

"Then Jesus said, Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"
Matthew 19:14

The **Children's and Youth Ministry Challenge (C.Y.M.C)** will be launched at the Supper Club event in Montreal on September 8, 2016 where an exciting short promotional video will also be launched and will clarify, validate and provide inspiration for the concept. Both the Anglican Dioceses of Montreal and Ottawa are encouraging parishes to participate in the challenge. This will provide a clear, tangible project for parishes to embark on that is creative, fun and empowering to children, youth and their leaders. Training and support will be provided.

Questions / criteria to consider throughout the C.M.Y.C

- Invite children and youth to engage meaningfully with liturgy i.e. What is it? Why is it important?
- Invite children and youth to participate in leadership during worship (music, reading, prayer, preaching, greeting, hospitality, Eucharist etc...)
- Invite children and youth to imagine new liturgical approaches, to ask questions such as: *'What would make kids feel more included and engaged in churches?'*
- How Can we ensure that the liturgy reflect the words of Jesus from Matthew 19:14 *"Then Jesus said, Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"*

Criteria required to participate in the C.Y.M.C

1. Speak to the leadership in your church about the challenge. Be sure that you have their full support BEFORE you proceed.
2. Select a date for the C.Y.M.C Sunday BEFORE December 31st 2016 (N.B a minimum of 3 children are required to participate in order to qualify)
3. Children and Youth must lead a minimum of 30% of the liturgy on the C.Y.M.C. Sunday
4. Children and Youth must create (original content - not from existing source) a minimum of 20% of the liturgy
5. The event / process **must be documented** through a series of videos, photos and testimonials and submitted to Leslie Giddings (Ottawa) or Lee-Ann Matthews (Montreal) by December 31st 2016

Amateur photos, journal entries, blog, Social media uploads are very welcome! Use the following hashtag #childrensand youthministrychallenge

6. Be prepared to be selected to participate in a Diocesan symposium on Children's and Youth Ministry and to present on behalf of your initiative on Saturday January 28th 2017.

7. We will be selecting outstanding candidates (those who meet the most criteria) to receive the reward of guest-preacher Rev. Jean Daniel Williams (Ph.D. Candidate in Children's ministry) to preach on the topic of children's/youth ministry in their church in 2017.

Good Luck and Have Fun!!!!