



**Office of the Provincial Youth Coordinator  
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TO : The Bishops, Clergy and Members  
Provincial Standing Committee  
ACSA

## **YOUTH REPORT – June 2012**

Once again, it give us great pleasure that we are able to provide a report on Provincial Youth activities and achievements.

A very successful PYC Consultation in June 2011 saw the election of a new Executive committee under the continued Presidency of Ms Nonhlanhla Shezi and incoming Provincial Youth Chaplain, Revd. Tom Tshiponyane (Diocese of Matlosane). New executive members include Zukisa Jeyi (Deputy President (Diocese of Port Elizabeth)), Nonkululeko Dineka (Secretary (Diocese of Johannesburg)), Elsie Mahlaela (Treasurer (Diocese of Pretoria)), Sithule Siyatula (Diocese of Mthatha) and Shane Thomas (Diocese of False Bay). Nasson Paruque (Diocese of Lobombo) was the only other member who was re-elected.

We thank all the outgoing Executive members for their hard work and dedication in “rebirthing” PYC over the last 3 years.

2011/2 also saw us achieve the following:

1. The upgrade and migration of the AYSA web site to a new service provider and the development of our Mobi website which is accessible on cell phones.
2. Production and distribution of the AYSA poster to all the Dioceses.
3. Visits to Dioceses – Cape Town, False Bay, Saldanha Bay, Johannesburg, Christ the King, St Marks, Lesotho, Matlosane, Swaziland, Lebombo, Mthatha, Pretoria, Kimberley & Kuruman. Visits included speaking at events, meeting with the Youth Leaders and training.
4. Attending the SACCYF Conference in Johannesburg in November 2011. A delegation from PYC Exec attended this conference and helped to bring objectivity to this event.

Tony Lawrence – **Coordinator**, Nonhlanhla Shezi – **President**, Zukisa Jeyi – **Vice President**, Elsie Mahlaela – **Treasurer**, Nonkululeko Dineka – **Secretary**, Sithule Siyotula – **Member**, Nasson Paruque – **Member**, Shane Thomas – **Member**, Bishop Steve Diseko – **Bishop Liaison**, Rev Tom Tshiponyana – **Provincial Youth Chaplain**

5. Continued involvement in the Vision 2020 priority on the protection and nurture of children and young people by attending the meetings of the Vision Implementation Team.
6. Completed a joint fund raiser with the St George's Cathedral.

Current work in progress includes:

1. Development of a generic model for youth ministry for ACSA. Currently we are gathering information from those Dioceses who have implemented workable strategies as well as acquiring input from experts in this field. (See below)
2. We are also exploring a joint venture with Hope Africa to develop a job readiness programme for young people who are between formal studying and active employment.
3. In our quest to ensure that PYC is serving the Dioceses effectively, we will be critically evaluating our role and ministry so that we can implement the interventions required to be able to fruitfully benefit the youth ministry across the Province.
4. Preparations for the Anglicans Ablaze Conference in October and welcoming the opportunity to serve the delegates and particularly the young people with ministry and resources.

In order to shape our thinking for the future, we decided to read up on some of our historical documents/reports produced over the years and two investigations in particular raises some interesting perspectives. The two reports are:

- a. Report of Investigation into work among young people in the Church of the CPSCA – prepared by R. Mbelle and R. Christianson – November 1974.
- b. Strategic Evaluation into Youth Ministry within the CPSCA with special reference to the PYC and ASF – prepared by Ven Dr. Brian Germond and Canon Timothy Mncube – Sept 1997

Both these initiatives concluded with the following summarised outcomes, viz.

- The real ministry to young people must be at the Parish level and must be supported by Archdeaconary, Diocesan and Provincial structures instead of being driven by them.
- Youth issues in the church in the 1970's 80's and 90's are similar in nature to the youth issues in the church today, viz. lack of involvement, no voice and opportunity to express their needs (no one is listening). The challenges are the same today although more complex because of the many more (secular) options open to young people.
- Recommendations made and interventions suggested (involving the youth in church activities, licensing youth leaders, etc.) may have been applied over the years, but were not sustained, or, were never implemented in many cases. (The main thing is that there are still severe struggles with youth ministries at parish level.)

Therefore, it would seem that not much has changed in meeting an effective ministry to young people. The ministry to young people at parish level remains our biggest challenge and priority in the church and we again remind PSC of our recommendations at our last PSC meetings in 2011 and to consider the following key imperatives:

1. A serious focus on the Children's ministry (Sunday School) is required so that a strong spiritual foundation in children can be built and so that the youth ministry during their teen years can be made easier and more manageable.
2. That we consider the training of, and appointment of, a part/full time youth minister/pastor/champion per Parish and that that person be licensed as a Lay Minister and participate in PCC and Pastorate in terms of contributing to, and influencing decisions.
3. That Dioceses develop a greater appreciation for Youth Chaplains and that they be given operational and travel budgets in order for them to support and help develop the youth ministries at Parish levels.

At PSC this year we hope to bring strong recommendations on how we can address the issue of developing more important and effective competencies required to build strong parochial youth ministries. However, this must go hand in hand with our three broader support interventions recommended above.

In closing, we wish to thank our Bishops and Dioceses for their prayers and support and for acknowledging the importance of this ministry for the continuance of the Anglican Church as we know it. We also wish to thank all our partner organisations for their support and leadership.

We covet your continued prayers as we rethink our methods and models for youth ministry for the sake of the Gospel and the mission Christ has given us as the Church. The message of The Gospel remains the same for all of us, but the way we convey or deliver the message will have to change if we are going to effectively reach all the young people God has placed in our care.

Grace and peace to all in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Tony Lawrence  
Provincial Youth Coordinator

(Ms) Nonhlanhla Shezi  
President of PYC

Revd. Tom Tshiponyane  
Provincial Youth Chaplain