

We ARE. We CARE. We BELIEVE.

Youth Council Vision Statement written 2002,
revised 2005.

Youth Council is a group that consists of amazing individuals. We are many and we unite as one to make a difference and to share our voices in the world and our church; as we proclaim our ideas, we are working towards the future in faith and love. We are not your average teens!

We are inviting friends and unique spirits. Youth Council is full of people who love to laugh and have fun and who care about the feelings of others. We gather to plan YAYA events and present our ideas and gifts to those who are willing to listen.

We are people in faith, interested in being a part of the church, who believe. We are children of God.

Youth Council brings the gift of ideas, creativity and new thoughts on God. We bring love, smiles and caring. We bring compassion and forgiveness. We also bring **RESPECT**. We are non-judgmental and understanding. **LAUGHTER!** A football, some stories, hands for caring, voices for praising and music for celebrating. With enthusiasm and an open mind we bring **FAITH** and **ENERGY**.

In our day-to-day lives we, as youth, worry about not being accepted or not fitting in because of our age, our acting differently than what others are used to, other people's judgments, and for being true to who we really are. The well being of our loved ones and making the right decisions are other worries that fill our hearts. We have concern about the future of the environment, wars, the government, technology and life direction, as well as the life of our church.

Youth Council looks forward to making a difference in the present for a better future. Through others and their faith and life experience, we learn about ourselves and the gifts that we have and how to share them with others. The knowledge and experience that we gain will help us bring about changes in society and the church. Friends, new and old, keep us inspired through laughter and fun!

We, the youth, believe in ourselves, in others and in God. We believe that youth have the power to create the change we want to see in the world. We believe in love. We believe in peace, equality and freedom of speech. We believe that people are good and that goodness will always prevail. We believe in those who lead us. We believe in ourselves, in others and in God. WE BELIEVE.