Institute of Youth Ministry

Australian Union

May, 2015

**Disadvantages of being in a small church (up to 30 people) as it relates to youth ministry**

Few or No Peers (in church) No friends in the faith, Isolation, minority complex

Finances poor/ limited

Staffing limited – doubling up

Limited perception of future

No critical mass

Less variety

Limited options for relationship - have to look outside church family or faith

Limited options for mentors/ models

Lack of conference support – looks like favoritism

Broad ages in the group – difficult to cater for both

Facilities catered to the majority

Feeling of isolation

Tend to be away from the hub of activity

No strong dynamics

Adults less equipped to work with youth

Insufficient youth of pathfinders

Community views church as insignificant irrelevant

Not much focus on the youth

A lack of loyalty from the youth, other churches become more appealing

Smaller churches tend to be more conservative

Ultimate disadvantage is the church becomes extinct

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**Advantages of being in a small church (up to 30 people) as it relates to youth ministry**

Genuine love and adoption by the adults

Spiritual maturity can often be trained, early responsibility

Less opportunity for pulling out of things

Adult mentorship and peers

More difficult to go (everyone notices)

Less negative peer presence

Local church support for opportunities, more opportunities

Greater willingness of young people to help out

Lots of potential for growth and innovation, trying things out.

Intergration with the church is easier. (involvement)

Learn to interact with adults.

No youth structure allows more creativity

Closer cross-generational relationships. Deeper relationships and experiences with each other and with God.

More important spiritual input into wider church life

Not as much chance for a clique’

Everyone knows names.

Should have more time (to invest in youth) because of less admin

Integrity with the church

More possibility of one-on-one mentoring and pastoral care

Older generation more caring of existing youth. (One of the youth may become head elder.)

Closer church family fellowship environment.

Could create a yearning for something more, encourages seeking after God and others. Encourages a vision for more.