

A hand is raised in a gesture of worship or prayer against a vibrant red background. In the background, a large, dark cross is visible. The overall scene suggests a church service or a religious event. The image has a slightly distressed, textured appearance.

# YOUTH UNLIMITED

HELPING CHURCHES CHALLENGE YOUTH TO COMMIT THEIR LIVES TO JESUS CHRIST AND TRANSFORM THE WORLD FOR HIM.

## A Note from the Director

Jeff Kruithof



Youth Unlimited (YU) has a rich history of **helping churches challenge youth to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and to transform their world for Him**. We are committed to seeing the local church youth ministry succeed in reaching youth with the dynamic power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

YU realizes that youth workers are critical instruments that God uses daily to reach today's youth and that there can be days, maybe weeks that it is difficult to carry out effective ministry alone. Youth Unlimited is here for you to learn. We offer resources, service opportunities, special events, leadership training, as well as someone to talk to and share your ministry praises and concerns with.

All of Youth Unlimited's services are shaped through seeking God's vision for ministry interpreted through a Reformed perspective in diverse social and ethnic contexts.

This brochure is intended to give a glimpse into the many aspects of Youth Unlimited. If you ever have a question or concern about young people, youth workers or youth culture, please know we welcome the opportunity to serve you.

Partnering in ministry,  
Jeff Kruithof, Executive Director



YOUTHUNLIMITED

Box 7259, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49510

[www.youthunlimited.org](http://www.youthunlimited.org)

[yu@youthunlimited.org](mailto:yu@youthunlimited.org)

616.241.5616

**About Youth Unlimited**

Information on Youth Unlimited and our mission to serve Youth Workers throughout North America.

**Youth Opportunities**

An overview of the Youth Unlimited Mission Program - multiple steps, designed to fit each individual's spiritual path. Just sign up and get there, we'll worry about the rest!

**Youth Worker Opportunities**

Two worship opportunities to bring your youth to – *Convention* and *Where U At?* Pick which one meets the needs of your group.

**Resources Available**

What books work best when ministering to youth and what resources are available through Youth Unlimited?

**Youth Unlimited Partnership**

What does it mean to be in partnership with Youth Unlimited and how else does this benefit your church?

**What's In Here?**



# Youth Unlimited

Founded in 1919, Youth Unlimited has been organizing large worship events, hosting mission experiences, and supporting churches and their youth workers through trainings, retreats, workshops and relationships for over 90 years! Let our **experience** and **long-standing commitment to youth** help you in challenging your young people to transform this world for Christ. We encourage you to **move beyond thinking of youth as the future of the church** and recognize them as a part of your church right now, **teaching them about their gifts, empowering them in their purpose, and encouraging them to live their lives as a testimony** to others in the community.

## Our Mission

Helping churches challenge youth to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and transform the world for Him.

Youth Unlimited carries out its mission by offering a wide variety of resources, service opportunities, special events, and leadership training. All the services of Youth Unlimited are shaped through seeking God's vision for ministry interpreted through a Reformed perspective in diverse social and ethnic contexts.

### Youth Unlimited serves CHURCHES by:

- helping them to better understand the nature of youth ministry
- identifying qualified youth workers
- integrating youth into other areas of church ministry

### Youth Unlimited serves YOUTH WORKERS by:

- providing regional and local leadership training
- providing guidance in setting the direction of their youth ministry
- offering resources that support ministry efforts
- supporting them in relationship and prayer

### Youth Unlimited serves YOUTH by:

- seeking to bring them to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- encouraging spiritual growth
- creating service and evangelistic opportunities
- helping them to develop leadership skills
- encouraging relational and inter-generational ministry
- encouraging youth to stay connected to the local church

