

Intro: My wife and I had been the student ministry pastors at our church, Amazing Grace Fellowship (Pueblo West, CO), for the past 15 years, but we have recently transitioned to Family Ministries/NextGen Pastors. Our situation was unique in that we didn't leave the church, just transitioned to a new role, and we were able to have a voice to whom our successors would be and are able to be mentors to them. We were blessed to facilitate a smooth transition to our new youth pastors, and so here are a few things to keep in mind should you transition out of student ministry.

“Never let them demote you to adult ministry.” – Jeanne Mayo 😊

We have always viewed Youth Ministry as a calling and not a stepping stone for ministerial advancement. However, callings and passions change, and we must be willing to follow the Lord's leading for new chapters.



1. PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER YOUR CHANGE

- a. Might just be a challenging season that God wants you to push through
 - i. It's often darkest before the sun rises
 - ii. The students may really need you
 - iii. Youth Ministry is hard work... Yes! It's a place to die. Death in you in life in them!
- b. However, if you are feeling a stirring and you think it might be time to change:
 - i. Talk to your spouse
 - ii. Talk to your mentors
 - iii. Talk to your lead pastor

2. WORK TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION

- a. Have your files organized and ready to pass on.
 - i. Paper Files (forms, release forms, events)
 - ii. Digital assets (Social Media Accounts, Graphics, videos, reports, etc.)
- b. Communicate with leadership, volunteers, parents, church members, students, community leaders. Tie up any loose ends in the community.
- c. Have SIP's (systems in place) to ensure that things operate at a high level in your absence.
- d. Rally your volunteers to support the students and the new youth pastor
- e. Final youth service: highlight the past victories and help students process how they've been prepared to navigate the change, take care of each other, and support the new youth pastors.

3. TAKE THE HIGH ROAD

- a. Was your ministry a great experience? Celebrate it every way you can on your way out!
- b. Was it a negative experience? Don't cause drama on your way out. Humble yourself. Exit gracefully. You don't want to hurt the ministry or be a distraction to the work of God in the people.
- c. In either case, honor the leadership because you reap what you sow. God is watching, he is the judge. Forgiveness is paramount. Don't be tempted to take the bait of satan (unforgiveness).

Close: God bless you as you dare to believe God for life after youth ministry! Haha!