

Summer 2020





Partnering With Pastor: A Benefit for Me, My Pastor, & Our Congregation

I have been blessed to have a good partnership with my pastor, especially in regards to youth ministry in our congregation. It probably helps that his son is in the youth group, but I think communication has been one of the biggest reasons for a partnership that works well. We each know that we can share plans, ideas, concerns, or requests and the other will listen and respond appropriately, with the understanding that dialogue is encouraged. I know this positive partnership has benefited me and I believe it has been a benefit to my pastor and our congregation as well. Here are a few examples of how:

A Benefit for Me

Although I have grown up in the church and have had more opportunities for Biblical training than the average layperson, there are still many times that I don't know how best to explain a passage of scripture or how to accurately answer a question posed by a student. It is a comfort to know that when I approach my pastor with questions, he is glad to use his knowledge, experience, and resources to help me.

A Benefit for My Pastor

Sometimes youth are a little more willing to share struggles than their parents. If I hear of an individual or family within our congregation who may be in need of pastoral support or counseling, I will bring that need to my pastor in an appropriate way so that he is better able to shepherd the flock.

A Benefit for Our Congregation

I have recently been reminded that our youth are not just the future of our congregation, but they are a part of our congregation now. As I work with my pastor we can ensure that our youth have opportunities not only to see the Christian life modeled by those older than them, but also to use their gifts and abilities to serve our congregation right now.



*Liz McCarlson
Volunteer Youth Leader
Faith Free Lutheran, Mpls*

YOUTH WORKERS WEEKENDS

January 15-17, 2021

An Annual Retreat for Those Who Serve Teens

Registration Options:

Saturday Seminar \$60 | One Night \$120 | Full Weekend \$150

Buy One, Get One Half Off! (from the same congregation)

Registration will open October, 2020

www.aflc.org/youth/youth-workers-weekends



Video Connection

60-minute offerings for volunteer and vocational youth leaders

Tuesday, Jun 16 at 3PM (Central)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/306350773>

Thursday, Jun 18 at 8PM (Central)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/437575669>





Reference Room

By: Pr Jason Holt

Partnering With Pastor: 3 to Avoid & 3 to Activate

One of my best friends, John, served as the director for a small Bible camp when he was still in college. He granted me the honor to serve with him as assistant director for one summer before I married my wife Jennifer. Long-time friends working together created a great environment for spurring one another on in the tasks for children and teens to hear about Jesus.

A particular situation arose that John discussed with me and few key leaders. We came to a conclusion and I didn't agree. A few hours later, I was sitting at his right hand, as his right hand man, at a full staff meeting. John was describing what would happen, when somewhat under my breath, I commented mid-announcement by John how it was not going to work.

First, he stared at me in shock for a few moments. Next, he gave me a glare like a momma bear robbed of her cubs. Then he resumed the meeting and briefly concluded it. John wisely addressed it immediately afterwards with me in private.

In a grand total of nine seconds, I hit all three areas to avoid in working with a spiritual leader, a ministry supervisor, or a pastor.



Partnering with Pastor: 3 to Avoid & 3 to Activate

3 Areas to Avoid

1) Surprise - Everyone may enjoy surprise parties, but no spiritual leader asks for surprise comments in public. Your pastor doesn't want to be surprised by the same day lock-in idea on a Saturday night that impacts Sunday morning congregational set-up. Emergencies occur often enough. A youth director's words or decisions should not contribute to them.

2) Uncertainty - My words raised doubts. Different than the healthy environment to question and probe, which had already occurred with the leadership, I threw out my comments of uncertainty in a setting where it could not be processed. The result was kitchen staff and dorm room leaders looking at one another to make sense of it. A youth director contributes to the solutions for healthy ministry, not to the problems.

