

**Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Committee  
Minutes  
June 8, 2009**

**In Attendance: Charlie Germain, Paul Milholland, Fred McElderry, Rebecca Pollicino, Julie Hagen, Barbara Meberg  
Absent: Abby Streibel**

- 1. Reviewed minutes form 3/19/09, no corrections.**
- 2. Synod Assembly Presentation**
  - **Heart of Ministry presentation went well, should plan to do that every year. Ask congregations to be present w/ youth rep at Assembly. Two presentations: one at congregation and then again at Assembly. Important to lift up these ministries for all to see.**
  - **Good response to presentation**
  - **On a general note: Should also lift up graduating seminarians**
- 3. Visiting Team**
  - **Team met last week, Paul will send Rebecca some additions to contact list and then it will be revised**
  - **Charlie spoke with Tim Coltvet from St Paul, MN about EYM Coaching project. He in interested in helping us, not sure what that would look like. They do cluster groups of a few congregations at a time, so our initial phase is different than theirs. Julie knows a person in NYC, Dawn Trautman that was part of EYM. She will contact her to see if she would be able to attend retreat in late August.**
  - **Retreat- Koinonia will organize front end with group dynamics training. Paul will send out an agenda for afternoon session.**
  - **Reviewed sites and found out that Jonathan Hopkins has taken a call in New Hampshire. We will need to find a replacement for New Hope, VS. Paul will contact a potential site. Staten Island congregation also in question.**
  - **Book list- Julie will coordinate book list for teams, send her your input for inclusion**
  - **Reviewed mission of teams: Walk with congregation for 1 year to help them assess CYF ministry in their congregation and plan for improvement. It involves a paradigm shift from youth group to the home being the primary place of learning, back to Luther's basic premise. Lifetime learning from cradle to grave, not just Sunday School & confirmation.**
  - **Barbara's church holds a family orientation when children first enter Sunday School. Gets families to know each other as they start this lifelong journey together. Reminded us that tips like this should be included in resource materials as well.**

#### 4. Heart of Ministry

- Still unable to schedule presentation for St. Paul, Knickerbocker Avenue. Charlie will keep trying.
- St Philip's presentation was well received at Assembly. We will go to congregation in November when Bishop visits to present in person.
- See Assembly discussion above about future plans
- Committee decided that for the future it will accept nominations from congregations of committee members. Wanted to avoid them at the start, however they are doing great things and should be honored as well.
- **Deadline for nominations changed to January 31.** This will give congregations more time to participate. Decision will be made by March 15 so that congregations will have time to arrange for youth representation at Synod Assembly
- Make an attempt to piggyback on Synod events to distribute nomination forms. Charlie will make sure that website has correct information.

#### 5. National Youth Gathering

- Seems to be an ongoing issue of communication/control for youth gathering coordination. At this point it seems as if there will not be an event prior to the gathering for MNYS attendees. Going forward we need to organize earlier. Perhaps Christine Connell, from LSS, might be an appropriate person to pull this together in the future.
- Recognized a need to mend fences with LYO organization and work cooperatively as we move forward.
- Not sure if anyone from MNYS will be attending pre-gathering workshop for multicultural youth. There is at least one person attending workshop for differently-abled youth. Important to bring information back from these events.

#### 6. Churchwide Assembly/ Youth Convocation

- Synod has been asked to send someone to Youth Convocation in August. Charlie had names of two persons from Trinity and Fred has a nominee from St Andrew's. They described each nominee. Committee felt that they would all be great representatives of the Synod. Decided to "cast lots" for nominee. Results in order were: Alexandra (Trinity), Kevin (St Andrew's) and Katelyn (Trinity).
- As time is of the essence, Charlie will contact Alexandra and she will have 24 hrs to commit to attending convocation. If she declines, we will move onto next nominee.

#### 7. Communications

- Julie attended child abuse workshop and found it very useful, recommended that others attend as well.
- Charlie received DVD about "Adding Flavor to Life" series of 3 DVDS. They were sent to most congregations. Will review to see how useful they will be.

- Bishop sent out notification of an anti-racism gathering on Friday. The gathering is in response to an apparent slight by him in not assuring that the Bishop's staff has multi-cultural representation. There was also offense taken at the Bishop's comment that they will have to work on educating people of color for inclusion in future positions. Many are angered at their lack of representation on staff of Synod.
  - There seems to be some uncertainty as to who will be allowed to attend this meeting; it will be held at Union Seminary and names need to be on security list for admission. Paul will try to attend. He has been very intentional in reaching out to and being inclusive of all cultures in his community.
8. Other
- Charlie has a DVD on the impact of social norms that he received at Youth Extravaganza. He will make some copies to share.
  - Discussed the importance of considering cultural communication styles. In many other cultures personal relationships are extremely important. They take precedence over other items on an agenda. Points to the importance of personal invitations and being more intentional about reaching out and including others. We need to be aware and respectful of differences in styles that might lead to miscommunications.
9. Next Meeting Date- September 28, 2009 5 pm