

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

LATEST INFORMATION AND UPDATES
ABOUT THE DIOCESAN YOUTH DEPARTMENT



**PREPARED BY:
D'ONDRÉ MILLER**



2025 DIOCESAN 122ND SYNOD REPORT

Diocesan Youth Department

Established: September 3rd, 1972

Motto: "For God and Youth, through Christ."

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The Right Reverend Laish Z. Boyd

Bishop of The Bahamas and The Turks and Caicos Islands

GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Diocesan Youth Department (DYD) continues to strengthen its ministry in the aftermath of COVID-19 and Hurricane Dorian, with a focus on rebuilding, innovation, and youth empowerment. In 2024-2025, the DYD expanded its digital presence, deepened advocacy work, trained leaders through seminars and certification programs, and advanced parish youth ministry support. We continue to build momentum while preparing for expanded initiatives in 2026 and beyond.



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LETTER OF THANKS & APPRECIATION

In keeping with the tradition established by previous Youth Officers and Directors, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Dr. B. Travis Fernander for recommending me as his successor. I also want to express my appreciation to The Rt. Rev'd Laish Z. Boyd and the Diocese for their endorsement of this recommendation and for giving me the opportunity to serve the youth of our diocese. I specifically recognise those within the Christian Youth Ministry, and parish leaders across our churches who faithfully support our young people. To the Sunday School Superintendent Ms. Michelle Popel, all assistant superintendents and teachers, and every volunteer youth leader across parishes, specifically Mr. Lon Minns and the team at Holy Trinity, Miss Megan Sears and the team at St Agnes, Mrs. Dennise Hanna and the team at Epiphany, Ms Antja Humes and the team at St Anne's, Fr John Pinder and the team at The Cathedral, Ms Carilyn (Liz) Pinder and the team at St James, Ms Valerie Gaitor and the team at All Saints Ms. Samantha Cartwright and the team at St Phillips, Inagua, Miss Michelane Darville St Patrick's in Central Eleuthera, Ms. Shantell Evans of Bimini and Ancha Musgrove TCI. It is both an honour and a privilege to walk with you in supporting the growth and development of our youth. I am excited for the upcoming year to develop and facilitate intimate relationships with and between more youth advocates.

May God bless us all and our Diocese!

D.M. Miller

MS. D'ONDRÉ M. MILLER

OCTOBER 2025

MISSION & OBJECTIVES

THE FOUNDATION

Objective:

The Diocesan Youth Department is dedicated to supporting the growth and spiritual development of youth across the Diocese. Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricane Dorian, the department has placed emphasis on rebuilding and rejuvenating youth ministry through leadership, vision, and engagement.

Membership:

Of the approximately 26 churches in our Diocese, 15 report active youth (with increases in AYA members) and/or children's ministries.

Vision:

We seek to make our parishes and communities more receptive to and inclusive of young people while cultivating their faith in God. We seek to respond to the Holy Spirit as young Anglicans, making use of our time, talent, and treasure for the advancement of the church, our communities, and the world.

Mission:

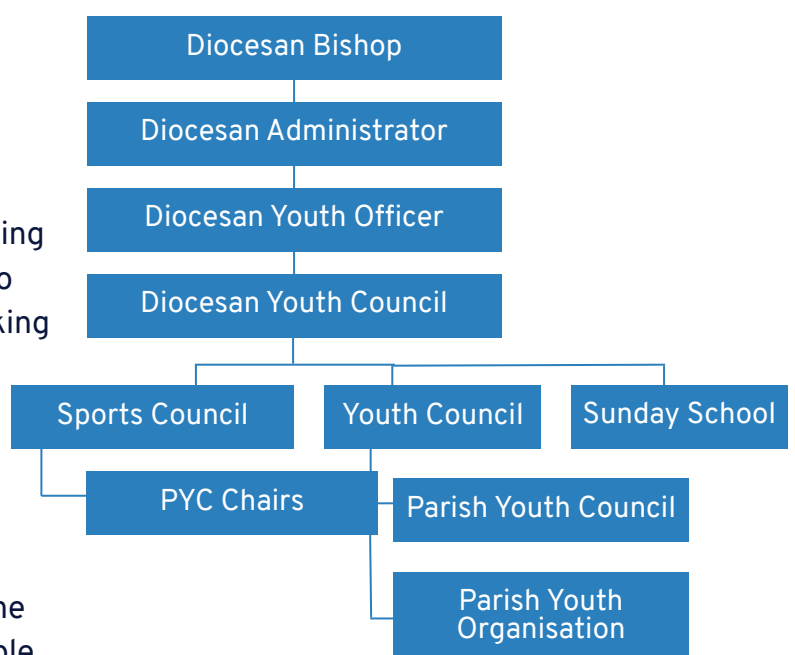
The mission of the Anglican Diocesan Youth Department is to acknowledge the worth and inherent value of young people.

