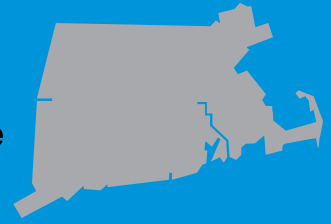


DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

38TH CONSTITUENCY SESSION

Southern New England Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists

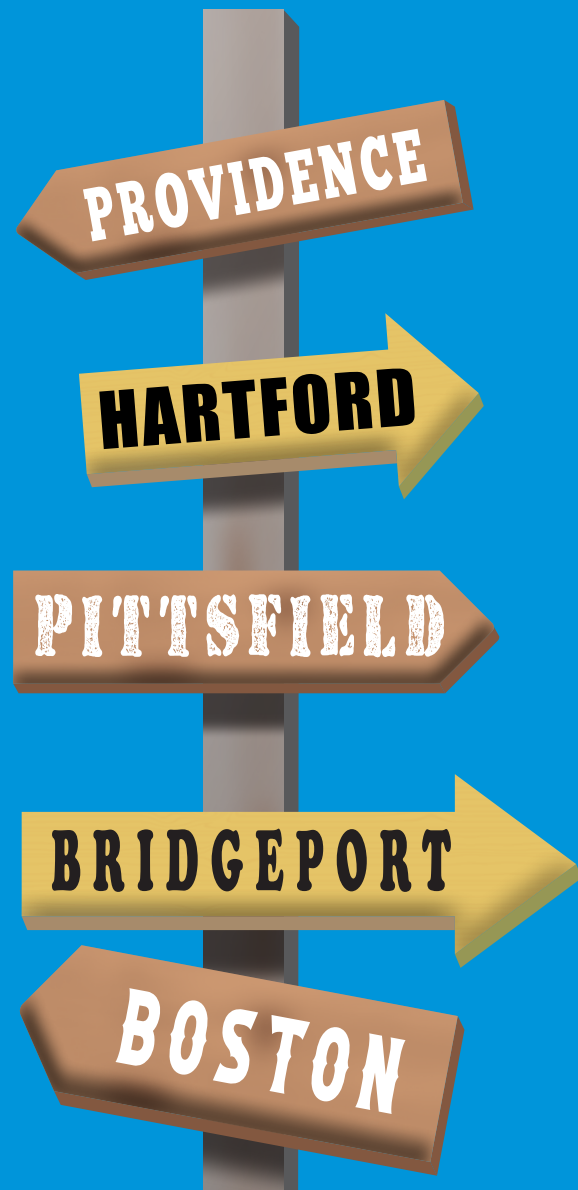


YOUTH

Danny Velez
Director

Teddy Williamson
Associate Director

Norys Agudelo
Administrative Assistant



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Adventist Youth Ministries in the Southern New England Conference serves several ministries. We are responsible for Adventurers, Master Guides, Medical Cadets, Mission Trips, Pathfinders, Public Campus, Summer Camps, Youth Training Ministry, Youth Sabbath School and Youth and Young Adult Federations. Additionally, we serve Family Ministries. Our department is consisting of the youth director, Daniel Velez; associate youth director Eion "Teddy" Williamson; public campus ministries director, Endri Misho, Norys Agudelo our Administrative Assistant and Glorimar Teixeira as a special projects' administrative assistant. At Camp Winnekeag there are four staff: camp manager/ranger, Andrew Henderson, food services director, Barbara Henderson; and assistant ranger Fernando Guimares and Ester Guimaraes, assistant food services director.

Here is a brief overview of the ministries within the department and what was accomplished during the last five years.

Adventurer Club Ministry

Adventurer Club Ministry is a family-based ministry that focuses on involving and supporting parents in the physical, social, spiritual, and mental development of children in grades Pre-K to 4. There are three major event that take place throughout the year: Spring Escape Family Camping weekend, Adventurer Bible Game which was introduced in 2019, and Family Fun Day. During the pandemic these events were held virtually. Our first in-person Spring Escape took place this year and the first in-person Family Fun Day will take place during the fall. Additionally, the Adventurer team provided virtual and in-person support training to adventurer club directors. Over 800 children were reached through the program yearly and there were over 300 adventurer's investitures during the quinquennium. Area Coordinators serve as the liaisons for the department to assist the local clubs and provide directions. We are constantly seeking to improve Adventurers by supporting clubs and looking for opportunities to help churches open new clubs.



