

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Committee
Minutes: September 22, 2008

Present: Julie Hagan, Rebecca Pollicino, Fred McElderry, Charlie Germain, Betsy Diver, Abby Triebel

Excused: Pr. Paul Milholland

We welcomed Seminarian Rebecca Pollicino, Julie Hagan (Youth Worker at Advent, Manhattan) and Betsy Diver (Pastor at Zion – Staten Island).

1. MNYS Web Site. Charlie passed out a printout of the current web pages. Charlie is looking for ways to get resource listings, schedules, etc. to the web site faster.

Facebook: discussion ensued about the centrality of social networking sites like Facebook to youth ministry.

Julie suggested a “dream” for the committee: to have a message board on the website for people involved in CYF ministries to ask questions, suggest resources, network.

2. “Heart of Ministry” award. No nominations received so far. If none received, we can look again at those from last year.
3. Visiting Teams. Paul is working on this. Betsy is willing to be a “guinea pig” congregation for a visit, when we are ready.
4. National Youth Gathering in NOLA (New Orleans). Betsy wants to know which congregations from Synod are going. She is exploring the possibility of a bus trip to the gathering. Fred indicated his group might be interested. Walton Williams is the synod coordinator for the Gathering.
5. Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza. Will be held in NOLA this January. Abby, Charlie, Julie Hagan, all going. Fred, possibly.
6. Events. There will be no “Gathering in the East” in 2009.
7. Communications. Charlie passed out e-mails he has received from various sources and we helped him with answers.
 - a. Jacob Zakarias Larsen. Youth Pastor from Denmark, looking for places to check out during a visit to NYC in November. We were not sure what he was looking for, but Charlie will let him know what we know.
 - b. Caleb Finnegan (Indiana University of Pennsylvania). Looking for a place in NYC for youth volunteers to stay during a service project. Julie will ask Manhattan pastors for a church floor they can sleep on.

c. Grace El-Yateem (Salam Lutheran Church – Brooklyn). Looking for training for youth leaders. We suggested Carla McKenzie (Parish resource Center in Valley stream).

8. Charlie had a visit with Bp. Rimbo (Sept 3). During their session, Bp indicated a willingness to consider a staff person for Youth and Family Ministry.

9. Betsy Diver, who did D. Min. work on Baptismal identity and Family Process thought is willing to work on a theological piece for CYFM about baptismal identity.

Next meeting: Monday, November 10, 5:00 PM at the Synod Office.