

PROPOSAL TO RESTRUCTURE THE ACYOA

Rough Draft to be presented to the Blue Ribbon Committee

Introduction

After forty years under the present ACYOA structure, which was designed for the pre-baby boom generation (pre-second and third generation socialization), we must recognize the socio-economic changes which affect the needs and behavior of our young people today.

We propose to re-direct the organization by augmenting its strengths and minimizing its weaknesses. In order to do this, we will restructure the organization by integrating into it current trends and professional techniques in youth ministry.

We affirm the ACYOA name and the principles set forth in the constitution with some changes. We recognize the significant contribution of the ACYOA in developing clerical and lay leaders as well as church members. We also recognize that most adults in the church today have gone through an ACYOA chapter and have fond memories of their activities and friends there.

The chapter organization and the General Assembly process are proven systems in training future leaders as well as teaching youth about the function of the Diocese and the parish. By changing the name or this part of the structure, we risk undermining this important strength.

However, socio-economic and technological changes in our society have adversely affected the influence of both the church and family and presented us with a great challenge. We propose to confront this challenge in the following manner:

1. By developing a youth ministry Christian model that includes teaching our faith and our heritage.
2. By developing a model that is both specific and public and that prevades all our programs.

3. By including children in this model. Therefore, the Department of Youth Ministry (DYM) would work with the DRE and the Language Lab in creating and implementing programs for children as well as teens and young adults.

The purpose of the new ACYOA youth ministry program is to meet both the needs of the church and its young people thereby bringing them together in the church.

The church needs:

1. Youth participation in church life.
2. Members who are educated in the teachings of the Armenian Church and who practice those teachings in their daily lives.
3. Members who are educated in their cultural heritage.
4. Leaders.
5. Members who are willing to donate their talents and/or financial resources.
6. To feel secure in its youth's ability to lead the church into the future.

Youth need: (both conscious and subconscious needs)

1. To develop to their full potential; to recognize and excel in their God-given talents and gifts.
2. To belong and feel valued.
3. To develop self-esteem and feel good about themselves.
4. To be with their peers, to share and to love.
5. To find direction and meaning in life; to make right choices in a chaotic world.
6. To learn about themselves by serving and relating to others. To learn about others through service and relationships.

We propose the following Youth Ministry Model which provides for a balanced program of spiritual and moral guidance as well as social and service activities:

1. Fellowship - being together, getting to know one another, playing, sharing, loving, etc.
2. Service - serving the parish, the church, the community and the world; stewardship--contributing talents and financial resources
3. Education - learning about the church, their heritage, themselves and their talents and abilities and developing skills that will enable them to cope with the world
4. Worship - participation in the church's liturgical and sacramental life; experience and get to know God (In order for the church to fulfill her mission to lead the faithful to salvation, we must make Christ an essential part of our everyday lifestyle.)

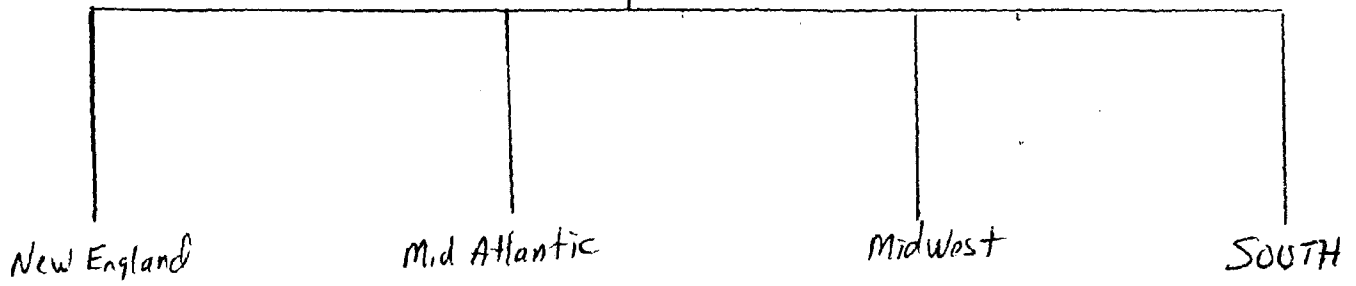
On the parish level, the ACYOA would play a major role in deciding what format their programs would take. The DYM would suggest and assist with formats that might appeal to youth. The purpose is to balance ACYOA programming according to the model and get youth involved in decision-making and leadership roles. The same process would take place on the regional and diocesan levels (i.e. the General Assembly, Regional Committees, chapter executive committees).