Family Ministries

Family Ministries exist to provide resources and support to local church family ministries directors and the families of our conference.



"Our mission of evangelism is to provide resources, training, and networking opportunities that will instill hope and bring wholeness to families within our territory." Over the last 5 years, as a ministry we have planned and carried out, collaborated, and started several projects that have been enriching, have nurtured, and above all, blessed families throughout the conference. Some of our events are the following:

" Yearly Mental Health Symposium - where several SDA mental health professionals gather every year to



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discuss topics like forgiveness, children and mental health, healing, healthy habits for a healthy mind, and hope. While on lockdown, during the pandemic, the event was held virtually, and it included presenters from various parts of the United States. The event has transitioned to in-person, and there has been between 125 and 150 people in attendance, for each of these events.



" Director's Training for Family Ministries local directors. These trainings were held during the Church Officer Training and Leadership Convention. Trainings have been facilitated in English and Spanish. Additionally, we have collaborated with and offered support to local churches throughout the SNEC territory, presenting workshops on diverse topics related to families, communication, rearing children, school related issues, etc.

" Couples' Dinner Cruise at the Connecticut River. This event took place in October of 2019, with 100 people from throughout the conference in attendance. The pandemic has put on hold plans for future similar events.

" Family Reunion/Reunión Familiar is a 40-minute bi-weekly virtual reunion via Zoom/Facebook Live that started in April 2020 on Sabbath. We had guest speakers talk to the families and friends of our conference about topics such as anxiety, depression, managing and thriving during Covid-19, singleness, the value of grandparenting, how to foster continuous learning for our kids during summer break, welcoming families of special needs kids to church, among others.

" Joined efforts with Men's Ministries in the development of events for both ministries.

" Couples Retreat: The pandemic put a hold to in-person events, however, during 2020 we were able to offer a virtual retreat, titled 'Kingdom Marriage' and in 2021 we were able to host 30 couples for the Love for a Lifetime retreat. This fall the Couples Retreat is scheduled for the weekend of September 30 and it is titled You...My Complement.

With the support of our Family Ministries Volunteer Coordinators, we continue to work in strengthening the families along the SNEC territory.

Master Guide Ministry

The Master Guide ministry was developed to train and equip leaders for the church and in specific, for Youth Ministry. Master Guides continues to be the highest level of Invested leadership within the



Adventurer/ Pathfinder programs of the church. It focuses on one's personal spiritual life and growth, first and foremost. General leadership skills are then woven into the sharpening of those skills, which are specifically geared to leading youth in God-ordained areas of development: understanding God's world of nature,

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outreach ministry, service to others, and a lifestyle that denotes healthy living. ministry: we must live what we preach and demonstrate it. Master Guides not only support local Adventurer/Pathfinder clubs, but they also support the entire church, as Master Guides are elders, deacons, deaconess, clerks, sabbath school teachers among many other responsibilities within their churches. During the pandemic the master guides, were actively involved supporting their churches, especially those where there is no Medical Cadets, with providing supports to re-open local churches by implementing Covid protocols, performing health screenings, providing safety and security as well as sanitation supports. We saw a stall in training during Covid

however, classes are reactivating, and leaders continue to equip themselves to support the church. During the last five years we have invested 250 Master Guides in the conference, these leaders serve as local adventurer and pathfinder directors/staff. Classes are offered in English, Spanish and Portuguese. Area Coordinators/Instructors serve as liaisons between the conference and the local church to provide mentorship and direction. We are constantly seeking to improve Master Guide by opening new classes in local churches.

Medical Cadet Corps

The Medical Cadet Corps (MCC) is a ministry that was originally meant to prepare young men for non-combatant military service. Today the Medical Cadet Ministry has developed into a disaster and emergency response ministry. Its members are trained and certify to work in conjunction with government agencies such as the Red Cross as well as Adventist Community Service. Medical Cadet ministry is for youth and young adults 16-years of age and over.

During the last five years the MCCs have provided First Aid, CPR, AED and ALICE (active shooter) training to local churches. Additionally, they have been training in disaster response with local communities by obtaining the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Certification. They also have participated from medical training, basic and intermediate trainings, and community service trainings.

