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Introduction to the Journal of Adventist Youth & Young Adult Ministries

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INTRODUCTION TO THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

YOU HOLD in your hands the first edition of the Journal of Adventist Youth & Young Adult Ministries. This Journal is the outgrowth of years of collaboration between the Youth & Young Adult Ministries department of the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (NAD), the Discipleship and Lifespan Education (DSLE) department of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, and the Center for Youth Evangelism (CYE) on the campus of Andrews University.

CYE innovated and has hosted the 180° Symposium since 2008. (You will find in an explanation of the 180° Symposium process in the next article in this journal entitled “An Overview of the Annual 180° Symposium for 2022”). Each year a collection of these articles and recommendations have been published by AdventSource and made available for purchase as well as online through the Andrews University Digital Commons.

In 2017 the NAD Youth & Young Adult Ministries department joined CYE in collaboration to strengthen and support the Symposium. In 2021 the DSLE department of the Seminary joined in collaboration to bring more strength and focus to the Symposium, and it continues to influence the further development of the Symposium with increased involvement by seminary graduate students. While youth ministry often lacks an association with academic study, the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University is the logical place for this to begin. Collaboration has strengthened this endeavor and its application.

An increasing number of youth and young adult ministry professionals have engaged in doctoral studies, and ongoing education and lifelong learning also call for a professional journal like this. We encourage you to read, reflect, respond, and join in the conversation as we continue to address current ministry challenges through careful thought, recommendations, and persistent actions.

Dive in and enjoy,

Tracy Wood, DMin
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