

District Youth Presidents Report

Atlantic Wesleyan District Conference

July 11, 2024

We thank you for allowing us to serve another year as your District Youth Presidents. We are so thankful for all God has done this year in youth ministry! On any given week, nearly 900 students are attending one of the forty-one youth ministries in our district, with the average group having 21 students seeking to learn more about who God is. The number of students engaging with youth ministry in our district is nearly 2200!

We asked our Youth Pastors to share some highlights of their ministry this year, and it was amazing to see how God is working through our churches!

There is no bigger celebration than when someone decides to give their life to Jesus and wants to enter the waters of baptism. Daniel Mansvelt (Hillside) shared that they baptised 5 students this year and were celebrating a student who accepted Jesus at Kingswood University's Encounter weekend in November! Bradford Jordan (Amherst) celebrated the baptisms of six students!

Many of our youth ministries work together in their region because we are stronger together. Luke Budreau (Journey) shared about the Fredericton Youth Rally, a partnership with 22 different churches that had over 500 students plus 100 leaders coming together for kingdom collaboration.

In February, Brett Smith (Yarmouth) and South Shore Youth hosted a regional worship night with over 110 students coming from seven churches. The Ridge, Houlton, Framework, and Woodstock came together for an all-nighter event in Woodstock with Josh Forbes from Kings Church speaking. Parker Davis (Framework) shared about an Aroostook County youth rally with seven churches. We are better together.

We'd be remiss to not mention *One Con*. 136 churches from several different denominations working together to bring a focus to prayer in our region for students. Over 3000 people attended, and the stories are still coming in of how God worked over the weekend.

If you're a Youth Pastor serving in our District, paid or volunteer, under ministerial appointment, or serving as a lay leader, we would love to hear from you if you have any questions, need resources, or just need someone to talk to. We want to support your local ministry! We are constantly looking for new ways to encourage and raise up youth leaders across the district because we believe that we are better together.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Martin Stehouwer (SJ1) & Rev. Ryan Genereaux (Woodstock)
District Co-Youth Presidents