

Child Youth & Family Ministry Committee Minutes - Monday June 9, 2008

The Child Youth & Family Ministry Committee met at the Synod Office at 6:00 PM on Monday, June 9. Present were:

deacon Charlie Germain
Pastor Paul Milholland
Pastor Jonathan Hopkins

Abby Triebel
Pat Lawrence

1. Web Site

The Committee reviewed the Child Youth & Family Ministry web page on the Synod web site www.MNYS.org. Several suggestions were made to improve the site, including shortening the stories on the site, and providing links for those who may want additional information.

2. Synod Assembly

Comments at the Synod Assembly (May 17- 19) suggested that our presentation was well received. This is the second year that we had young people speak at the Assembly. One objective for next year is to have someone from the congregation that receives the Award of Distinction talk and show pictures from their congregations.

3. Visiting Team

Charlie and Paul met before the Committee meeting to talk about developing a visiting team that will go into congregations to help them develop child youth and family ministries. We discussed possible team members and looked at the assessment form developed by www.exemplarym.org.

4. Conferences:

- a. Youth Workers Conference, Messiah College March 29, 2008
- b. Youth Workers Gathering in the East April 4 – 6

I attended both of these conferences. The keynote at Messiah College was given by Kenda Creasy Dean from Princeton Seminary. She is doing an evaluation of the National Survey of Youth and Religion to assess its implications about how we have failed to pass on the faith to our young people. The Gathering in the East is attended by Youth Workers from Regions 7, 8 and 9.

- c. Local Training Events - We discussed the possibility of doing another conference similar to what we did at the Wartburg about 3 years ago. The consensus was that we don't want to spread ourselves too thin, and should concentrate on the visiting team at this time.

5. National Youth Gathering

The National Youth Gathering is July 22 – 26 in New Orleans. Walton Williams has volunteered to be the Synod's coordinator.

6. Meeting with Bishop Bob Rimbo

Charlie will meet with our new Bishop to talk about the CYFM Committee's work.

7. Other

We briefly discussed available training available for youth workers. Abby, who graduated from Gettysburg's Youth Ministry Certification School described it as "beyond wonderful". Many of the programs she looked at were two year master degree programs. Youth Ministry Certification School can be done mostly on weekends. For info, go to www.ymcertschool.org.

8. Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for Monday, September 22 at the Synod Office. We decided to try meeting at 5:PM rather than the usual 6:PM.

deacon Charlie Germain
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