

Faith-Inclusive

This high Christian identity and interfaith or secular expression is demonstrated through Christian values and inclusive principles. The Christian ethos of the Y is referenced and viewed as foundational to the expression from which a more inclusive Y continues to be built. Emphasis is on: “Who” is welcomed?  
Who can identify with the Y?

HIGH CHRISTIAN IDENTITY & MISSION

Faith-Based

This high Christian identity and Christian expression is demonstrated in both word and in action. It is evident in the Y’s mission statements, governance structures, and faith-based programming and practices, which may also be evangelistic in nature. Emphasis is on: “What” we believe and do.

THE EXISTING FAITH DIVERSITY  
WITHIN THE YMCA MOVEMENT

INTERFAITH OR  
SECULAR EXPRESSION

CHRISTIAN  
EXPRESSION



This low Christian identity and high interfaith or secular expression is demonstrated through the common values of humanity. It internally recognizes the Christian history of the Y, yet in order to engage and impact local communities, it stays distant from Christian identity and expression. This is often due to the historical harms perpetuated by Christians in this context. Emphasis is on: “How” we live.

Faith-Founded

LOW CHRISTIAN IDENTITY & MISSION

Faith-Informed

This low Christian identity and high Christian expression is demonstrated in faith-informed practices and programming, which may also be evangelistic . It does not claim “Christian” identity publicly mostly due to prohibitive political context. Often it has a strong internal Christian ethos. Emphasis is on: “Where” the Y finds itself serving.