

WDC/SCC Youth Ministry
Dwight Regier, Network Team Leader

Conference youth ministry in the Western District and South Central Conferences has two main components:

1. Network Team Leader
 - a. Meet individually with youth pastors for consultation, resourcing, pastoral care, and prayer
 - b. Lead monthly lunches for youth pastors for sharing, input, and discussion
 - c. Seek vision and coordinate with the WDC/SCC Youth Ministry Committee
2. WDC/SCC Youth Ministry Committee
 - a. Lead the planning of high school and junior high conference-wide events
 - b. Support smaller events envisioned and planned by youth pastors within the conferences

Like all aspects of congregational life, youth ministry has been reshaped by the physical distancing required by Covid 19. The vast majority of regular meetings have moved online. In the early days of distancing, many groups found that meeting online was a welcome chance to interact. Over time, however, many groups have experienced “Zoom-fatigue”: since seemingly all of life had gone online (including school) youth found yet another online meeting less appealing. Additionally, the limitations on what can be done online challenge ministry: how do you do service projects, create meaningful and spontaneous venues for interaction, experiment with worship over Zoom? Please keep your youth and their leaders in your prayers.

Before Covid 19 made itself felt, the WDC/SCC Youth Ministry Committee (Isaac Landis, Whitestone; Clayton Gladish, Hesston Mennonite; Derek King, Eden; and Marshall Anderson, Faith Newton) unveiled Youth.Lead.Now. On February 29 about 12 youth from WDC and SCC churches met at Faith Mennonite (Newton) and explored adaptive leadership and discipleship. Like so many other in-person meetings, when the next Youth.Lead.Now event will happen is unclear, but the concept is one that the Youth Ministry Committee wants to pursue.