STRUCTURE

ARCH BISHOP

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH MINISTRY
ACYOA SR. DIR - CENTRAL COUNCIL - Nat'l Committees
ACYOA JUNIOR DIRECTOR
ADMIN ASSIST.

REGIONS



Region
PAID YM Coordinator (Diocese)
ACYOA Regional Committees (Jr + Sr)

Parish
Youth Coordinator
ACYOA Jr chapters
ACYOA Sr chapters

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH MINISTRY (Diocesan level)

Staff: Director (Seniors Office)
Director (Juniors Office)
Administrative Assistant

(NOTE: All the above are full-time employees of the Diocese.)

Objectives - The DYM will:

1. Be staffed with professionals who will keep current with trends in youth ministry.
2. Train parish volunteer youth leaders.
3. Supervise the training of professionals for regions and parishes.
4. Serve as a resource center for clergy and lay youth leaders.
5. Publish newsletters, magazines and other publications pertaining to youth.
6. Coordinate Diocesan and regional programs.
7. Assist and support local programs.
8. Gather demographic statistical information to be used in understanding the needs of the Armenian-American youth population and design programs to fit those needs.
9. Coordinate and supervise the activities of youth within and without the Diocese.
10. Work with Central Council.

Programs - Seniors

1. Armenian Studies Program.
2. Publications
3. Archbishop's Invitational Tournament
4. St. Nersess Study Conferences
5. Youth Festival Weekend (sports, fellowship, education, worship)
6. Summer Internships at the Diocese
7. Campus Ministry

8. International meetings with Armenian youth of other nations
9. General Assembly
10. Youth Ministry Educational Programs
11. Youth Ministry Leadership Programs

Objectives - The Juniors Office will:

1. Coordinate St. Vartan Camp.
2. Publish newsletters/magazines for youth and parish youth leaders.
3. Conduct educational seminars (religious, leadership, contemporary youth concerns, etc.).
4. Provide training for parish youth leaders.
5. Conduct an annual Youth Conference (in conjunction with the Diocesan Assembly).
6. Involve itself in Regional Sports Weekends.
7. Reach out to mission parishes.
8. Conduct retreats.
9. Serve as a resource center for regions and parishes.
10. Participate in St. Nersess Study Conferences.
11. Visit parishes on a regular basis.
12. Supervise the work of Regional Youth Coordinators.

PROPOSAL TO REVITALIZE THE ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA (ACYOA)

Working draft to be presented to the Blue Ribbon Committee, December 19, 1987

Introduction

We must recognize the socio-economic influences which affect the needs and behavior of young people, and in particular, we must understand that ACYOA programs and structures cannot stand unchanged to face a chaotic environment which persistently challenges our Christian beliefs.

We can strengthen the existing organization by: understanding the mission of the church and supporting the role young people play in its accomplishments; clarifying ACYOA objectives, stating them clearly, and making them known to the community; creating specific, measurable goals to achieve each objective; implementing programs and structures to achieve these goals; and providing the necessary resources to meet them.

We generally affirm the ACYOA name and its constitution. We recognize the significant contribution of the ACYOA in developing clerical leaders, lay leaders, and church members. We also recognize that many church members belonged to an ACYOA chapter, and through it, experienced Christian activities, developed lasting friendships, and learned organizational and interpersonal skills.