Goal:

To empower and equip Youth Ministry within the Diocese of The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands to live out their faith actively and meaningfully. Our aim is to foster their inclusion in parish life, nurturing their spiritual and character growth, and supporting their development as responsible, engaged, and faithful individuals.

Structure (Modus Operandi):

Implemented through Parish Youth Councils (PYC) and diocesan networks.



YEAR IN REVIEW

The Strategy

The DYD continues its ambitious targets with adjustments to better serve the youth of the Diocese and those who support them. Our events this year were in large part guided by the Diocesan Theme 2025: *“Family Matters: Strengthening Our Homes, Strengthening Our Faith,”* inspired by Joshua 24:15. At the same time, our overall work is informed by Youth Advocates, the National Development Plan: Vision 2040, and developing partnerships.

Targets:

- Integrate goals and policies into youth ministry at the diocesan and parish levels.
 - Expand virtual platforms (website, YouTube, LinkedIn) for inclusive engagement.
 - Encourage churches to maintain consistent and diverse digital content.
 - Celebrate youth leader achievements.
 - Create and distribute relevant ministry resources.
 - Strengthen outreach and support to TCI and Family Islands.
 - Provide training and certification to youth leaders.
 - Promote social awareness campaigns (Pastoral Care, Tamar Project/Family Violence Prevention, Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, Blood Drives and other related campaigns).
- By focusing on these targets, the DYD hopes to make a holistic and lasting impact on the lives of youth and leaders across the Diocese.

Initiatives 2024-2025

- **Strategic Planning:** The DYD Strategic Plan, first commissioned by Mrs. Tiffany Sweeting and prepared by Mr. John Darville, continues to guide development. The current review includes educational sector leaders and plans to bring in family and home support as a new pillar.
- **Digital Growth:** YouTube and LinkedIn added to social platforms, broadening engagement especially with the 30+ age group.
- **Publication Ministry:** *Via Advent* was digitised, reaching 286 youth and 40 parents/adults.
- **Parish Visits:** Parish youth groups engaged through sessions on communication, music, fellowship, and guest speakers.
- **Youth Manuals:** Completed and ready for digital release in December 2025.
- **Divisions:** Archdeaconries subdivided to encourage stronger bonds and support.
- **Youth Advocates Seminar:** A hybrid event held August 2-23, 2025. Workshops included child protection, mental health, bible study, Youth mentorship programs, parent communication and financial planning. Plans are underway to duplicate this event for the youth (13-25 years).

- **DYD Youth Month (September):** Featured annual Back-to-School Services and Anniversary Celebration Services across The Diocese (September 28).
- **DYD Advocacy Campaigns:** Launching the first annual Diocesan Youth-in-Service Day on Saturday, 1st November 2025.
- **Fundraiser:** A Walk-a-thon was held in May to raise funds for the DYD Ha
- **Track & Field Event:** The Diocesan Youth Department Alpheus “Hawk” Finlayson Track and Field Classic 2025: Family Edition (October 4, 2025), honouring Roscow Davies and family for contributions in sports and the church.
- **Pastoral Care:** Ladies of Virtue Youth Manual Training, Family Island visits with the Prayer and Healing Ministry, Inagua, Eleuthera, Bimini, Exuma
- **Youth Council:** Meets every other month via Zoom. Topics include best practices, event planning, and parish needs.
- **Parish Event:** Ignition, ACW Leadership Seminar, Hope for Kids Conference, Ladies of Virtue, Ladies of Virtues, The Rose Ministry Young Ladies Retreat, Youth Recognition Vacation Bible School
- **Community Advocacy Campaigns:** Disability Empowerment Month Dollar Day. Partnered with the Public Hospital Authority for suicide prevention | Bosses & Brunch
- **National Youth Month (October):** Combined Youth (CYM/AYA/Joshua etc) (within Divisions) to meet every Friday in October. Meeting themes under consideration; Fellowship, Worship, and Prayer and Healing.
- **Provincial Commission:** Held the 24th annual PYC meeting virtually in March. Youth Forum scheduled for September 28, 2025.

