

ABSTRACT

The Expressive Arts in Anglican Youth Ministry in the Caribbean

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Caribbean youth are in crisis. In addition to the normal adolescent predicament of role and identity, youth have to deal with historical legacies of slavery and colonialism which are the cause of some of their tendencies and indiscretions. The Anglican Church in its earlier manifestation as an agent of Euro Christianity abetted the agendas of slavery and colonialism. As such it was a co-creator of the Caribbean person who is psychologically, culturally and economically dependent, and who still relies on external sources for defining and legitimising their identity. The church is central to this rescue operation.

This paper provides criteria for Caribbean Youth Ministry, and shows how youth ministry via the Expressive Arts meets the criterion, which essentially requires that it be mindful of historical reality, affirming in cultural and individual identity, and mission oriented.

The thesis features a survey of the use of the expressive arts in the Anglican Church in the dioceses of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, and the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba. It is informed by interviews conducted with practitioners of the Expressive arts in both secular and sacred spheres. The survey revealed that while church leadership appreciated the arts' ability to enhance worship, facilitate learning and foster fellowship, their usage was relegated mostly to special occasions, and did not maximise on the Expressive Art's educational, formative and socialising potential.

Caribbean youth ministry builds upon Joan Delsol-Meade's call for a holistic approach to youth ministry. Whereas she looks to education, greater youth involvement and youth worker training, this proposal acknowledges all these, and delves into identity formation through sensitivity to historical context. It seeks youth empowerment utilising the Expressive Arts as a means of faith, cultural, denominational and national identity formation. It seeks to equip them for survival as fully integrated human beings.