During the pandemic the Medical Cadet Corps provided supports to re-open local churches by implementing Covid protocols, performing health screenings, providing safety and security as well as sanitation supports. Collaborated with local food pantries and vaccination clinics. Medical Cadets also provide logistical support by augmenting warehouse and supply operations, traffic and crowd control and public safety.



Medical Cadets work in fulfilling the mission of being Jesus hands and feet. They work to serve God, serve the church, and serve the community.

Mission Trips: Mission It's Possible

Mission It's Possible, the conference mission trip offers the days for youth, young adults, and adults the opportunities to develop hearts of service. These trips offer invaluable learning experiences from foreign living conditions, separation from technology, daily hands-on work, and an environment of dependence on God. The ministry opportunities offered are construction projects, evangelistic meetings,

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vacation bible schools, teaching in public schools, and food service. The past five years had mission trips to:

2018 Haiti, Beaumont: helped a church congregation & community clear and level an acropolis site for a new church to replace their church damaged by earthquake and hurricane, dug foundation trenches, laid stone foundations, cinder block walls, constructed rebar towers, 6 afternoons of VBS, 9 nights of evangelism meetings, 2 adult & children's Sabbath Schools with Church services, 30 volunteers ages 14-62, 5 days teaching in the mission school pre-school - 8th grade, hundreds attended VBS, school, evangelism, & Sabbath activities



2019 Guatemala, Coatepeque: helped build a church laying cinder block & building rebar tower, 5 afternoons of VBS, 6 nights of evangelism meetings, 2 adult & children's Sabbath Schools & Church services, 24 volunteers ages 14-63, 5 baptisms in a stream through the local church, 1 non SDA volunteer chose to be baptized at Chosen, hundreds attended VBS, evangelism, & Sabbath activities

2020 Panama, David trip canceled due to Covid lockdown, but advance funds had been sent and were used by AY for community service projects (recycling, painting, park beautification, etc)

2021 Kept interest up with Zoom presentation with Q&A about past & future Mission It's Possible experiences for e-Youth Leadership Convention. 23 attended



2022 Puerto Rico, Sabana Grande: worked with a congregation building their new church laying cinderblock, preparing then pouring a new driveway entrance, painting at the academy helping them get ready to reopen. 2 adult Sabbath Schools & Church services, 1 Sabbath afternoon AY Community Outreach with church members handing out Covid supplies & having prayer with church site neighbors, 6 evening evangelism meetings (AY & adults) 1 was canceled due to extreme weather conditions. 37 volunteers ages 14-66, We interacted with over 100 people.

As volunteer missionaries, we carry away life changing experiences having stepped out of our comfort zone by being

God's hands.

Pathfinder Club Ministry

Pathfinder Club ministry is geared toward helping young people develop age-appropriate leadership skills, grow independence, enhance camping skills, provide opportunities for community involvement, and foster spiritual growth. Young people of any race, religious background and gender that are in grades 5 - 10 are welcome to participate. We also have a growing Teen Leadership Training (TLT) population, the program is developed for pathfinders in grades 9-12. TLT's work closely with club directors in leader mentorship. The goal of pathfinder is to create a generation of example young people prepared personally to help others be ready for the second coming of Jesus Christ. Area Coordinators serve as



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a liaison between the conference and the local church clubs and provide direction. There are three major conference events: Fall Camporee, which is used to assist clubs earn some honors and skills to start the year, Spring Camporee, which was hosted virtually during the pandemic, and it had 900 people in attendance. This past spring, we had the first in-person camporee with --- in attendance. The third major event is the Pathfinder Bible Experience, which has the purpose to help pathfinder study the Bible in depth and apply the concept learned in a fun way. This year we had five teams attend the Division level with one team earning first place, three teams earning second place and one team earning third place. Additionally, the Pathfinder team provided virtual and in-person support training to club directors.

Over 800 youth were reached through the program yearly and there were over 350 pathfinder investitures during the quinquennium. During the pandemic we lost 1/3 of the registered clubs; however, clubs are starting back to reopen and engage in ministry. Pathfinders reported over 15 baptisms during the last 4 years, they have performed over 100 community service activities within the areas. In 2019, we took over 1,300 attendees to the Chosen Pathfinder International Camporee. We are constantly seeking to improve Pathfinders by supporting clubs and looking for opportunities to help churches open new clubs.



