

# Great Lakes Unity Region YFM Training Annual Report, 2021

## Achievements and Accomplishments for Jan. 2021 through Dec. 2021

Youth Ministry Training Director (Rev. Chase)

Report Date: 08/31/2021

### 2020 Program Changes

A YFM Training Plan for 2021 was developed outlining the anticipated training activities for the year.

Rev. Wilma Taylor-Costen was elected to the Board of Trustees and accepted appointment as YFM Liaison.

Due to continued COVID-19 restrictions on-site training was replaced with webinars and videos. On-site training and the training retreat was postponed to 2022.

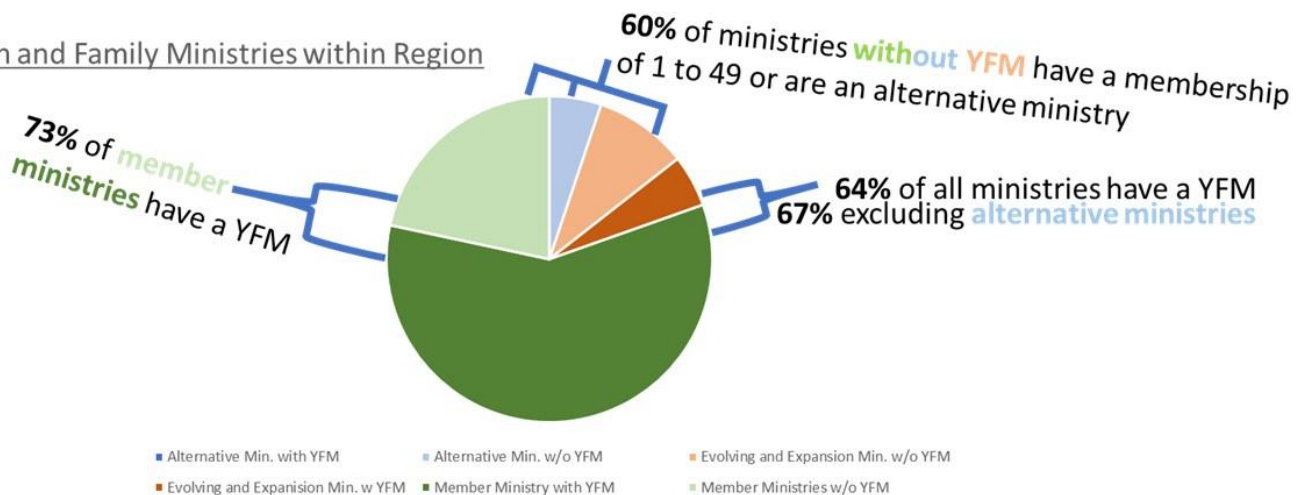
Collaborated with Unity Worldwide Ministries and the YFM Regional Leadership Team (Regional Youth Consultants) in creating and identifying additional resources for virtual YFM.

Many Unity centers began meeting in person summer of 2021. Some waited until fall. YFM in-person followed by 3 to 6 months. Some Unity centers are just now starting in-person, indoor YFM.

Welcomed several ministers and Youth Director to the Region.

### 2021 Youth and Family Ministry Stats

2021 Youth and Family Ministries within Region



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Near 73% (57 out of 78) of member ministries have a youth program (0-10 or 11-18 or both) represented by the light and darker green on the chart. 62% (48 out of 78) have a Children Ministry (0 to 10), 54% (42 out of 78) Teen Ministry (11 to 18).

About 36% (5 out of 14) of Expansion Ministries have a youth program represented by the light and darker orange on the chart. All of these include a Children's Ministry, 14% (2 out 14) have a teen Ministry.

67% (62 out of 92) of member ministries and evolving expansion ministries have some type of youth ministry. 58% (53 out of 92) of member ministries and evolving expansion ministries have a children ministry. 48% (44 out of 92) of member ministries and evolving expansion ministries have a teen ministry.

Per the data there is a slight uptick in the number of ministries with some sort of youth ministry. 62 in 2021 vs 58 in 2020. 64% of all ministry types (alternative, evolving and expansion, and member) have a youth and family ministry. It was 60% in 2020. The reported number of youth served has increased 7.6%. The average number of youth served on a Sunday across the region is just over 10% of the number of adults served.

60% of centers without YFM have a membership of 1 to 49, 25% of the center without YFM have a membership 50 to 150. No alternative ministries have a youth and family ministry.

For the ministries reporting the average attendance of youth about 82% of them report an average youth attendance of 10 or less. The percentage of youth compared to the average adult attendance ranges from 2% to 30%. Just over 13% of the average number of adults in attendance is the average youth attendance.

The stats for the Great Lakes Region were gathered from the Annual Reports ministries submitted to UWM.