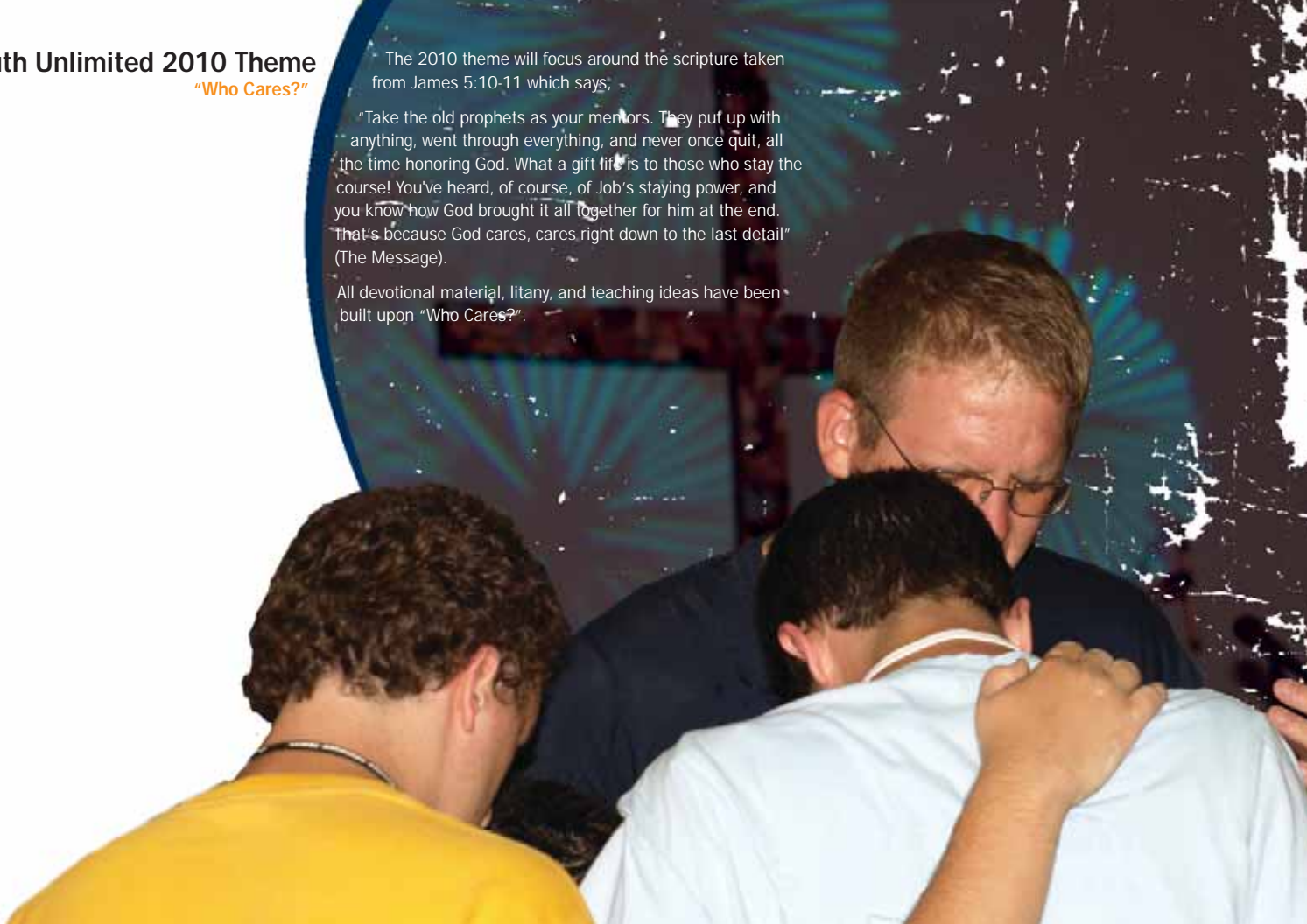
## Youth Unlimited 2010 Theme

**"Who Cares?"**

The 2010 theme will focus around the scripture taken from James 5:10-11 which says,

"Take the old prophets as your mentors. They put up with anything, went through everything, and never once quit, all the time honoring God. What a gift life is to those who stay the course! You've heard, of course, of Job's staying power, and you know how God brought it all together for him at the end. That's because God cares, cares right down to the last detail" (The Message).

All devotional material, litany, and teaching ideas have been built upon "Who Cares?".



## Youth Opportunities

### MISSION TRIPS & WORSHIP EVENTS



#### Mission Trips: SERVE and ENCOUNTER

Youth Unlimited has been hosting mission trips through local churches and organizations for over 20 years. These experiences give your church's young people the opportunity to share God's love and Christian compassion by serving others. We encourage you to move beyond thinking of a short-term mission trip as a one-time service "event" and recognize that it's part of your long term strategy for teaching young people about social justice, missional living, and God's heart for the community you'll be serving and your community at home.

Our goal is to impact the communities and people we serve by coming alongside organizations and individuals who are already serving in a community. These experiences help you challenge youth, through service and worship, to grow in their faith and discover how to make a difference in the world. Choose from over 40 sites.



