

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Committee  
Minutes  
January 22, 2009

In Attendance: Charlie Germain, Paul Milholland, Rebecca Pollicino, Lisa Spittler,  
Julie Hagen, Barbara Meberg  
Excused: Abby Streibel, Fred McElderry

1. Reviewed Minutes from November 10 meeting. Accepted.

2. Heart Of Ministry – Award of Distinction

- Waiting to schedule date for presentations pending completion of awards. Fred indicated that they should be ready in 2 weeks. Rebecca will follow-up with him on date.
- Bishop Rimbo has no time on his schedule to attend a presentation prior to Synod Assembly. Discussed possibly having either Pastor Olson or Sudbrock present award on behalf of Synod. President Benke will be invited to attend presentation for St. Paul's.
- Having 2 presentations, one at congregation, one at Assembly would lift up these congregations and their ministries for all to see and allow Bishop Rimbo to congratulate them in person.
- Committee would like to have pictures of presentations available for Assembly. Need to make sure that they get in on time.
- Presentation dates will be scheduled soon. Charlie will let the committee know when they are.

3. Visiting Team

- Paul working on getting 3 teams of 5 persons each. To date the following people have expressed interest in joining a team:
  - Linda Bell (Seminarian Grace Lutheran)
  - Nicolette Jacon (Pres LYO Board, New Hope, VS)
  - Stephanie Whelpley (St Andrew's)
  - Katie Montano (St Andrew's)
  - Pastor Terry Luper (Trinity, LI)
  - Members of Koinonia Leadership
  - Deacon Charlie Germain
  - Deacon Barbara Meberg (Emmanuel, Pleasantville)
  - Julie Hagen (Advent, NYC)
- Still looking for a few more members, preferably some men. Would also like to make the teams a little more ethnically diverse, if possible. Contact Paul with ideas/names.
- Three congregations have volunteered to be the first for participation:
  - New Hope, Valley Stream
  - Zion, Staten Island
  - Holy Trinity, Bellerose

- Looking to have an organizational meeting in February. Thinking about possibly holding a retreat at Koinonia to include group dynamics, listening skills to prepare teams more thoroughly.
- Preliminary materials handed out, including assessment tools, and planning guide. Paul asked the committee to review, is sending info to new team members to review before meeting.
- Needs going forward:
  - Gather resources- books, articles, etc for team and congregation use
  - Ideas on how to include participation in youth event during year of study (scholarship?)
  - Make sure that congregations/teams understand exactly what can and cannot be accomplished by this process. (Not your mother's Luther League)
  - Additional team members: males, people of color
  - Add section on multicultural issues to assessment tools
  - Determine what a congregational leadership will look like  
Who should be on team
  - Covenant for participation
  - Church Council approval
  - Competent Secretary

#### 4. National Youth Gathering

- Close to 400 people are registered from Metro NY Synod, representing more than 27 congregations. Mostly suburban white congregations; need to work on more intentional diversity.
- Pre-post gathering ideas:
  - Meetings to introduce people
  - Follow-up to keep momentum
  - Committee will look at churchwide resources for events. Would love to see each conference do something, at the minimum would like to see one upstate, one LI gathering pre – gathering.
  - Need to be intentional
  - Include info in LYO retreats
  - Get kids to write a story about their week
  - Share stories in congregation/conference/Synod

#### 5. Web Page

Lily is no longer with Synod Office. Loss to committee. Updates being made from Synod office for the time being.

#### 6. Brain Storming

- Bishop issued an invitation to approx. 75 people including members of Synod Council, Conference Deans to participate in one day session. Charlie will be going.
- Items from this committee to share:
  - Visiting Team Program

- Heart Of Ministry program/awards
- Committee's 3 focus areas
- How best to coordinate resources in Synod, is there going to be a staff person for this?
- Upcoming events
  - 2/20-22 Jr High Retreat
  - 3/13-15 Sr Youth Retreat
  - 4/25 Jr High Dance

## 7. Synod Assembly

- Present awards for Heart of Ministry
- Have Youth present to participate/ coordinate with LYO  
Jason Westerlund from LYO will be new representative on CYF committee to help coordinate between two groups
- Table with Visitation Program info
- Packets:
  - Info on # and names of congregations attending Youth Gathering
  - Visiting Program
  - Upcoming events
- Pastor Jeff Koenig from King of Kings in Melville is coordinating packets this year. Need to get info to him.

## 8. Training events

See sheet attached to agenda for dates

## 9. New business:

- Bob Sederstrom is coordinating a second youth forum with the Bishop. First one had over 200 kids involved. Praise bands invited.
- Synod staff person: Description of Synod staff person includes responsibility for: Candidacy, Spiritual Direction, Child Youth Family Ministry and Theologian in Residence. Committee is afraid CYF Ministry will get lost in the midst of other items. We will have to wait and see how this develops.
- Lutheran Oktoberfest- Saturday, September 26 – Plattdeutsch Restaurant in Franklin Square. Event has a coordinator to help market event.  
Proceeds go to Pinecrest – hoping to raise \$20 – 30,000  
Features:
  - Oompah bands
  - Pinecrest bands
  - Plattdeutsch food
  - Bake sale
  - Advertising journal
- Next meeting: Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 6 PM at the Synod Office.