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A CAMPING & YPM NEWSLETTER

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ympm Connection

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Meet A Need!

Summer Youth Camp

- Camp Nurse Needed
- If you like pizza...
- Camp Funds Available
- 2022 Camp Dates

Young People's Ministry

- Changes to Young People's Delegation at ACS
- Talking with Young People
- Mind & Spirit
- Getting Connected
- Is God speaking to us?
- Trainings & Curriculum

MEET A NEED!

by Pastor Darren

When I talk with youth workers the strongest theme I'm hearing is, how do I get them back? We've been out of a regular routine for so long now the youth are either playing soccer, having family breakfast, or just chilling with a time that used to be committed to their church community. So what do we do with that?

My first suggestion is, to find a need and try to meet it. Just because they aren't in the regular habit of church anymore doesn't mean they aren't still in need. In fact, concern for the mental health of teens is very high right now. Statistics are showing us that most other risky behavior from generations prior are actually decreasing. But the desire and need for mental health care is way up!! [Click Here](#)

This rise probably shouldn't surprise us. We've been living in a tense society for a number of years now, from even before Covid changed all the rules. Society has managed to become so polarized now that our leaders (the "parents" of society) pretty much refuse to speak to each other, much less work on our challenges. And we have a few challenges! This doesn't work in a home and it certainly won't work for a society. It's no wonder our young people are living out the insecurity of this time.

Maybe we should get better at addressing these concerns? It's not in the 'traditional' mode of ministry that we're used to creating. This isn't just working through another book of the bible or creating a new game. It's focusing our story of faith around a particular concern. What about an event that offers a psychological expertise along with a grounding in faith? This kind of event (or even just resources) would seem to be something many families would be interested in. Plus, there's evidence that church involvement can help young people get through times like these. [Click Here](#)

This is just one theme idea, but there are others on the hearts of youth and their parents today. Maybe God has gifted your congregation in some unique way to fill a need and be God's heart and hands of healing.

FOR MORE VISIT:

www.calnevypm.org



Summer Youth Camping

CAMP NURSE

BCRM is putting out an open call for a nurse for the camps at Monte Toyon and Lodestar this summer. The camps happen back to back, July 9-15 in Monte Toyon, then July 17-23 at Lodestar! The reality of camping ministry in 2022 is that we need to have trained professionals taking care of our young people. The difficult part is finding a nurse who is able to take this time and feels called to do it. If you are this person or you who know someone who is, please invite them to contact us... or vice versa! Help is to put on great, and safe, camps!

If you like pizza... Get Some Kids to Summer Camp!

We're offering a free pizza party to your church youth program that sends the most kids to camp. Why? Because we care! So, send some kids and we'll set you up with pepperoni or pineapple or BBQ chicken; or whatever is your thing!



Funds available to Get Yourself to Camp!!

We know that for many the cost of camp is prohibitive. We do not want this to be what gets in the way of your being a camper this summer. The pandemic has left us apart for too long! It's time to get back with God, God's world, and each other in the amazing week that is summer camp. The list of camps is below. There are two different scholarships available. [District Scholarship](#) and the [Central Valley District Union](#). Please don't let the cost keep you away!

2022 Camp Dates

Check out our website for registration and more!
www.calnevypm.org

- Adult and Family Camp - June 12-18
- Japanese-American Camps
 - Jr. High Camp June 26-July 1
 - Asian Camp July 24-30
- Toyon Camp - July 9-15
- Shasta Family Camp - July 16-22
- Camp Lodestar - July 17-23
- Korean Youth Camp - July 25-27

Young People's Ministry

Changes to Young People's Delegation at Annual Conference

We've set a goal of having a delegation of 40 youth and young adults at Annual Conference this year. We're looking for churches to nominate these young people. Part of the process is approval for election which we're doing early this year because the legislative sections are early. **So, pay attention to these two deadlines.**

May 6 – if you want to be part of ACS AND the legislative sections in May, you need to fill out your nomination form by May 6.

May 31 – This is the last day we can accept registration forms for the Young People's Delegation at Annual Conference which is Jun 10-13.