3) Insubordination - In the middle of delivering the marching orders is not the time to question. In addition to the surprise and uncertainty of my comments, the attitude that I expressed undercut the initiative. Know your congregational structure and honor it. This was not mutiny. It may have been worse: seeds of discord. A youth director approaches servant leadership from remembering one's role in the local congregation is equipping the saints.

Reflection: What About You?

> Which of the "avoid" areas are you most tempted to do right now? How can you adjust?

> Which of the "activate" ones do you need to begin? What is your first step?

3 Areas to Activate

1) Inform - Tell your spiritual leader your ideas. Describe options on how these ideas could work in your context. Explore what can be done and what can be done together. We say in the AFLC in regards to finances, an informed people are a giving people. The parallel is true for spiritual leaders. An informed pastor is a giving pastor. It is difficult to affirm ideas that he has not heard. Mark 5:33 indicates that the woman with the dozen-year bleeding ailment came to Jesus and "told him the whole truth." What is important for confession is also powerful for team ministry following Jesus together.

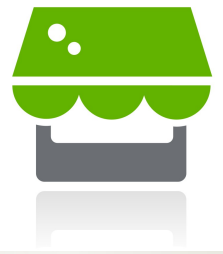
2) Align - Connect with the vision for congregational ministry. Hold the private conversations where you or others have varied ideas for direction. Once again, follow the structure that your local congregation has in place, and then be mature enough to accept when it does not go the way that you prefer. Mark 5:28 explains that the woman understood if she came to the Savior King, then she would be changed. She aligned to Christ and did not expect Him to align with her plan. Jesus is the Head of the Church.

3) Support - More than a passive affirmation, when we remember that all ministry is about our Savior King Jesus, then we can affirm a congregational leadership's decision. Mark 5:30 points out the gracious nature of our Deliverer. Jesus asked for the woman to respond. He looked around for her. We support one another as the Body of Christ, knowing the Lord is seeking us and our good. We are building Christ's Kingdom, not ours.

*Pastor Jason Holt
AFLC Director
of Youth Ministries*



Convenience Store



Reinventing Graduations

12 Ideas for Celebrating 12th Graders

www.cymt.org/senior-recognition-12-ideas-for-celebrating-graduating-seniors-during-covid



20in20 Campaign

National Teen Outreach Emphasis for October

www.everyschool.com/20in20



stickersandmore.com

Name Covers It for Anything Youth Min Gear

www.stickersandmore.com



YM Summer News Page

Page in the 2020 AFLC Annual Conference Edition

www.aflc.org/youth/wp-content/uploads/2020-Summer-News_Youth.pdf

Features

click a pic to see the link



Apprenticeship
Program

Youth
Ministry
Apprentices



Video
Connection



Annual
Conference
Youth



FLY Beyond 2020



See You
At The Pole



Youth
Workers
Weekends



AFLC Youth
Ministries

AFLC Youth Ministries: A Treasury of Opportunities

May 30, 2020
Apprenticeship Program
Application Deadline for
2020-2021

June 16 & 18, 2020
Video Connection
Third Tues & Thurs
June, Aug, Oct

Aug. 10-12, 2020
Annual Conf. Youth
Morning teen track

July 19-23, 2020
FLY Beyond
Youth equipping week

Wed, Sep. 23, 2020
See You At The Pole
National student day of
prayer

Jan. 15-17, 2021
YW Weekends
Annual event for those
who serve teens

AFLC Youth Ministries
Here to serve you!
www.aflc.org/youth

*Watch for our AFLC Youth
App to be released this
summer!*



AFLC Youth Ministries

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FOR YOUTH WORKERS

The Contact is issued twice a year to encourage and engage youth workers of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC).

FOR CONGREGATIONS

The AFLC is a growing fellowship of 253 congregations whose members believe that the Bible is true and that everyone needs Jesus.

FOR TEENAGERS

AFLC Youth Ministries exists to win teens to Christ, to build them in God's Word and God's love, to equip them to live and share their faith, and to multiply maturing teen disciples of Jesus.

