

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH MINISTRY FOR THE DIOCESE  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

MEETING NOTES

17 November 83  
Diocesan Center - N.Y.C.

Attending: His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian  
Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian  
James Magarian  
Nancy Basmajian  
Elise Antreassian  
Michael Zeytoonian

Guest: John Roberto, Director, Northeast Center for Youth Ministry

Committee Members unable to attend:  
Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian  
Rev. Dcn. Michael Chevian  
Frank Stoneson  
Sarkis Bedevian

The meeting was opened with a prayer offered by Fr. Yeprem at 11:05 a.m.  
Moderating discussion was James Magarian.

1. Discussion

Committee members, along with John Roberto, discussed various strategies in dealing with Youth Ministry - particularly in the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

✓ The immediate need singled out was the need to train and utilize Regional Field Workers, as well as parish-based youth workers. Several training strategies were discussed:

a) Training Full-Time Youth Workers (Ministers)

John Roberto explained one of several programs designed for the full-time youth worker.

✓ A six week summer program (offered through LaSalle) which includes monthly supervision throughout the year while the Youth worker serves a parish or region. In addition, a full week of study takes place in December and in March. A two-year commitment is necessary for this program, with a "certificate" earned upon completion. Also, 18-20 college credits are earned toward a M.A.  
....training...supervision...evaluation...practical experience...

b) Training Part-Time Youth Workers

Utilizing a "weekend" format, a series of 8 weekend training sessions would take place throughout the year at the graduate or undergraduate level taking in serious study and training -or- a more personal enrichment approach could be utilized. Fees vary.

c) Training Volunteers and/or Part-Time Youth Workers

One-day and weekend "workshops and institutes" created and designed to meet the needs of the Youth Ministry program of the Diocese, as well as the needs of the youth workers themselves. Assessment of needs of program and workers conducted first, then program is designed around the information received. It is suggested that "four workshop or institute days" be sponsored throughout the year for the youth workers. There would be a connection and growth pattern connecting the institutes.

....discussions....light reading....theory....practice....

It was mentioned that for <sup>A</sup>paid staff members, full-time or <sup>B</sup>part-time degrees and certificates are needed for proper credentials. Academic background is a big plus.

With all programs, some personal monitoring is a must.

Must determine where greatest needs are....personal enrichment, motivation, program development....mixed needs...basic levels....coordinator levels....

Time frames: Northeast Center for Youth Ministry feels that beginning a serious program (at any level) could realistically commence in fall of 1984. Ground work needed, research, decisions, prepare parishes, develop clear expectations, orientation, scheduling, participants.

Should develop survey of key people involved for their serious participation. Must develop a sense of "ownership" for parishes and volunteers on program.

Decisions to go ahead with Youth Ministry Program for Diocese are made at the Diocesan Level....however, the input from the parish level is important for Program Direction.

Must explain that the Program is to evolve slowly....no overnight success anticipated. Evaluation and supervision to be accomplished as an ongoing part of Youth Ministry Program and Department. Diocesan Department of Youth Ministry to supply less direct services....but take on a role of supervisor, program director/developer/suggestor/evaluator. Direct services would be needed in small, out of the way parishes, which would not come under a region, and could not afford a paid youth worker.

Department must develop a knowledge of each parish - resources, facilities, potentials, numbers....parish profile.

Selection of options, decisions of training and program development will take place and the Northeast Center for Youth Ministry will be contacted for over-all program to begin.

2. Regional Parish Meetings

a) New England - Saturday, December 17th, Watertown.

b) New York/New Jersey - Thursday, December 15th, Diocesan Center.

c) Presentations

Presentations will be prepared by James Magarian and Nancy Basmajian following a meeting with the Northeast Center. The presentations will focus on the progress of the Youth Ministry Program, orientating the meeting participants to the idea of youth ministry, as well as inviting their ideas and thoughts on the direction of the program and what areas should be considered.

3. Future Work

a) Weekend training institute

Selected potential youth workers will be invited to participate in the first of several weekend training institutes designed by both the Department of Youth Ministry, and, the Northeast Center for Youth Ministry. Proposed date - March 23-25, 1984.

b) "One day" training seminars will also take place within the regions.

c) Nancy Basmajian and James Magarian will meet with John Roberto in December to discuss future efforts and relations between Department of Youth Ministry and Northeast Center. Frank Stoneson will also be present and advise.

d) Presentations for regions and parishes will be prepared.

e) Presentation will also be made at an appropriate time at the Diocesan Assembly in May.

f) A 3 year plan on training and program will be drafted, along with a working mission statement, and a parish survey developed to determine resources and potentials of all parishes of the Diocese.

g) Request the Primate to send letters of invitation to potential youth workers to participate in training programs.

4. Youth Ministry Committee

It was decided to suspend regular Committee meetings for the time being. Committee members feel that the Committee itself has served its purpose of initiating a new youth program for the Diocese, and that the Department of Youth Ministry should now develop the programs and ideas of the Committee.

The meeting closed with a prayer offered by Fr. Yeprem at 2:15 p.m.