

South Queensland Conference

WE THE CHURCH GROW- ING OUR CHURCH YOUNG



Recommended Strategy

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

THE STRATEGY

Overview

The vast majority of Seventh-day Adventist Churches in Australian are both shrinking and aging as more youth and young adults disengage.

However, the Fuller Youth Institute, through their groundbreaking *Growing Young* project, has identified congregations across the US who are reversing this trend while developing cultures that welcome,

empower, and engage young people effectively into the broader church.

This initiative is a year-long pilot journey to educate, inspire, and resource a number of our churches. This journey will involve a partnership with the Fuller Youth Institute.



NCD & Growing Young

Natural Church Development provides research on the principles of healthy church growth in the world. *NCD* shows exactly where a Church's time, treasure and talent would be best spent right now.

Growing Young supplements *NCD* by looking specifically at how the church can 'grow young' and how the church can grow intergenerationally.



Objectives

The project's objectives are to inspire, educate, train and resource members and leaders within the local church, with an intentional focus on cultivating healthy missional communities and centres of influence including Adventist Education. This is in line with the AUC Structure Review findings for creating a thriving, disciple making movement, including:

RENEWED SPIRITUALITY

This is about fostering Jesus centred communities that are filled with the Holy Spirit.

FRONTLINE

This is about equipping, engaging and resourcing local leaders at the local church.

UNITY & INTEGRATION

This is about uniting around the vision, creating a thriving, disciple making movement, and building the church intergenerationally.

LOCAL CHURCH

This isn't about a better youth ministry, it's about focusing on the vision at the local church and transforming church culture.

EXCELLENCE

The Growing Young journey is based on six principles that enable the local church to excel & thrive.

The Solution

GROWING YOUNG COHORT

We will partner with the Fuller Youth Institute through the participation of 10-20% of our local churches launching in February 2019 including two gatherings with the Fuller team

NCD & GROWING YOUNG CHURCH ASSESSMENT

Encourage 2/3 of our churches to take *NCD* & the *Growing Young Assessment* providing a data baseline for long-term strategic planning. These churches will then be offered support

GROWING YOUNG SPEAKER CERTIFICATION

Certify a speaker with the Fuller Youth Institute to provide contextualized Growing Young support to our churches.

DEVELOPING COACHES

A two-day summit to train and equip coaches to cultivate healthy missional communities that are 'Growing Young'. Coaches could include Conference Departmental Directors i.e. Youth/Young Adult Director, Discipleship Director, Ministerial, Pastor etc

PASTORS & LEADERS PRESENTATION

Host a one-day Pastors & Leaders presentation by Certified Growing Young Adventist Speaker, providing each church with their own Launch Pack.

REFLECTION SUMMITS

The reflection summits will showcase and highlight the six commitments as demonstrated within the local church - with real-life examples & case studies.



THE STRATEGY & TIMELINE

Sharing the Vision

- Author Presentation to Administration Team
- Conference Departmental Meeting - Presentation - by Certified Growing Young Presenter
- Growing Young Stories - Develop 2 x video stories per 6 principles (12 videos) for Social Media, use in local churches

Leadership Development

DEVELOPING COACHES

- Two-day Summit eg Conference Youth/Young Adult Director, Discipleship/Personal Ministries Director, Ministerial Secretary, Local Pastor etc

SPEAKER CERTIFICATION

- In partnership with Fuller Youth Institute develop leadership capacity and training of key speakers in Conference (x1 - one for our Conference)

Growing Young Journey

COHORT FOR PILOT CHURCHES

- Cohort - 10-20% of Churches participating in a pilot journey in our Conference with a partnership with Fuller Youth Institute
- Attend two Cohort gatherings within the year long journey
- Growing Young Assessment with ongoing coach support
- Local leadership / Coach present to Church Board
- Active listening sessions with key stakeholders - Church Leadership, Family Ministries, Teen Ministries, Youth Group, Young Adult Groups, Parents, School etc
- Book Club with Growing Young as key resource
- Regular online 'Zoom' sessions and webinars with other leaders on the journey
- Training provided by Coaches for missional communities including Life Groups and Sabbath School (utilising South Pacific Division Discovery Bible Reading resources)
- Australia-wide Facebook Messenger Group for key leaders

CHURCHES GOING ON A SELF-JOURNEY

- Pastors and Leaders Presentation - Each Conference to host a day-long event for Pastors and Leaders at either Conference Ministers Meetings or a unique event conducted by a Certified Growing Young Presenter
- Growing Young Assessment - Two-thirds of all Churches participating in an assessment
- Coach support- This is an opportunity for churches that want to go deeper but are not part of the Conference Wide Cohort. Local Church boards can request to meet with a Coach one or two times, to assist them on the journey - this could involve the Conference Young Adult/High School/ Youth Director, Discipleship/Personal Ministries Director, Ministerial Secretary etc
- Launch Packs - (Growing Young PowerPoint Presentation, Growing Young Sermon Manuscript, 5 Growing Young Books With Discussion Guide and other key resources)

Review & Assessment

- Review & Presentation of the journey and Fuller Youth Institute's Growing Young Assessment - to Administration
- Review & Presentation of Cohort - to Administration

REFLECTIONS SUMMIT

- Reflections Summit within Conference at the end of the twelve month journey to showcase & highlight the six commitments as demonstrated within the local church - with real-life examples & case studies.