Public Campus Ministry

Public Campus Ministries (PCM) is geared toward reaching both Adventist and non-Adventist students at public colleges and universities. Current findings show that most high school graduates are attending public colleges/universities. Public campus Ministry supports Adventist students by challenging them out to reach out their peers through witnessing and worship. The department's effort with the leadership of Endri Misho is focused on starting Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) clubs at schools within our territory and partnering these clubs with local pastors and churches.

We currently have ACF chapters at

Boston University, Brown University, Fitchburg State University Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University, UMass Amherst. University of Connecticut and Yale University. During the pandemic a halt was put to in-person education in many places, however, PCM Gatherings took place virtually, a place to openly study the Bible.

Summer Camps

Since 1950, Camp Winnekeag has blessed campers and families by its natural beauty and spiritual programming. God continues to speak to all who come and enjoy the change of pace and setting camp

provides. Summer camp continues to offer all ages the opportunity to have fun in activities of their choice and help them to know Jesus better. During summer camp, campers make life-changing decisions to follow Jesus, to prepare for baptism, and to live for God. Summer camp staff not only provide service and programming at camp, but also go through spiritual mentorship program to deepen their relationship with God through young adult worship, bible study, and one on one counseling from a spiritual leader. During Covid, camp served as a place for some families to quarantine, summer camps were not active, however, the rustic areas were used by



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clubs and churches to participate from outdoor activities. A virtual summer camp session took place during 2021. This summer we are back to in-person summer activities. The camp has expanded their wooded area where families and clubs can camp, there are also plans for improvement of the bathhouse, the redesign will double the capacity of shower stalls and provide better layout to serve the needs of campers and families alike.

Training Ministry

Adventist Training Ministry was officially instituted within the youth department in 2016 with the purpose to provide effective on-going training to volunteers within the ministries they support. The goal is help them serve more effectively now and in the future. Training Ministry focuses in three areas: (1) pre-service training, providing basic skills required for the task and orientation to prepare volunteers for what they will be doing. (2) In-Service Training: providing on-going training so everyone can continue to grow, remain up to date, and provide elements of effective in-service. (3) Post-service debriefing: following up with volunteers who leave their positions and discuss what they liked about the ministry, what needs improvement and how can things be improved. Training Ministry holds two major events during the year; Leadership Congress which takes place in January and in 2020 we had 300 volunteers in attendance. During Covid congress took place in virtual mode with 900 participants in attendance on 2021. The second event is church officers training, where they provide basic orientation to new incoming leaders. Additionally, training ministry supports most of the ministries within the department with specific trainings according to their specific needs.

Youth Sabbath School

In 2018 the North American Division Youth Ministries adopted the Youth Sabbath School under its wing. After research conducted between 2014 - 2016 showed that 54% of young people were present for sabbath school versus 22% that participate for AY or Vespers, it was decided to put emphasis in the

strengthening and helping sabbath school teacher's develop and acquire new skills that will enhance the youth sabbath school experience. Training for sabbath school teacher's was provided during the virtual leadership congress held in 2021 and 2022. Additionally, we hosted two sessions of the Momentum Sabbath School program for the North American Division. This is an area that we continue to grow in the Adventist Youth ministries department in our conference.

Youth and Young Adult Federations

SNEC Adventist youth and young adult Federation was created with the purpose of supporting our local churches youth leaders to ensure their success. It focuses on helping youth and young adults in their spiritual journey. In the last four years, our goal has and will continue to be the spiritual wellbeing of our youth and young adults. To attain this goal, the youth department through the federations have been involved in the following: training to new youth leaders at the yearly church officers training and leadership congress and God Encounters. Participating from outreach activities such as:

Mission at home, Global Youth Day, Spark Young Adult Spiritual Retreat, Days of Fasting and Prayer, Teen Prayer Conference, Youth Camp meetings. During the pandemic It's Possible to Connect was created, a virtual gathering via zoom and Facebook Live. There have been over 1000 live transmissions since 2020, as the program aired Monday - Friday and now it airs Tuesdays in English and Thursdays in Spanish. Other programs that took place during covid were a virtual Bible Boot Camp where topics on doctrine, prophecy and social issues were explored at the light of the Bible. These programs have also included topics related to mental health and suicide which became relevant to young people during Covid. A young person stated the following: "Thanks so much for caring like Jesus do. Thanks to your help I'm still in church." A second statements from a young participant "I haven't taken my live, thanks to this program." Regardless of the challenges faced during the last years, we are thankful, and we can say God has been good to us.