

## REPORT: Volmoed Youth Leadership Training Program (VYLTP)

May 2021

As 2021 continues, Covid-19 continues to interrupt our usual way of operating in VYLTP. In South Africa we are sadly moving towards a third wave of the Covid-19 virus and we continue in lockdown level 3. Plans for our usual in-person training are still on hold, at least until the end of 2021, and possibly early 2022, depending how the rollout of the vaccine proceeds.

We are very grateful that on March 27, we were able to safely host a second one day event for young adults and leaders at Volmoed retreat center. This focused on 'Love in a Time of Suffering', along with community building, Taizé music, and discussion groups, workshops, time in nature. The attendance increased to forty young people from the Overstrand and the Western Cape. Workshops centered on Climate Change, Gender Based Violence, Reconciliation & Justice, and Social Media Training.



We are very proud to have completed our first ever online module for youth leadership training, 'Building the Beloved Community', focused on the thinking of Dr Martin Luther King Jr, and other leaders. This was an eight week course, with weekly 90 minute sessions, begun in late February, ending in mid April, and energetically facilitated by Seth Naicker. It aimed to give young people personal and

professional development as emerging leaders.

Fifty young people signed up for the course, and in the end, fourteen actually attended all sessions and completed all the weekly assignments. Connectivity and bandwidth was a challenging issue for quite a few, who were not able to complete the course. Participants explored leadership frameworks and approaches to social justice, and explored their own identities, values, and principles, as young leaders in the complex context of South Africa. They were exposed to the thinking of international leaders past and present, and were asked to read and write assignments

that showed their understanding of the content each week. They were challenged with thinking that is new to them, for instance feminist liberation theory, and helped to understand the complex terrain of diversity, justice and inclusion in our everyday world, that is both personal and communal. We were also able to support two admin interns for the course with an honorarium to help with the weekly admin tasks.

We are hoping to acquire a small container office on site at Volmoed. This will be an exciting move. On June 16, VYLTP will celebrate our fifth anniversary! We plan to hold a third Youth Leadership Day at Volmoed, Covid-19 circumstances permitting.

A huge thank you to all our donors for your support. Please do check out our website for more news:  
<https://volmoedyouth.org.za>

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