The chapter organization and the General Assembly are proven systems in training leaders and in teaching youth about the function of the parish and the Diocese. By changing the name or this part of the ACYOA structure, we risk undermining an important strength.

However, socio-economic and technological changes in our society have adversely affected the influence of both the church and the family, the traditional institutions of Christian and moral guidance. We are challenged to strengthen the influence of the church and the family, and in order to do this, we must integrate current trends and professional techniques in youth ministry into existing ACYOA programs and structures. Therefore, we propose the following:

1. Develop a Christian youth ministry model that includes teaching our faith and our heritage.
2. Adding, deleting, and/or modifying existing ACYOA programs and structures according to the objectives of the Christian youth ministry model.
3. Develop a model that is both specific and public and that pervades all Diocesan and parish programs.
4. Include children in this model. The Department of Youth Ministry (DYM) would work with the DRE and the Language Lab in creating and implementing programs for children as well as teens and young adults.

The purpose of the new ACYOA youth ministry program is to meet both the needs of the church and its young people, thereby bringing them together in the family and the church.

The church needs for prosperity and growth:

1. Youth participation in church life as active members of a faithful family.
- *X 2. Members who are educated in the teachings of the Armenian Church and who practice those teachings in their daily lives.
- X 3. Members who are educated in their cultural heritage and integrate it into their daily lives.
- X 4. Leaders who understand the mission of the church and can protect it from alienating influences.
5. Members who are willing to donate their talents and/or financial resources.
- [6. Parishes that are secure in their youth's ability to lead the church now and into the future.

Youth needs for psychological and physical well being and growth, both conscious and subconscious:

1. To feel God's power, grace, and love in themselves and in their community lives.
2. To belong and feel valued.
3. To develop self-esteem and feel good about themselves.
4. To develop to their full potential; to recognize and excel in their God given talents and gifts.
5. To share and to be with their peers.
6. To find direction and meaning in life; to make moral choices in a chaotic world.
7. To learn about themselves by serving and relating to others. To learn about others through service and relationships.

We propose the following Christian Youth Ministry Model which provides guidelines for a balanced program of spiritual and moral guidance as well as social and service activities:

1. Fellowship - being together, getting to know one another, sharing, loving, etc.
2. Service - serving the parish, the church, the community and the world; stewardship - contributing talents and financial resources.
3. Education - learning about their church, heritage, their talents and abilities in developing skills that enable them to cope and prosper in the world.
4. Worship - participation in the church's liturgical and sacramental life; experience and know God. In order for the church to fulfill her mission to lead the faithful to salvation, we must make Christ an essential part of our everyday lives.

On the parish level, the ACYOA would play a major role in deciding what format their programs would take. The Department of Youth Ministry (DYM) would suggest and assist with programs that appeal to youth, but fulfill the goals of the DYM model. The objective would be to balance ACYOA programming according to the model while assuring that the youth are involved in decision making, creative thinking, and leadership roles. The same process would take place on the regional and Diocesan levels (i.e. the General Assembly, Regional Committees, National Committees, and Chapter Executive Committees).

Department of Youth Ministry (Diocesan level)

Staff: Director (Seniors Office)
Director (Juniors Office)
Administrative Assistant responsible to both directors

(NOTE: All above are full-time employees of the Diocese.)

DYM Objectives

1. Staffed with professionals who will keep current with trends in youth ministry.
2. Work with Central Council, National Committees, and Regional Committees.
3. Train parish and regional youth leaders, both paid and volunteer.
4. Serve as a resource center for clergy and lay youth leaders.
5. Publish newsletters, magazines, and other publications pertaining to youth.
6. Coordinate Diocesan and regional programs.
7. Assist and support local programs.

8. Gather demographic statistical information to be used in understanding the needs of the Armenian-American youth population and design programs to fit those needs.
9. Coordinate and supervise the activities of youth within the Eastern Diocese and other Armenian communities in the Diaspora.