Training & Development

- **National Youth Leaders Certification (16 weeks):** Focused on adolescent development and safeguarding.
- **Safeguarding Certification:** Completed through the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture.
- **Youth Advocates’ Seminar:** A hybrid event held August 2–23, 2025. Workshops included training in mental health, PCM Parenting communication module, bible study, Youth mentorship programs, parent communication, financial literacy PCM Parenting module, DYD Manual, Power Up!!, and child protection. Supported by Pastoral Care, corporate sponsors, and NGOs.
- **AI Tools:** To harness **GPT, AI automation, and AI agent technologies** to grow youth ministry, boost productivity, and increase our community drive.
- Additional training opportunities will be scheduled through government partnerships and other diocesan ministry programs.



CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

ISSUES AFFECTING MINISTRY

- **Broken Communication Network:** Youth Leaders, Church Administrators, Clergy, Vestries and parishioners are not aware of access points for youth impacting programs both by our churches and this office. Revamping communication channels like What's App groups and social media platforms toward an information delivery and marketing campaign and for networking events is in the planning phase.
- **Integration with Parish Ministry:** Youth work often remains isolated. Stronger alignment is needed between youth and wider parish life.
- **Funding Limitations:** Activities remain limited by central funding. Communication has stated with strategic corporations to establish long-term partnerships.
- **Gender Imbalance in Leadership:** Parish youth officers are predominantly female.
- **Succession Planning & Unclear Organisational Structures:** Parish Youth Ministry will likely be in a transitional leadership phase within the next few years. Incorporating dissemination of this information through the proposed DYD Information and Marketing campaign.

GOALS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

INITIATIVES FOR 2026 AND BEYOND

- Establish a Digital Youth Resource Library as a hub for training and ministry materials.
- Host Bi-Annual Leadership Boot Camps to certify youth leaders in ministry, safeguarding, conflict resolution and lay counselling.
- Expand DYD Seminars to include youth as participants.
- Launch Bi-Annual Sports Clinics across Family Islands.
- Strengthen Holistic Health Advocacy, focusing on major issues reported by the Public Health Authority (PHA). This year mental health and low blood supplies were top of the list. Partnering with the Hospital Chaplaincy to create an annual Blood Drive campaign and strengthen community impact in the medical field.
- Build a **DYD Support Network**, reconnecting and connecting former leaders and parents across The Diocese with current and out of parish youth advocates.
- Re-establish a **Mobile Youth Ministry Unit** for Family Islands.
- Create new **programming for ages 25–35**, offering relevant training, growth and community systems.
- Relaunch **Educational Competitions**, starting with **Speech**, in the framework of Toast Masters.
- Expand combined Youth Group **Meetings by Division** concept to TCI and The Family Islands.
- Incorporate family-style parenting workshops and support groups.
- Partnering with the Hospital Chaplaincy to create an annual **Blood Drive** campaign and strengthen community impact in the medical field.





Recurring Initiatives

- Hybrid Youth Advocates Seminar – July 25, 2026.
- Anniversary Service – September 27, 2026.
- Combined Youth Group Meetings by Division – October 2026.
- DYD Hawk Classic– October 31, 2026.
- *Via Advent* Digital Lenten Journal – annually.

