

CMIN 316

Case Study:

Six months ago you (your group) accepted a position as the Youth Pastor at a fairly large church in Southern California.

1. Please read the questions at the bottom of this handout.
2. Evaluate youth department information below.
3. Write a two-three page summary of the two actions you will take. Include your specific rationale for these actions, based on your analysis of the Church and Youth program information provided. (Please note that I have provided specific information that you need to use to develop your two new actions. Several actions may be effective, but they must relate to the identity and needs of your groups.)
4. Be prepared to make a 15 minute presentation of your plan to the senior pastor of the church in the following class.

Details about the church:

1. Non-denominational – twenty years old.
2. 700 members: English ministry – 500 members, Spanish ministry 200 members.
3. Located in Azusa, half mile north of 210 five blocks west of Azusa Ave.
4. Broad age range of English members: 70 retired and active; 100 are 45-60 years old; 150 are 25-45 years of age; 20 are 19-25 years old; 70 are 11-19 years old; 290 are 0-10 years old.
5. Age of Spanish members: 150 over 45; 250 25-45; 20 are 19-25; 40 are 11-19; 40 are 0-10.
6. Church has a mix of working class, semi-professional and professionals.
7. Spanish church has more manual laborers, but desire children to do well in school. Many first generation members.
8. English church has small business owners, nurses, a few accountants, lawyers, banks, professors, several teachers at a variety of grades, and many salaried employees in lower middle management. Also, several construction contractors.

Youth group details:

1. **You are in charge of junior high, senior high and college groups.**
2. You oversee a full-time leader for Jr. and Sr. high, and a part-time leader for college.
3. Junior high has 50 attending, mixed between grades 6-8. 8 are Spanish. Group has not changed size in past two years. Group activities include traditional Wednesday night service – games, worship, a lesson. Has a \$6,000 annual budget beside pay for pastor. Students are energetic, seem to have a positive attitude. Student interests in this group include team sports, skateboarding, popular music, the opposite sex. Some Spanish parents concerned by leader's clothing, some of the music and activities.
4. Senior high has 70 attending. Pastor has been there a year, and has seen attendance rise from 60 to 70 regularly. Has expressed a concern that the

program does not really help students to grow spiritually, but doesn't know what to do. He has a \$10,000 annual budget and 3 paid interns.

5. College group has 40 regular attendees. They enjoy the group. It had an initial growth to 40 but has stayed there during the past 18 months. Have good worship and teaching as well as social times. Many musicians are in the group. Major's include liberal studies, music, computer science, business, math, sciences, and ministry. The group has a \$3,000 annual budget.

All three youth pastors welcomed you when you came on board. However, the college pastor does not seem to take direction very well. He is satisfied with what is happening and especially likes focusing on music and social events.

The Junior high pastor is discouraged and struggling. He has Bible college degree and seems to have trouble getting organized.

The Senior High pastor is very ambitious for his group. He wants to make a community impact. He has a degree in ministry from a Christian College, and really loves Biblical studies.

The College pastor is very creative, really outgoing. He likes you and seems to be enthused about all the suggestions you give. However, he has problems with follow-through.

1. What are the resources available to each group?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each group?
3. Where are there opportunities for growth and development? Remember church and community demographics.
4. What immediate, intermediate and long-term impact do you desire for the group?
5. What two specific activities can you put in place to bring progress for the group as a whole? Remember that you will have to get the buy-in of the leaders and they will be the most active participants in the activities.