ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
DIOCESE OF SALDANHA BAY
REPORT ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES (AYPM)
To: Diocesan Council
Date: 7 November 2026
Submitted by: The Revd Earl Richards – Diocesan Youth Chaplain

1. Introduction

Young People's Ministries remains an important part of the mission and life of our Diocese. Our commitment is to nurture young people in their Christian faith, develop leadership and create meaningful opportunities for participation in the worship, ministry and mission of the Church. We give thanks for the dedication of our chaplains, clergy and youth leaders, challenges relating to resources, coordination and sustained youth participation remain.

2. Diocesan AYPM Bosberaad

A significant development during 2026 was the Diocesan AYPM Bosberaad, held from 8–10 May at the Bridge Retreat Centre, Franschhoek, attended by 31 participants. The gathering reflected on the present state and future direction of youth ministry, particularly the need for greater unity and representation across our various youth organisations.

Among the key proposals was the restructuring of our Diocesan Young People's Ministries/Council and Administration; and the alignment of its Constitution with that of the existing Provincial Anglican Youth of Southern Africa (AYSA), to promote greater inclusivity, representation and unity across all youth ministries.

The gathering also highlighted the need for stronger leadership development, improved communication, accountability and dedicated administrative support. These proposals require further consultation and appropriate diocesan processes.

3. Diocesan Leadership Transition and AYPM Term of Office

We are fully mindful of our Bishop's retirement and the period of transition facing our Diocese. We express our sincere appreciation for his episcopal leadership and pastoral care, and extend our prayers and best wishes to the Vicar General as he undertakes the important responsibility of guiding the Diocese towards the election of our new Bishop. May the Holy Spirit grant him wisdom, strength and discernment during this significant time.

We also respectfully draw Council's attention to the provisions of our current AYPM Constitution, which stipulate a **three-year term of office**. The present term officially expired on **3 September 2026**. In view of this, and mindful of the current diocesan leadership transition, we respectfully seek the guidance of the **Vicar General and Diocesan Council regarding the appropriate constitutional process and way forward**, ensuring continuity, accountability and good governance within Young People's Ministries.

4. Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Challenges

The spiritual formation of our young people remains central to our ministry. Particular attention must be given to strengthening the connection between Sunday School, Confirmation, youth fellowship and young adult ministries. The continued disengagement of young people after Confirmation remains a pastoral concern.

We are equally mindful of the social realities affecting young people, including unemployment, poverty, substance abuse, family instability and mental health challenges. Our parishes must become places of belonging, encouragement and pastoral support, where young people are heard, valued and equipped to live out their Christian faith.

5. Priorities for 2027

Our priorities for the coming year include advancing consultations on the proposed AYSA structure; strengthening parish and archdeaconry youth ministries; developing leadership, mentorship and discipleship programmes; preparing for the proposed **Second Diocesan Youth Synod in June 2027** and participation in the **Anglicans Ablaze 2027**. We also seek to encourage greater participation in community outreach, and environmental stewardship.

6. Recommendations to Diocesan Council

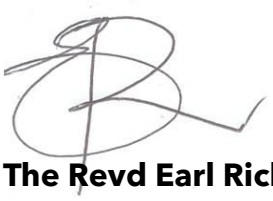
Diocesan Council is respectfully requested to (1) receive this report, support further consultation on the restructuring of Young People's Ministries, and (2) consider the need for dedicated administrative support, including the possibility of appointing a Diocesan Youth Worker (based on the principles and resources of the current secular Learnerships of the Seta's), subject to available resources. (3) We further request **guidance from the Vicar General and Diocesan Council regarding the expired AYPM term of office and the appropriate process for ensuring constitutional compliance and continuity of leadership.** (4) We further request continued encouragement of clergy and parishes to prioritise youth formation, participation and leadership development.

7. Conclusion

Our task is not merely to prepare young people for the future Church, but to recognise them as an essential part of the Church today. We must move beyond organising activities towards building relationships, nurturing disciples and creating opportunities for young people to discover their God-given purpose.

We express our appreciation to our retired Bishop, our Vicar General, Diocesan Secretary, clergy, chaplains, youth leaders and young people for their continued commitment and service. May God guide us as we seek to build a more united, inclusive and spiritually vibrant ministry.

"Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example…" — 1 Timothy 4:12



The Revd Earl Richards
Diocesan Youth Chaplain
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