

Ministry and Development Priorities of Provincial Youth Council and the ACSA Vision Implementation Team for 2013.

A collaboration between the Provincial Youth Council (PYC) and the ACSA Vision Implementation Team, the ministry and development priorities for Children and Youth ministries for 2013 onwards were formulated and agreed upon.

Each priority is listed with explanatory notes. It gives a broad explanation and will require specific action planning and delivery outcomes to be developed.

1. Fostering & active promotion of our common identity in AYSA thereby integrating all young people related ministries.

The common identity is the understanding that all children and young people (from age 0 to 35+ and who are baptised in the Anglican Church) are covered by Anglican Youth in Southern Africa (AYSA) and this includes all children and youth orientated ministries, guilds and organisations. AYSA is the movement of children and young people in ACSA and are identified by their unique logo/emblem. AYSA is administered by Provincial Youth Council (PYC) and this Council is made up of representatives of all the Dioceses in ACSA.

There needs to be ongoing promotion of AYSA to ensure that the entire church understands this structure and how it can support the ministries especially at a Diocesan level.

2. To establish an ACSA children's ministry Development Team to address issues such as training and development of teachers and children's workers, development of leadership skills, recommendations on facilities required, dealing with abuse of all forms, and to provide resources to all dioceses. A similar team needs to be established for young people.

These two teams will be made up of qualified professionals in our church and will include theologians, academics, psychologists, educationalists and others from children and youth ministries like Sunday School Teachers, Youth Pastors and Chaplains. In addition, experts from organisations within ACSA will also be invited, viz. Mothers Union, Anglican Women's Fellowship, Liturgical Committee, Gender and others.

Their primary role is to help to define a framework for the spiritual development and formation of all our children and young people from the age of 1 through to 35+. Given the outcomes expected at any age, the teams need to develop a curriculum for spiritual formation with the necessary content and methodologies for teaching/leading.

3. That these teams pursue provision of entry level training on theology, Anglicanism, policy and pastoral standards (code of conduct), and liturgy for all Sunday school teachers, youth leaders and youth pastors – i.e. personal ministry and theological formation.

Given the curriculum and outcomes described above, the teams need to develop a framework for the training of Sunday School Teachers, Youth leaders/pastors/ministers, and all those involved in ministries



to children and young people. This will be a basic training and development programme applicable to ALL lay leaders with a specific focus on the ministries to children and young people.

4. Development of a holistic and continuous outcomes base syllabus for children and young people with ongoing support through the establishment of an AYSA support office.

The implementation, resourcing and support must be provided by a central (Provincial) support office who will also monitor the effectiveness of the implementation across ACSA.

5. Creation of alternative teaching & training mediums and methodologies (Cartoons, YOUTUBE, TV, etc.).

Development teams must take cognisance of the development stages of any child and young person and must be creative and innovative in providing methodologies and mediums that would have maximum impact and effectiveness in ensuring a great spiritual formation intervention in the life of any child and young person.

6. Develop youthful liturgies and guidelines for the use by children and young people.

In collaboration with the Provincial Liturgical Committee, we hope to develop more appropriate and effective liturgies for use by the leaders of children and youth ministries.

7. Development of an AYSA Operations manual.

The AYSA Operations Manual will set out guidelines and frameworks for ministry as well as describe our church structures, our partners, programmes and other relevant information necessary for the leaders to establish and maintain a healthy ministry to the children and young people.

8. Establish a Provincial Fund for training of Lay Leadership in children and young people's ministries as well as for the formation of Young Clergy.

Both developing the materials and resources as well as the training of 100's of children and youth leaders across ACSA will cost a fair amount of money. Apart from developing a funding proposal, it is also recommended that we establish a Provincial Fund in this regard.

9. Contributing to Clergy formation in the area of ministry to children and young people (skills & attitude).

We have recognised the need to ensure that our ordinands and current and future clergy be fully equipped to be able to ensure that a vibrant, effective and sustainable children's and youth ministry be established in each parish and chapelry. In collaboration with the College of Transfiguration, Growing the Church, and other training entities, we hope to provide the training interventions required to develop our clergy with the necessary skills to be able to do this.

Closing note:

The above priorities will be grouped into a formal project which will see various pilot implementations done during 2013 and a full roll out in 2014 onwards.

