

Orthodox Christian
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY †
a ministry of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

**Report to Archdiocese
May 2017**

1. Mission

The mission of the Young Adult Ministry is to aid in the spiritual growth of young adults under the age of 35 within the Archdiocese bringing them to a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To accomplish this mission, we will live the Orthodox Christian faith in Christ through the following areas:

- **Worship** through the full liturgical-cycle of the Church including attending weekday services together, gathering at a local parish for its Feast Day, and the combined services at Diocese and Archdiocese gatherings.
- **Spiritual Renewal and Education** through retreats, conferences, speaker series, pilgrimages, and bible studies which are aimed at the needs of our Young Adults.
- **Service** through short-term mission trips and volunteer activities on a local level.
- **Fellowship** through social outings, conferences, and gatherings.

2. Execution of the Mission

The ministry to Young Adults (ages 19-35) is a new ministry in the Archdiocese which has evolved out of the former Fellowship of St. John the Divine. The Department will oversee the work of the newly appointed Young Adult leaders on the Archdiocese and Diocese levels. These Young Adults help to plan activities and events for Young Adults on the Archdiocese, Diocese, Deanery and Parish level.

3. Goals and Accomplishments for 2016

- A. Plan and execute the 2016 Orthodox Young Professionals Conference in New Orleans, LA, with a goal of 200 Young Adult attendees. We had a very successful Conference under the leadership of Kyra Pelachik and Fadi Madinat with 188 participants (up from 125 in 2014). Our speakers included Metropolitan Joseph, Archdeacon Saed Rihani and Jacob Saylor.

- B. Assist each local Hierarch and Diocese Spiritual Advisor to appoint a Diocese Young Adult Leadership Committee by the 2016 PLCs. Several diocese has this in place by the 2016 PLC while others still don't have all of the leaders in place.
- C. Assist each local Hierarch to transition the administrative roles of the FSJD to a Diocese Ministry Council (an administrative committee for each diocese). This is underway in most of the dioceses.
- D. Implement at least one event (retreat, service project, pilgrimage, etc) in each diocese by summer 2017. Several dioceses have accomplished this. In addition, we will be having an event at the Archdiocese Convention.

4. Goals for 2017/2018

- A. Set a date and location for the 2018 Orthodox Young Professionals Conference.
- B. Fill all leadership positions in each diocese.
- C. Hold an event at the Archdiocese Convention in Miami
- D. Hold a training event for each diocesan chair and other interested leaders in September.
- E. Publish (electronically) Young Adult Ministry Newsletter
- F. Develop Social Media plan for promotion of Young Adult Ministry
- G. Have each diocese hold at least one retreat/pilgrimage and one outreach service project.
- H. Determine funding mechanism for Young Adult Ministry events.
- I. Adopt a patron saint and logo for the ministry.

5. Action Plan to Achieve Goals for 2017/2018

- A. Set date and location and then promote the 2018 Orthodox Young Professionals Conference.
 - a. Kyra Pelachik is exploring a handful of sites and determining available dates at host sites. The goal will be to have this determined in time to announce this summer at the PLCs and Archdiocese Convention.
 - b. Select host hotel and sign contracts.
 - c. The committee will accept recommendations for potential speakers and then vet those speakers with the goal of having the speakers secured by the start of 2018.
 - d. Recruit planning committee members by the end of this summer.
 - e. Launch full publicity via social media early in 2018 and save the date by this summer.
 - f. Solicit sponsorships to help underwrite the cost of the conference.
- B. Fill all leadership positions in each diocese.
 - a. Work with diocesan bishops and spiritual advisors to have this in place by the 2017 PLCs.
- C. Hold an event at the Archdiocese Convention in Miami
 - a. Kickoff event on Wednesday afternoon is scheduled.
 - b. Lunch event is scheduled for Friday afternoon.
 - c. To help drive participation at the Convention in Miami, a YAM schedule will be promoted to all young adults to encourage them to attend events that other young adults will be at.
- D. Hold a training event for each diocesan chair and other interested leaders in September.
 - a. Select location and date.
 - b. Plan schedule.
 - c. Select speakers/trainers as well as topics.
 - d. Explore funding sources.

