

GETTING STARTED AS A YOUTH PRESIDENT



Administering a successful Hyphen ministry in your district does not have to be a cookie-cutter model, but it must support your district's vision. Proving your value to your district will gain the trust and support of your leaders, pastors, and ultimately the young adults in your district.

- Gain the support of your district's leaders before launching Hyphen efforts. You can do this by presenting your vision and plans to the district before moving forward.
- Make sure your vision and plans match the district's vision. (For example, if your district's vision is 200 churches by 2020, then one of your Hyphen "selling points" may be strengthening the ministerial base through Hyphen.)
- Choose a strong leader that can "take the reins" and run the Hyphen ministry. This may be a minister or someone with ministerial engagement who shows a passion for the young adult ministry.
- Form a separate team to administer Hyphen within your district. One idea is to choose young adults within each section to serve as Sectional Hyphen Representatives. As Hyphen is a new ministry, check to see if your district has age or licensure restrictions for Hyphen leaders/representatives. This may allow you liberty to choose representatives who may not be licensed ministers.
- Host regular district and sectional events to gain and maintain momentum. One successful model includes one annual Hyphen Conference and three other events throughout the year.
- Engage pastors within your district regarding Hyphen efforts. (I never miss an opportunity to talk about Hyphen when talking with pastors throughout the district. This enables me to share the success of other churches' Hyphen ministries and alleviates the hesitancy of others through simple conversations.)
- Invest in your Hyphen leaders. Use your Youth Department's resources to reimburse and reward your Hyphen team's efforts and events.