

DISCUSSION GUIDE

2017 LCMS STUDY OF YOUNG ADULTS CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

1. What surprised or didn't surprise you?
2. When the pastor who confirmed the young adults was still present at the congregation, there was an improvement in retention. How have you seen the impact of longevity or the lack of it in your ministries? Do you think this is just true for staff, or does longevity in lay leadership make a difference as well?
3. It's inevitable that people (pastors, DCEs, etc.) called to serve at a congregation will change. How can a congregation help young people through these transitions? How can a congregation help a new worker connect with young people and their families?
4. Adding youth ministry staff helped with retention. What could this mean for congregations who currently have staff focused on youth ministry? What could this mean for churches who can't afford an additional staff person?
5. What kinds of records does your congregation keep? How can you plan to maintain and pass on those records as volunteers and staff transition over time? How can record keeping be more than just "counting people or official acts"?
6. From the report, having younger lay and staff leaders can help attract and retain young adults. How is your congregation lifting up young leaders? What prevents congregations from having young leaders? How can we remove the stumbling blocks that prevent young adults from finding leadership roles?
7. Among many things, we found the age of the pastor and overall programmatic changes didn't make a difference in retention. How does this change the discussions on how to retain this next generation of young adults?
8. Is your congregation urban, suburban, or rural? From the report, what advantages and disadvantages might your congregation have in connecting with and retaining youth in your congregation or within the LCMS?
9. What lessons can we take from this study that might impact how we work with our current and future confirmation classes?
10. If you can, go back and look at your Confirmation class from 2004-2006. What do you know about them and their families? Are there young adults who may be nominally connected to your congregation that you could reach out and connect with?