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## 2021 Trainings Events

Date	Type	Title	Attendance: Total	Content
02-06-21	Online training	Being Inclusive: Moving from Words to Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 individuals</li> <li>• 10 Unity Centers</li> <li>• Fee \$15 per person</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a welcoming environment</li> <li>• Transforming lessons to increase engagement</li> <li>• Skills to develop in students</li> <li>• Review of YFM related forms</li> <li>• Identification of next steps to take</li> </ul>
Date	Type	Title	Attendance:	Content
03-20-21	Online training	Leveling Up to the Gen Z Level of YFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 individuals</li> <li>• 5 Unity Centers</li> <li>• Fee \$15 per person</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gen Z views on religion,</li> <li>• Life-issues and motivations of Generation Z</li> <li>• Learning preferences of Generation Z</li> </ul>
Date	Type	Title	Attendance:	Content
10-09-21	On-site changed to online field feedback "not ready for in-person"	Lighting the Way for Each Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration open</li> <li>• Fee \$20 per person</li> </ul>	<p>This is a collaborative training event. YFM Leaders will present topics from their area of expertise and experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "On the Unity Path with Biblical Drama", presenter Mary Nowroozi, Unity of Fox Valley</li> <li>• "Reigniting Your YFM: Tools for Rebuilding in Beloved Community", presenter Cassidy Meeks, Unity Minneapolis</li> <li>• "Taking Care of Yourself During the Pandemic", presenter Rev. Mellannie Porch-Donaghy, Detroit Unity Temple</li> </ul>

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Date	Type	Title	Attendance:	Content
2022	On-site training Training Retreat	TBD	Planning for 2022	TBD
Date	Type	Title	Attendance:	Content
04-24-2021	Online meeting	YFM Check-In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 individuals</li> <li>• 3 Unity Centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ice breakers</li> <li>• Discussion: upcoming events, reopening, connecting with parents and volunteers, resuming in person training events</li> <li>• Shared resources</li> <li>• Group Pray</li> </ul>
06-05-2021	Online meeting	YFM Check-In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 individuals</li> <li>• 3 Unity Centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ice breakers</li> <li>• Discussion: graduations, reopening, rebuilding YFM team,</li> <li>• Group Pray</li> </ul>
08-14-2021	Online meeting	YFM Check-In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 individuals</li> <li>• 7 Unity Centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ice breakers</li> <li>• Discussion: rebuilding YFM, reconnecting with caregivers and volunteers, video lessons, art based outdoor lessons</li> <li>• Group Pray</li> </ul>
Date	Type	Title	Attendance:	Content
On-demand	Video	Wellness Policy	Views not tracked	YFM Administration Content of Wellness Policy Sample Policy

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## Additional General Services & Activities

### ❖ **Trainings Developed and Events Held**

- Webinars
  - Leveling up to the Gen Z Level of YFM
  - Being Inclusive: moving from words to actions
- Videos
  - Wellness Policy
- Meetings
  - Four YFM Check-ins held
- On-site Training Event
  - There were on on-site training events in 2021
- Online-Micro-Conference
  - Lighting the Way for Each Other
- Prayer Service
  - Children's World Day Nov. 20, 2020

### ❖ **Events Attended/ Training Received**

- Regional YFM Leadership Team gatherings
- Selected UWM Connect Space Sessions and Webinars
- Various Ministry Spark Webinars
- Webinars with Gen Z Experts, Dr. Corey Seemiller and Meghan Grace
- The Gen Z Hub Master Certificate
- Online 2021 Children's Pastor Conference

### ❖ **Ministry Support:**

- Supported ministries through emails, phone calls and video meetings with Ministers, Board Members, Youth Directors, YOU Sponsors, Uniteen Leaders and Teachers
- Offered resources related to
  - resuming in-person youth ministries,
  - connecting with parents,
  - hiring youth directors,
  - holiday materials
  - teaching online,
  - online recognition ceremonies,
  - inclusion,
  - mental health,
  - social justice,
  - World Laughter Day
  - World Children's Day
- Identified and provided youth lessons and other materials to ministries and for UWM YFM Resource page, Connection Space Sessions as well as Great Lakes Region website

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## ❖ Routine Activities and Communications

- Updated Constant Contact lists
- Marketing efforts for training
  - Created flyers/registration forms
  - Multiple Constant Contact announcements
  - Facebook post
  - Emails & calls to ministries
- Phone and emails with
  - GLURC YFM Liaison
  - Youth Events Coordinator
  - GLURC Bookkeeper
  - GLURC Treasurer
  - UWM Director of Virtual Experience/YFM Consultant
  - Regional YFM Team Leaders (YFM Consultants)
  - Ministers and YFM Directors new to the Great Lakes Region
- Connection and follow-up with Great Lakes Region ministries
- Posted in YFM Facebook groups, Great Lakes Unity Region Facebook page
- Sent email news/information
- Input to regional newsletter
- Monthly finance reports to Great Lakes Region Bookkeeper, Treasurer and Board Liaison
- Monthly activity reports to Board Liaison

## ❖ On-going Activity

- Flexibility is necessary in order to be responsive to the training needs that will arise in 2022. Potential research areas are hybrid lessons, online ministry, building and connecting community online and in-person, hiring a director, marketing, social media, generation Z and Alpha.
- Great Lakes YFM Online-Micro-Conference: Lighting the Way for Each Other
- Establishing the 2022 YFM Team
- 2022 Training Plan