

DEVELOPING YOUNG ADULT LEADERS

A Program of the Leadership Centre at The Presbyterian College, Montreal

The Need

Young adults in their twenties are making impactful decisions, and forming values, that will last a lifetime. They are seeking the skills and understanding to shape their contribution to the world around them. Some of them are in the church and taking important steps along their journey of faith, while others are both physically and emotionally far away from their home congregations.

Their potential for making a difference in their communities, and in the world, is enormous. They all have the capacity for influencing others – they can be leaders – and they all have “dependable strengths”, those gifts that consistently rise to the top, and form the basis of what they do best. Many young adults are unaware of these strengths, and therefore are unable to use them fully for the good of their communities and their churches.

The Program that Meets the Need

The Presbyterian College is committed to helping young adults develop leadership potential in both the church and the world. We have developed a Young Adult Program as part of the new Leadership Centre at the College.

This program will provide a place for young people to learn about themselves and the role they are called to play in the world; a place for building community and connections; a place to wrestle with questions of faith; a place to learn about the faith of others; a place to share their experiences of faith and to discover what they believe and why they believe it; a place to grow, and, above all, a place to nurture leadership.

The program brings young adults to the College for a full week of residential community where they tell their stories, share their experiences, discover their strengths, take some risks, deepen their faith, and learn leadership skills from gifted teachers.

How Can You Help

A gift of \$2,000 covers the full cost of the program for one participant. Your gift will be a direct investment in the development of difference-makers and leaders, both for our church and for the world. Gifts can be pledged over a pledge period of up to five years.

Our goal is to expand the program and make it available and affordable for young people from across the church, providing twenty bursaries for each of the next five years by raising \$200,000 in our campaign.





Listening to the Voices of Our Students

Those who participated in the 2014 program tackled the task of preaching. They risked going outside their comfort zone by engaging in the process involved in preparing a sermon, and then going home to preach that sermon in their home congregation. Participants in the program offered their personal observations of what this time meant to them.

What was most valuable to you in this program?

“Wonderful, wise, compassionate mentors; ... learning that I had gifts I didn’t know I had.”

“The worship services each morning; trying different worship styles and seeing each of us take part. I learned so much from others.”

“Personal interaction and guidance with the leaders; the individual attention really helped me.”

Did this event help you in your personal faith? How?

“It completely changed my life, without a hint of exaggeration. I have such a deeper relationship with Christ now.”

“It helped me in my faith more than any other event, challenging me to practice what I preach.”

“I feel more connected to my fellow believers. It also helped me shape a major decision in my life.”

Would you recommend this event to other young people?

“Absolutely! This event was perfect for where I am in my life and faith journey. Everyone, regardless of age, would greatly benefit from this event.”

“I would 100% recommend this to other young people. It has had a significant impact on my faith, personal and academic life.”

“Yes, even if professional ministry is not what one wants to do.”

From the Minister of one of the participants:

“This was a great experience for our participant. She did some serious thinking about where God is leading her, and she is making plans to enter university this year. Her sermon was light years ahead of my first sermon 40 years ago, and I told the congregation that! I wish that I had had access to such training when I was discerning my call.”

The Broader Impact

Participants in the Young Leaders Program are part of the Presbyterian College’s Leadership Centre whose mission is to develop, train and nurture transformational leaders. The Centre provides programs for people of all faiths, young and old, who aspire to make a positive and profound difference in our world in the name of Christ.



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