Programs - Seniors: Under the direction of the Primate and with the assistance of the clergy and regional youth directors, develop programs based on the objectives of the Christian Youth Ministry Model and specific agreed upon goals; make decisions whether or not programs should be done nationally, regionally, or on a parish level; create objectives and recruit young people to take on responsibilities; and develop a follow-up system for each programs.

1. Develop and Coordinate Armenian Studies Programs
2. Create and Distribute Publications
3. Coordinate Archbishop's Invitational Tournament in conjunction with the Diocesan Assembly
4. Coordinate Youth Festival Weekend (sports, fellowship, service, education, worship)
5. Coordinate Summer Internships at the Diocese
6. Coordinate Summer Internships in the parishes ?
7. Develop programs to reach out to college students
8. Participate in international meetings with Armenian youth ?
9. Coordinate General Assembly
10. Develop and Coordinate Youth Ministry Educational Programs
11. Develop and Coordinate Youth Ministry Leadership Programs
12. Develop and Coordinate Youth Ministry Spiritual Retreats
13. Develop and Coordinate Mission Programs
14. Coordinate National Membership Program
15. Develop Program Budgets
16. Coordinate National Fund Raising Program

Objectives - The Juniors Office will:

1. Provide programs to develop a Christian lifestyle.
2. Coordinate St. Vartan Camp.
3. Publish newsletters/magazines for youth and parish youth leaders.
4. Conduct educational seminars (religious, leadership, contemporary youth concerns, etc.).
5. Provide training for parish youth leaders.
6. Conduct an annual Youth Conference (in conjunction with the Diocesan Assembly).
7. Coordinate Regional Sports Weekends.
8. Reach out to mission parishes.
9. Conduct retreats.
10. Serve as a resource center for regions and parishes.
11. Participate in St. Nersess Study Conferences.
12. Visit parishes on a regular basis.
13. Supervise the work of Regional Youth Coordinators.

REGIONAL ACYOA OFFICE (four regions)

Staff: Full-time Youth Coordinator (trained professionals)

The Regional Office will:

1. Work with youth leaders of ACYOA chapters in the region.
2. Assist in coordinating Diocesan and regional programs.

The Regional Office will work directly with the parishes in its region by setting up activities and programs for the parish and organizing and coordinating activities and events that bring regional youth together. The Regional Office will work under the direction of the DYM and will be salaried by the Diocese.

Programs - Seniors

1. Regional Spiritual Retreats
2. Regional Cultural Retreats
3. Regional Youth Ministry Seminars (Educational, Leadership)
4. ACYOA Leadership and Implementation Conferences
5. Campus Programs
6. Regional Committees
7. Membership Drives

