

Abstract

This diploma thesis is focused on the topic of religious education of youth in the Church of Brethren. Its main aim is to describe the process of religious education of youth according to the theoretical and practical sources of the Church of Brethren. The results were compared in the last part of the thesis to the educational concepts of other churches studied in the theoretical part. The theoretical part defines the terms related to religious education such as catechesis, pastoral care, evangelization, discipleship, religious pedagogy etc. It also includes the characteristics of the Church of Brethren and youth in the context of postmodern era. The last chapter deals with religious education of youth in church in general with regards to the personality of a youth pastor, educational goals and teaching methods. The practical part is designed as an analysis of three areas: Department of Youth of the Church of Brethren, other Christian organizations working with youth and an interview with the Leading pastor of the Council of the Church of Brethren who has been working with youth for many years. The results of each area are further reflected in the context of the studied literature. The results indicate that religious education of youth in the Church of Brethren is mostly focused on evangelization, practical education and fellowship. The main standard of life is, according to this Church, the Bible. Ethical values and practical actions/deeds are compared to specific Bible verses. However, further and more detailed commentary and implication of the Bible verses for the life of youth is missing. The outcomes of this thesis bring many (mainly ethical) questions that are not insignificant. They are mainly concerned with the methodology, youth work from the perspective of youth pastors of the Church of Brethren (including the aims of youth ministry); their education regarding dogmatic theology, exegesis and history of church, their needs and weak points; knowledge of catechist books of the Church of Brethren and much more.