) Structure of the organization fragmented

- b) Approach used in addressing the issues at hand lacking
- c) Dwindling resources vs. Membership increases

3. WHAT GOAL ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE

- a) Networking
- b) Cooperation
- c) Sharing of experience, information for the strengthening of youth ministry and the church

4. HOW TO

- a) Evaluation
- b) Networking and cooperation
- c) Teamwork approach
- d) Biblical blueprint for above mentioned items

5. PLANS

- a) Consultation
- b) Inter-departmental cooperation
- c) Media
- d) Visioning (Imagining)

6. CONCLUSIONS

The whole church united to save its youth for Christ.