



Frequently Asked Questions:

Why TomTod?

TomTod stand for “Tomorrow Today”, meaning empowering tomorrow’s leaders (middle school students) today and creating tomorrow’s ideas today.

How will the TomTod process work?

While still in development, the basic flow of the process will be as follows:

- .: Students submit applications online through an open process.
- .: Applications will be sorted and evaluated, with some moving onto an interview process.
- .: In preparation for the interview, students will meet with an interviewing mentor who will help them to prepare and feel confident for their interview.
- .: Students will present before a TomTod interview panel. After the interviews have been completed, a certain number of projects will be chosen as official TomTod ideas, but all students will be given feedback and encouragement.
- .: Chosen projects will receive a Lead Mentor, who will walk alongside the student the rest of the TomTod journey. The next step will be to present to a community of potential mentors in an Ideation Forum.
- .: After the Forum, mentors will self-select into the process, forming a group of 4-6 adults who will work with the student and their peers to bring the idea into existence.
- .: Students will choose a peer leadership team and begin working on the specific details of beginning their project.
- .: Projects will launch and students and mentors will walk through an evaluative process as well as determine next steps as they exit the TomTod cycle.

Along the way, a variety of educational elements will be involved, as well as promotion, scholarships, encouragement, and other means of support.

Where will the ideas originate?

It’s important to us that students come up with their own idea. As long as it’s their own, we’ll be open to working with any student. We will be partnering with schools, youth groups, and other community organizations to encourage idea submissions.

Why did you wait to announce this if it’s been an idea for awhile?

While TomTod has been a side project of mine for some time, I had not intended for it to become a full time job. However, as I walked through the discernment process, I felt led toward pursuing it in a greater capacity. While I did interview for a number of job openings and had some exciting opportunities, I ultimately felt as if staying in the Canton community, empowering early adolescents, and working with compassion and justice issues was the best combination of the strengths that I have been given. It was only recently that I felt confirmation in this direction and had that affirmed by my discernment committee.

How can I help?

[Sign up for the email updates](#) and [fan us on Facebook](#) for starters (and share it with your friends: <http://bit.ly/TomTodSupport> and <http://on.fb.me/LC9vjQ>). We'll also be needing funding, prayer, and a whole passel of volunteers to help with different steps of the TomTod journey. If any of these sound particularly interesting to you, shoot me an email (joeldanielis@gmail.com) and we can chat.

Will you still be part of the First Friends community?

First Friends is and always will be my home church. I am incredibly indebted to this community who have instilled so much into me over the years. This fall, Joy and I will be exploring faith communities in the area, considering where we feel like we will best fit together. While I won't be attending First Friends regularly, I still love and support the community there and will surely be around from time to time.

How will you get paid?

When TomTod launches (see more about that in the "what's next" question), I will be receiving a salary as their founder and director. Until then, I will be living off a combination of personal savings, speaking opportunities, and potentially some good friends who will choose to lend some support in the in-between phase. On that note, if you are aware of speaking opportunities that you believe I could fulfill, please send me an email (joeldanielis@gmail.com) or Facebook message!

What's next for TomTod?

This summer I am working on the basic structure, board formation, and beginning the formal process of getting 501c3 approval from the state of Ohio and the IRS. In the fall, we will be launching a fundraising effort with a 2013 target launch date in mind. Prior to that launch, the goal will be to raise the first three years of funding so that we can focus in our first two years on program development and in the third year on evaluation and re-financing.