📌 For details on the 2010 mission trip locations and their site descriptions, please visit [www.youthunlimited.org/missions](http://www.youthunlimited.org/missions).

➡ **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!** Be sure to inquire about scholarships if you or someone you know is unable to meet the financial requirements for a mission trip.

#### Urban Youth Conference: WHERE U AT?

A weekend for high school students and their leaders to get away and spend time with God and their friends. In its fifth year, Where U At? embraces our different cultures and brings us together to stand in unity before God. This event is designed to stretch, heal and care for the hearts, souls and faith of each participant through the spoken Word, praise, worship, and dance.

📌 To find out more about the speakers and worship at this year's Where U At? Conference, or to register for the 2010 Conference at SpringHill Camps in Evert, MI, visit [www.youthunlimited.org/wua](http://www.youthunlimited.org/wua).

#### Middle School Retreats

Youth Unlimited partners with Grace Adventures who provide four weekends to host retreats for your middle school youth. The 2010 theme is "Recycled" based on Hebrews 13:8 and activities include the tubing hill, cross country skiing, the indoor climbing tower, horseback rides and more.


Registration for retreats occurs directly through Grace Adventures. Visit [www.graceadventures.org](http://www.graceadventures.org) for more information.

# Youth Worker Opportunities

## RETREATS & TRAININGS


### Youth Worker Retreats

Weekend long retreats designed to support, encourage, network, and minister to professional and volunteer youth workers. These are held during winter months and hosted in a variety of North American locations. Each will remain focused on Christ through engaging speakers, times of corporate worship and small group discussions.

 For retreat locations and dates, please visit [www.youthunlimited.org/retreats](http://www.youthunlimited.org/retreats).

### Compass 21 Workshops and Trainings

Workshops and trainings are available for your youth workers, parents, and church leaders. Each is customizable to fit your church's individual needs.

 Get started on creating your workshop today, visit [www.youthunlimited.org/c21](http://www.youthunlimited.org/c21).



## Resources

The following are unique resources exclusively offered by Youth Unlimited.

### *eQuip* Periodical - FREE to Partner Churches!

*Equip* is a quarterly publication that will guide youth workers through their ministry year. Each youth worker at our partner churches receive a **FREE** yearly subscription and access to back issues through our **Partners Only website**.

### *Getting Dusty* Curriculum

Culturally relevant, straight talking, truth telling—that's what you'll find when you read through this curriculum for early teens. Topics to discuss include: Singleness, Discernment, Modesty in Dress, Peer Pressure, Resolving Anger, Materialism, Sexual Purity and more.

### Themed Devotions

With each new program year, Youth Unlimited publishes devotional material based on a theme for that year and distributes them free of charge to youth workers and participants attending these programs.

### *Compass 21* Program

The *Compass 21* process evaluates and revitalizes your student ministry within the context of your whole church. With a facilitator, your church will openly communicate to set an intentional direction and goals that fit your unique youth ministry. In addition to offering Workshops, this program also offers two Training Options:

#### **Option 1:** In-Person Facilitated Training

- *Compass 21* Self-Evaluation
- Visioning
- Goal Setting
- Action Planning
- 6-9 months of follow-up with facilitator

#### **Option 2:** Phone Consultation Training

- *Compass 21* Self-Evaluation
- Goal Setting
- Recommended Next Steps/Resources



## Youth Ministry Imprints

In the *Youth Ministry Imprints*, we hope you will find the equivalent of a North American Youth Worker's network. We collected the most frequently asked questions by youth workers of YU, put them in a list, and asked a wide variety of churches throughout North America for their answers.

## Pastor Tool Kit - FREE to Partner Churches!

A helpful resource for pastors of partner churches which includes: recommended dates for a youth service, commissioning litanies, teaching suggestions for a youth service, and information on how to support your youth ministry team. This packet will give pastors a foundation to build a youth service with impact.

## [www.youthunlimited.org](http://www.youthunlimited.org)

The Youth Unlimited website is a plethora of information for paid and volunteer youth workers alike. From trainings in your area and up to date information on YU programs, to youth ministry job postings nationwide and recommended speakers and bands, the YU website's got it!


## Youth Unlimited Out of The Trenches

*Out of the Trenches* was developed so that youth workers and pastors can share best practices on youth ministry, relevant youth trends, and how to build relationships between the youth ministry leadership and other church leaders. It is written by pastors and youth workers, for pastors and youth workers. We would like you to contribute! If you have something to share that others in the ministry would benefit from, please write to [webmaster@youthunlimited.org](mailto:webmaster@youthunlimited.org).



