

Youth Ministry Covenanted Ministry Report

The Youth Ministry Team is comprised of Pastors, Youth Directors, Christian Educators, and Lay Leaders who are active in youth ministry in the Conference. We gather once a month to plan youth ministry events, fellowship, and provide resources and encouragement to one another.

In the fall, we began discussing how to best communicate with everyone in the conference. One of the ways we increased communication was through adding a youth tab on the conference website. The youth section on the website contains upcoming events as well as photographs from our most recent events.

In November, Cathy Pettibone and Alysha Petry led the youth ministry table at the Conference Annual Planning Event. The small group brain storming session resulted in the goal of hiring a Conference Youth Minister. The youth ministry covenanted team has followed up by having discussions on how this position would benefit the conference, and they have come up with a list of items they would like to be included in the job description.

The Conference Middle School Event was held at Camp MoVal November 20-21. Cathy Pettibone and Alysha Petry provided the leadership for this event with the help of many other adult leaders. The Dr. Seuss themed event encouraged youth to follow Jesus and become child-like, while emphasizing treating others the way we would like to be treated. Youth acted out Dr. Seuss stories, had small group discussions, played games, and participated in a service project that provided nine fleece blankets to project Linus, and thirty-four dog toys to the Franklin County Humane Society.

The Conference Youth Event, our retreat for High School youth, was held February 13-15 at Camp MoVal. Leadership for this event is primarily provided by a youth planning team with the assistance of some very dedicated leaders. Cindy Birkner and Megan Buhr provided the support to our youth this year. The theme for the event was “The Power of Presence”, and featured best-selling author and speaker, Marcus Engel as the keynote speaker. Marcus shared his extraordinary story of recovery after being blinded and catastrophically injured by a drunk driver. He challenged everyone to achieve success by making intelligent choices and staying positive by remembering to change only the things you can.

In February, a bus was chartered for the National Youth Event. Thanks to support from the Conference and Eastern, Western, and St. Louis associations, we are able to provide affordable transportation for all NYE participants in the Missouri Mid-South conference.

The Youth Ministry Team is eager to make connections with youth leaders and supporters in each congregation. We are continually looking to add contacts to our email list and our meetings are open for anyone to attend. We hope to see more youth find their voice and connection within the Conference in the coming year.