- E. Publish (electronically) Young Adult Ministry Newsletter
 - a. Create a master email list to use for distribution.
 - b. Assign articles to be written (highlight upcoming events).
 - c. Distribute prior to PLCs.
- F. Develop Social Media plan for promotion of Young Adult Ministry.
 - a. Explore options (Facebook, websites, etc).
 - b. Solicit assistance to execute social media plan.
- G. Have each diocese hold at least one retreat/pilgrimage and one outreach service project.
 - a. Will have Jordan Kurzum (NAC Service Coordinator) work with each diocese to develop outreach service projects.
 - b. Will work with diocesan Spiritual Advisors to encourage the retreats/pilgrimages.
- H. Determine funding mechanism for Young Adult Ministry events.
 - a. Speak with diocesan chairs to understand their financial resources.
 - b. Look into potential grant writing to help underwrite speakers and events.
- I. Adopt a patron saint and logo for the ministry.
 - a. Have leadership team work on ideas.
 - b. Submit to Metropolitan Joseph for blessing and approval.

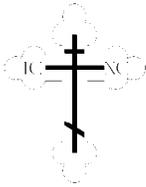
6. Public Relations

Being a new ministry, there is still continued confusion of what the Young Adult Ministry is, what the Diocese Ministries Councils are and what has changed. We are working on an article for the Word Magazine, as well as information for the website, to help explain what the Young Adult Ministry does and how young adults can participate. The Ministry struggles to get traction in many dioceses and is working on a PR campaign to help with this. The leadership team would like to request a letter from Metropolitan Joseph to each priest encouraging them to identify interested young adults that could serve as a point person to the diocese for training and information. In turn, we would then ask that the diocesan bishops follow up with a communique to their clergy reinforcing the original request.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jamil Malone
Chairman



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Another important part of the work of the Department is to minister to our college students through supporting the efforts of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), the official campus ministry of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. Fr. Anthony Yazge serves on the OCF Board of Directors as the Antiochian Archdiocese representative, and is currently serving as the Treasurer. Through OCF, programs such as College Conference and Real Break are offered to college students as well as support to the local OCF chapters on college campuses.

These are the current areas regarding OCF that our department will be focusing:

- A. Assist OCF to select a new Executive Director.
 - a. Promote job search through various avenues in the Archdiocese.
 - b. Participate as an OCF Board member throughout the job search process.
- B. Increase funding for OCF.
 - a. Request additional funding in Departments budget to increase annual Archdiocese contribution.
 - b. Share the information throughout the Archdiocese that OCF is in need of annual funding.
- C. Represent the Antiochian Archdiocese on the Board of OCF.
 - a. Participate in all Board Meetings.
 - b. Encourage Antiochian college students to serve on the OCF Student Leadership Board.
 - c. Presently supervising staff through weekly teleconference meetings.
 - d. Rework Governance Documents.
- D. Promote programs of OCF for our students
 - a. First Forty Days – encourage parents & parishes to submit names and information regarding their college students to OCF.
 - b. College Conference (CC)
 - i. Encourage our students to attend one of the three conferences
 - ii. Oversee St Ignatius scholarships for Antiochian students to attend CC
 - iii. Serve as staff for College Conference East at the Antiochian Village
 - c. Real Break
 - i. Encourage students to take these short term mission trips during their schools' spring break.
 - ii. Serve as chaplain/spiritual advisor of a Real Break trip
 - d. College Student Sunday – The first Sunday of October is College Student Sunday with the goal of raising awareness regarding the ministry of OCF and to raise funds for the ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,

V. Rev. Anthony G. Yazge
Department of Young Adult Ministry, Chairman