TEACHERS AND LEADERS: HIGH SCHOOL

FAITH DEVELOPMENT – STAGE THREE- "I BELIEVE WHAT THE CHURCH BELIEVES"

Begins about age twelve

The material below is based on the work of James Fowler as it is described in the LEAD book Faith Passages and Patterns by Thomas A. Droege (Phildelphia: Fortress Press, 1983).

At this age: People/youth rely on authorities for what they believe. There is little critical examination of beliefs at the early point of this stage. Their widening contacts begin to expose them to conflicting authorities, but their beliefs and understandings of God tend to be as the church teaches.

Factors which affect this expression of faith:

Implications for leaders:

1. Can begin to think abstractly.

1. Encourage their developing ability to question and think for themselves.

2. Desire organized patterns of thinking.

2. Provide increasingly complex ideas to fit their expanding world.

3. Have a quest for religious knowledge.

3. Recognize their growing understanding of God as a personal friend

4. Can articulate what they've been taught, but are not able to develop their own point of view.

4. Help them feel good about what they know. Use factual information and encourage the expression of opinions.

5. Need acceptance and self-esteem.

5. Affirm and encourage them as individuals and stress God's grace.

6. Look for identity from others; peers are important teaching styles such as teamwork, projects, etc.

6. Give special attention to relationship building. Use group-oriented

7. Have strong feelings of trust.

7. Encourage their prayer and devotional life.

8. Are easily indoctrinated.

8. Don't take advantage of their willingness to rely on authorities. Express your own Christian witness and faith experiences. Help them see the faith experiences of other Christians.

The High school youth will meet once a month on Sundays for Social Hour and faith support. We begin on Sunday, October 6th, 2013. See the printable calendar on the home page for a 2013/2014 schedule of dates. Contact Jen Streit (mccyouth@tds.net) for more information.