

Classis Quinte Youth Ministry Champion Report

September 2021

Dear friends,

The new church season is now here. And, as with many areas within the church, many of our youth leaders are looking ahead with concern. Will this year be the same as last? Will we be limited in our gatherings again? Will our kids even show up? How do I even get started with this new season?

No doubt there is concern about what lies ahead. But with the limitations we have faced over the past while come fresh ideas and strategies to achieve our ministry goals. One such church that is currently doing that is Bowmanville Maranatha CRC. I have had the pleasure of meeting with some fine people who are excited to share the results of our year-long conversation based on the book called "Growing Young: Six essential strategies to help young people discover and love your church." These people have taken on the task of rethinking how their church can move past the "programming problems" that have plagued many of our churches for the past few years. They are ready to begin experimenting with fresh ways to minister to their youth, and to invite them to participate in striving towards their church's current vision and mission. They are now at the point to share their conversation with the congregation. I am very excited to see how God will move within Maranatha within this coming year as they strengthen their existing strategies, and pursue new opportunities to help their children, teens, and young adults love Christ and love their church. And I am honoured to lead their congregation in a 4 sermon series based on these conversations within the coming weeks.

Over the coming weeks, I hope to connect with your youth workers and encourage them as they take on the challenging task that's ahead. I ask that you continue to connect with your leaders and encourage them in. I am always happy to connect with you! I am always eager and happy to hear how your congregation is blessed by your children, and am always willing to work with your congregation as you love your children and teens.

Gladly serving,

Marc Hoogstad