Strategic Partnerships

- Reestablish the **Archdeaconry Youth Commission** to support diocesan events.
- Support **parish-led programs** in arts, clubs, and emotional intelligence.
- Partner with **Pastoral Care Ministries** for youth-focused programs in prayer, healing, mentorship, and family life.
- Strengthen the **Provincial Youth Commission** with:
 - o Virtual provincial worship events.
 - o Shared digital resource repository.
 - o Annual youth exchange.
 - o Standard assessment tools for measuring impact.
 - o Province-wide mental health awareness initiative (May 2026).



IN MEMORIUM

Ms Laurell Albury
Nichols (Holy Spirit)

RECOGNITION

Thank you to the Diocesan Office Staff whose knowledge support and enthusiasm for Youth Ministry has been a consistent beacon of encouragement and an uplifting source.

Appendix

Digital Platforms: Website, [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#).

Events: [Youth Advocates Seminar 2025](#), [Anniversary Service](#), [DYD Hawk Classic Family Edition](#), [Combined Youth Group Meetings \(NP\)](#).

Sunday School Ministry: [Christian Education & Mothering Sunday](#)

Parish Programs: , [Back-to-School Sunday](#), [Ignition](#), [ACW Leadership Seminar \(Saturday, 25th October 8am\)](#).

Provincial Programs: [Youth Forum 2025](#). | [Youth Weekend](#).

Community Advocacy Initiatives: [Disability Empowerment Month Dollar Day Donation](#) | [PHA Suicide Prevention Symposium](#) | [Bosses & Brunch](#)

Materials: [Via Advent Youth & Adult journals](#), [Youth Manuals](#): [CYM](#) | [AYA](#) | [We Doin' Life: 25+](#) | [Leaders Power UP!!](#), [Alpha](#) and [P.R.E.P.](#) programs.

Training: [National Youth Leadership Certification](#), [AI Professionals Course](#).

Divisions: [Updated Archdeaconries and Divisions](#).

Note: Items with no link are not yet available digitally but may be available for viewing via the DYD Website Monday, 1st December 2025



CLOSING REMARKS

The Diocesan Youth Department remains committed to its mission of nurturing the next generation of Anglicans in faith, leadership, and service. While we acknowledge the challenges of limited resources and shifting societal dynamics, we also celebrate the resilience, creativity, and dedication that continue to characterise our youth and their leaders and advocates. The work outlined in this report represents both the fruit of faithful labour and the seeds of future growth.

We move forward with hope, leaning on God's grace and guided by the Holy Spirit, trusting that our collective efforts will strengthen our Diocese and prepare our young people to serve boldly in church and society. Together, we will continue to affirm that for our youth, through Christ, all things are possible.

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” – Joshua 24:15



— Year RECAP —



january



february



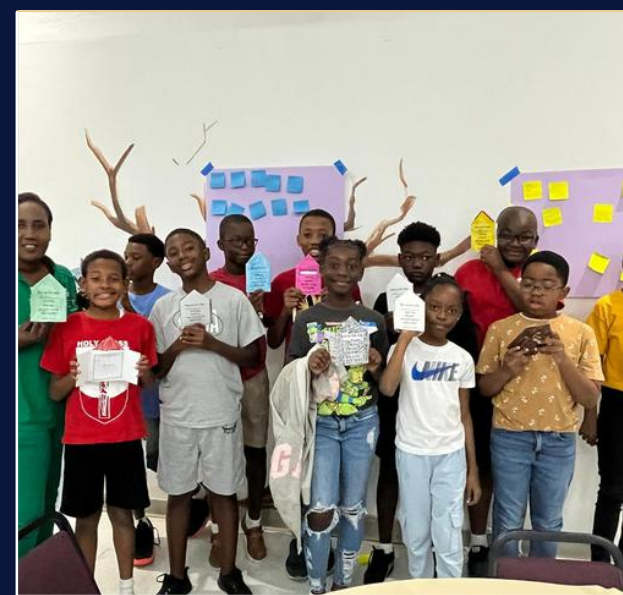
march



april



may



june



july



august



september



october



november



december

Grateful for the moments that made this year unforgettable.
Looking back with a full heart and forward with hope.

2024- 2025



GROWTH



DYD
Year
IN REVIEW



SELF-AWARENESS

HARMONY