So get your nomination forms in! The link is [HERE](#)

CCYPM is especially excited for this year's delegation because we've got some exciting ministries laid out to engage as we continue to move out of the pandemic. It's time for some new life and we're ready to help God make it happen! The YP delegation will be your opportunity to hear about these ministries as well as to climb on board and be part of them! Pastors, if you know a young person who is motivated to grow in their leadership and presence we hope you'll nominate them.

With questions, talk to Pastor Darren at darrenc@calnevumc.org.

Talking With Young People About UMC Disaffiliation

With the postponement of UMC General Conference to 2024 and the announcement by the Wesleyan Covenant Association that it will launch the Global Methodist Church on May 1, 2022, many of us are asking questions about what this means for The United Methodist Church, our local church, and our camps.

For some youth and young adults, our camps are their primary connection to United Methodism. Let's prepare for questions that may come up among campers and staff. This article from YPM offers five excellent steps we can take right now. In the camp context, Directors may consider how to respond to questions, identify local church or conference resource people to help, and prepare summer staff to have camper-appropriate conversations. Read the article [HERE](#)



Mind and Spirit

The pandemic has taken its toll on our society. If you weren't stressed before we went inside, you're probably feeling some now. The separation is not what God created and its tough on the spirit. The Conference Committee on Young People's Ministry is feeling called to reflect on how the church can be a resource for health and wholeness. At any age, we need a sense of grounding in our faith and value to God; especially in this difficult age.

If you share that heart and concern we'd like you to join us in creating and/or supporting ministry that helps young people, parents, (and especially those who work with them) get help. Whether that means resources or trainings, we want to commit ourselves to doing the leg work that leads to helping the local church provide this care. Reach out to Ryland Fernandez at ryland.fernandez@yahoo.com from our CCYPM Exec team if you want to join that journey.

Getting Connected!

Conference Committee on Young People's Ministry (CCYPM) has set a few ministry directions for this year. One of them is in getting the people who work with young people connected. Right now the team is looking for youth workers and youth leaders who might be interested in putting those networks together. They might divide by district or circuit or something else. We'll let the body of youth ministry decide.

Connect with Rev Jacey to be part of it!

jpickensjones@gmail.com

Is God speaking to us with our cultural diversity?

Our diversity is a gift of our conference. The question is, how we can that diversity become a more intentional part of how we do ministry. Especially in a world that can be very ethnically divided, is there a way that our diversity can speak to a new way of living together?

Our Conference Committee on Young People's Ministry (CCYPM) is wanting to take that journey. We believe that young people might even understand better than older generations the value of this gift. We are looking for leaders who share that heart and want to help develop a ministry vision for this diversity in our conference. It may lead to events that celebrate this diversity. Or it could lead to developing resources for local churches to do the same. We'll go where God leads. If that ministry is calling you, please reach out to our chair of CCYPM, Lulu Sapigao at lsapigao@gmail.com.

Trainings and Curriculum

Ministry to youth in the LGBTQ community: Rev. Jacey at First UMC Richmond has researched some resources for youth and/or parents for dealing with issues of inclusion.

For the parents

- This is a Book for Parents of Gay Kids: A Question & Answer Guide for Everyday by Kristin Russo; Dannielle Owens-Reid
- Love is an Orientation by Andrew Marin
- "Homosexuality and the Bible" by Will Willamon (He's a United Methodist pastor and scholar)

For the teen

- God and the Gay Christian by Matthew Vines
- See also The Reformation Project: <https://reformationproject.org/>
- The Q Christian Fellowship is another great organization to find community and resources. <https://www.qchristian.org/resources/theology>

A Teen Mental Health Resource for Your Church's Small Group

Are you looking for a mental health resource to use with the teens in your church or community? I have been impressed with Living Compass's The Teen Compass Faith and Wellness Notebook. There is also The Teen Compass Wellness Notebook to use as a secular resource if offering to the broader public. These materials are free to download as a pdf and low cost if ordering the printed version. They are intended for use with a small group over a 6-week period. There are leader guides as well. I have led a similar group for parents using Living Compass's materials and have wanted to try the teen version as well. I thought I would share with other youth ministers. Feel free to contact me to let me know what you think. Maybe we could encourage one another to jump in!

Here's the link to the [materials](#)

Blessings on your ministry with teens!