

Resources for Youth Programming Beyond the United Methodist Church

While it is general practice within the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church to use materials available from Cokesbury, this may not always be possible. In communities where youth from different denominations meet together or for other reasons, sometimes an outside curriculum is a better "fit" for your congregation. These curricula may need tweaking to make them work for you, but there are some great ideas which may inspire you! Clicking on the things will take you to home pages and ordering information. This is simply to get you started – there are lots out there!

[Journey to Adulthood](#): The Journey to Adulthood is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th-12th grades, designed in three two-year components. It encourages relational ministry and uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to underscore the two guiding principles of the program: 1) Manhood and womanhood are free gifts from God; and 2) Adulthood must be earned.

[Not the Same Old Done-It-Before Youth Meetings](#): Fun Friends Faith Several youth are on the way to your church anticipating an evening with friends. They seek direction from their youth leaders, which will engage them in activities that bring them together. Whether five, fifteen or fifty are in the group, "Not the Same Old, Done-it-before Youth Meeting" has ideas for you. From the simulated court dramas of "The Jury Speaks" to the interactive "Trust Exercises" youth will find fun, friends and faith. The "Olympics" describes seven weeks of events which equally challenge athletic and intellectual skills. "Flashlight Sing" will get the most introverted youth singing while "Walking on Water" brings them into the presence of Jesus, himself. The structure and indexes of the book make it easy to find just the right activity for your youth group meeting. The book gives youth leaders the tools to creatively plan events, which meet each group's unique needs while having fun, making new friends and enhancing the faith of all participants. Tim Ferguson has been developing programs for youth for over thirty years. He has worked with young people between the ages of twelve and the early twenties but his focus has been on junior and senior high students. In addition, Tim has been employed by the Suffolk County Department of Social Services in the foster care and child protective fields. Currently he is an Assistant Director of the Child Placement Bureau. Tim has done mission work in El Salvador and is the creator of the website "Not the Same Old, Done-it-before Christian Youth Meeting." Tim has four grown children, all of whom have enjoyed his youth programs. He and his wife,

Linda, continue as leaders of the Junior/Senior High program at the Deer Park Presbyterian Church in New York.

[Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens](#): Written by a team of adults and teens, Way to Live discusses concrete ways youth can practice Christianity in everyday life. This book answers teens' yearning for a meaningful way of life by inviting them into an abundant way of life Jesus offers and challenging them to join others in practicing their faith. Through teen-friendly language and relevant examples, Way to Live uses stories and ideas that make Christian practice come alive. Practices such as forgiveness, work, play, stuff, justice, prayer, food, and time are discussed as ways to nourish a more meaningful life offered by Jesus Christ. 18 teens and 18 adults joined together to write Way to Live. Their collective wisdom and experience offers things that readers can do -- rather than things not to do. It also presents each practice as a gift and not a task that engages readers in the real world. Great for youth ministry and small group study, Way to Live is perfect for individual use too.

[Head to Heart](#): Developed by a Lutheran Pastor, the [Faith Five](#) program for living faith within the family has been developed into a Youth Confirmation curriculum. This program involves the parents as well as the young person in the faith journey that leads to Confirmation.

[Chosen! Won!: Devotions for Teens by Teens](#): From the folks at [Vibrant Faith Ministries](#), this inspiring collection of devotions is written by High School Students about the issues that most concern them. These young authors describe the challenges they faced and share their stories of faith in hopes of helping other teens experiencing the same obstacles.

[Confirmation Journey](#): Also from the [Vibrant Faith Ministries](#) folks, these thought-provoking TalkPoints make it easier for youth to engage with adults in faith-forming conversations. Now available for two distinctive audiences (student and mentor), this resource provides pages of conversation starters for both parties to answer in writing. Once the pages are filled out, the youth and parent/mentor meet to discuss their responses. A great way to grow in relationships and in faith!