

2024

The 180° Symposium 2022 A New Opportunity: Summary

Steve Case

Andrews University, steve@involveyouth.org

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/jayyam>



Part of the [Practical Theology Commons](#), and the [Religious Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Case, Steve (2024) "The 180° Symposium 2022 A New Opportunity: Summary," *Journal of Adventist Youth and Young Adult Ministries*: Vol. 2, Article 21.

<https://doi.org/10.32597/jayyam/vol2/iss1/21>

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/jayyam/vol2/iss1/21>

This Editorial is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Andrews University. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Journal of Adventist Youth and Young Adult Ministries* by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ Andrews University. For more information, please contact repository@andrews.edu.

THE 180° SYMPOSIUM 2022

A NEW OPPORTUNITY

The Next BIG Thing

What's Coming Next In Youth Ministry

Summary

Steve Case, PhD

WHEN THE CYE initiated the 180° Symposium in 2008, the intention was to stop and do a 180° turn—something those serving in youth ministry rarely do. We're always moving on to the next BIG thing, right? But the intentional pause enabled us to do some reflecting and evaluating—beyond counting the number of participants and/or feeling good about accolades received. This also led to giving consideration to purposes and desired end results, as well as the processes and methodologies we employ when it comes to youth ministry. The Center for Youth Evangelism, located on the campus of Andrews University and in the Seminary building, continues to be the ideal genesis for the 180° Symposium. Its staffing and location and connections provide consistency, promotion, and quality.

Over the years, youth ministry extended to include young adult ministry and, later, children's ministry as well. When the NAD Youth and Young Adult Ministries Department added additional funding as a sponsor and participant, the 180° Symposium extended its draw and engagement beyond primarily academic circles and a set of personal connections. *AdventSource* has published the papers from the very start into a collection of papers with limited circulation and awareness. That has now changed with the initiation of *The Journal of Adventist Youth and Young Adult Ministries* now being the official publication of the papers and the key points and recommendations from the focus groups. In this second issue of the journal, we have added three book reviews as well. Following the development of the Andrews University Digital Commons, the papers prepared could be accessed anywhere someone had internet access, which has begun. When the Seminary's youth ministry professor took a more active role in participating and drawing MDiv students into the gathering, younger and fresher minds added to the mix. Due to the pandemic, the event is now hybrid—including in-person participants as well as those online who are not able to physically be present at Andrews University for whatever reason.

At the same time, academic rigor continues to increase—something not usually associated with youth ministry. The papers presented are now available to read prior to the gathering, and they have been peer-reviewed and edited. The 180° Symposium, with its built-in feedback system, further refines the papers. Proposals for the papers now get

submitted to the executive committee five months prior to the symposium. We continue to extend the reach to include more, even though, thus far, the flavor has had primarily a North American perspective.

What will happen with the 180° Symposium from 2023? Time will tell. But we now have continued the process of pausing to take a 180° turn to look back, and then pivoting again 180° to move forward. Our three sub-categories of “The Next BIG Thing” were: 1. Elements that make SDA ministry to young people unique; 2. Immigrant ministry and cultural challenges; and 3. Volunteer recruitment, training, and retention. We have looked more deeply at each of these, which helps us in ministry while also beckoning us to go even deeper with these three sub-topics. The same thing will happen in 2024 with a new topic that focuses on ministering to and with young people in a secular world.

With a strong belief in God’s active presence in the work we do, we consider it our responsibility and privilege to engage in deep and earnest reflection and evaluation as we move forward in step with our Creator, Redeemer, and Friend.