To subscribe to *Out of the Trenches*, send an empty e-mail to [youthleaders-subscribe@lists.youthunlimited.org](mailto:youthleaders-subscribe@lists.youthunlimited.org).





## Through Partnership YU is Able to Offer Your Church the Following:

### Youth Opportunities

#### Mission Trips: **SERVE** and **ENCOUNTER**

Youth Unlimited mission experiences give your church the opportunity to have your young people share God's love and Christian compassion by serving others. Our goal is to impact the communities and people we serve by coming alongside organizations and individuals who are already serving in a community. These experiences help you challenge youth, through service and worship, to grow in their faith and discover how to make a difference in the world. Choose from over 40 sites.

#### Urban Youth Conference: **WHERE U AT?**

A weekend for high school students and their leaders to get away and spend time with God and their friends. Now, in its fifth year, *Where U AT?* embraces our different cultures and brings us together in unity before God. This event is designed to stretch, heal and care for the hearts, souls and faith of each participant through the spoken Word, praise, worship, and dance.

### Trainings & Networking

#### Youth Worker Retreats

Weekend retreats designed to support, encourage, network, and minister to youth workers. To be held during winter months and hosted in a variety of North American locations.

*Compass 21 Workshops and Trainings* are also available for your youth leaders and parents. These are customizable to fit your church's individual needs.

**partnership:** (n) a cooperative relationship between people or groups who agree to share responsibility for achieving some specific goal.

### Church Resources

*Youth Unlimited eQuip* - A quarterly publication that will guide youth workers through their ministry year.

*Out of the Trenches* - An electronic publication for youth workers and their churches distributed on a monthly basis.

#### *Compass 21*

The *Compass 21* process evaluates and revitalizes your student ministry within the context of your whole church. With a facilitator, your church will openly communicate to set an intentional direction and goals that fit your unique youth ministry.

**Pastor's Tool Kit** - A helpful resource for pastors. This packet will give pastors a foundation to build a youth service with impact as well as encourage them to build relationships with the youth and youth workers in their church.

#### Partners Only Section on our website

At [www.youthunlimited.org/partnership](http://www.youthunlimited.org/partnership) YU partners have access to partner only benefits. These include price discounts for Youth Unlimited events and other youth ministry events, discounts on resources, access to archives of *eQuip*, small group materials, and other benefits not offered to the general public.

#### Devotional Material

At Youth Unlimited events, we offer Biblically sound materials, grounded in the Reformed theology.

## A Partnership with Youth Unlimited is agreeing to:

1. **A statement of vision** declaring that through the local church young people need to be challenged to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and equipped to transform their world for Him.
2. **An intentional commitment** that links the local church and its youth workers to a wider community of fellow churches and youth workers across North America who are committed to giving their best to God and to their youth.

## A Partnership with Youth Unlimited allows YU to be:

1. **Your point of connection** for learning, developing, and interacting with other innovative church youth workers.
2. **A catalyst in focusing time and resources** to serve the needs of pioneering paid and volunteer youth ministry leaders who have chosen to participate in the youth ministry movement.
3. **On the cusp** of developing intentionally life changing events that are affordable to youth and their leaders who desire to hear God's call and make a difference in this world.

## A Partnership with Youth Unlimited offers your church these benefits:

- Four free issues/year of **Youth Unlimited eQuip** to every youth worker in your church
- **Out of the Trenches** to all who sign up to receive it.
- **Discounts on leader registrations** to Youth Unlimited experiences.
- **Discounts on Youth Specialties events**, including the National Youth Workers' Convention and trainings.
- A **free Pastors' Tool Kit** to equip pastors as they connect with the youth and youth workers in their church through relationships, youth services and commissioning events.
- A **Partners Only section on the Youth Unlimited website**, offering small group materials, additional content from eEquip, archived copies of resources and more information not offered to the general public.
- A **place to ask your youth ministry questions and get answers.**

→ Youth Unlimited is funded by individuals, organizations and local churches like you. As part of your church's Partnership with Youth Unlimited, you have committed to taking 1-2 offerings per year. We thank you for your continued contribution.



Dynamic Youth Ministries  
PO Box 7259  
Grand Rapids, MI 49510  
USA