Programs - Juniors

1. Retreats
2. Recreational and social activities
3. Sports Weekend
4. Seminars
5. Regional Committee

PARISH ACYOA CHAPTERS

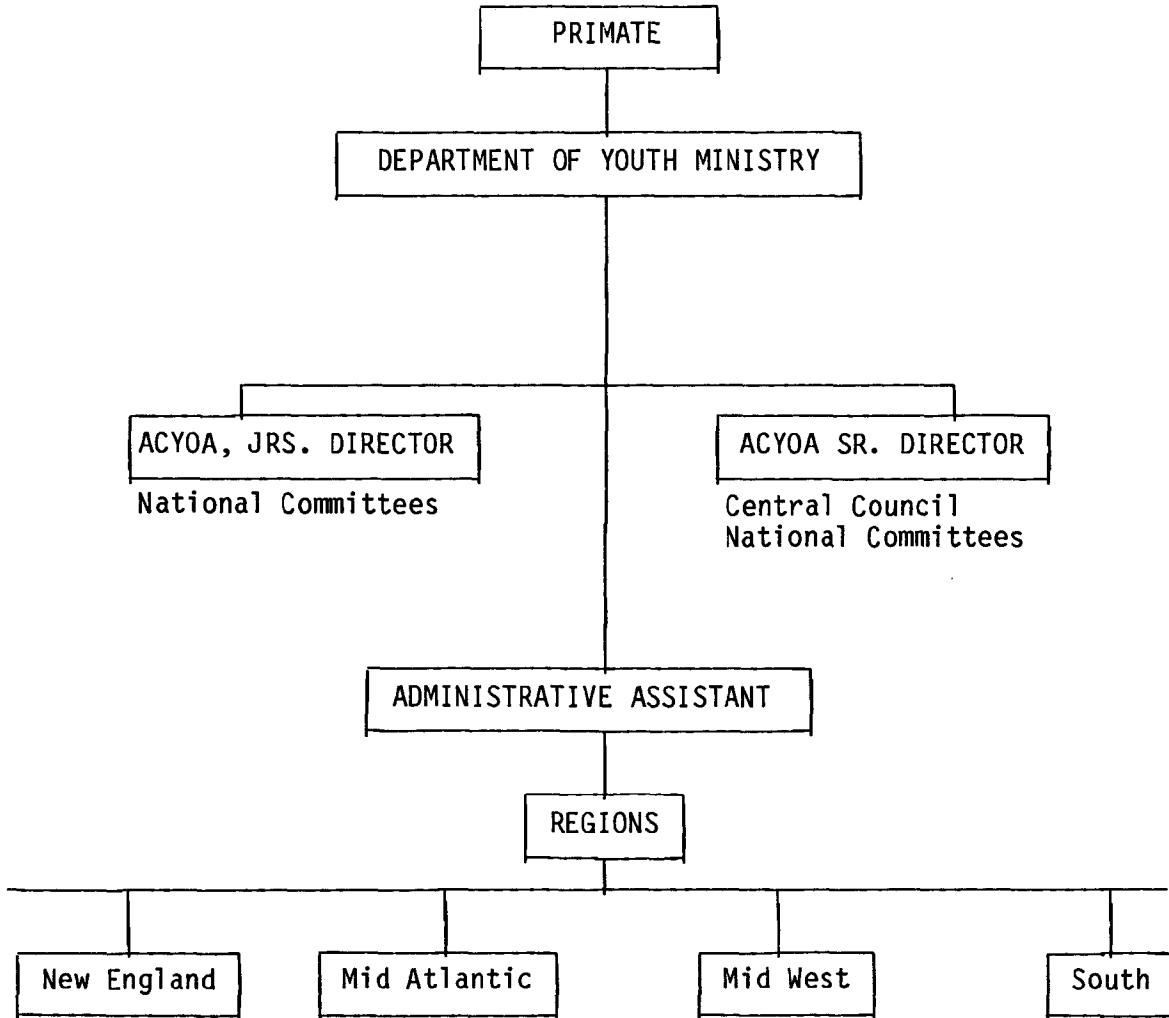
Staff: Parish Youth Leader

Options: Paid full-time youth leader
Paid part-time youth leader ?
Volunteer youth leader ?

Parish youth programs will be part of the parish budget.

The parish youth leader would work with both Junior and Senior Chapters and be responsible to the pastor and parish council. He/she would work with the Regional Coordinator and directly with parish youth in implementing a variety of programs based on the Diocesan Youth Ministry model (Service, Education, Fellowship, Worship). He/she would work directly with the DYM when appropriate.

STRUCTURE



REGION

Paid YM Coordinator (Diocese)
ACYOA Regional Committees (Jr. & Sr.)

PARISH

Youth Coordinator
ACYOA Jr. Chapter
ACYOA Sr. Chapter

BUDGET

A budget should include the following:

1. Salaries

- a. Director - Senior Office
- b. Director - Junior Office
- c. Administrative Assistant
- d. Four Regional Coordinators

2. Expenses

- a. Travel
- b. Resources
- c. Programs
- d. Publications
- e. Training
- f. Operational expenses

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