

PYWA

Pentecost Summit

Zephyr Point; Lake Tahoe

Thursday, November 3, 2005

**Pentecost Team: Annual Gathering/events**

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Connecting: community

Uplifting: advocating

Inspiring: discipleship & spiritual formation

How would an annual gathering support our mission statement?

- Face to face time to build community
  - Small group support groups? Prayer groups? Tie into educational piece? Participant in a small group & not leading
- Good way to form/find connections with others in area. Finding good resources in people close to you.
- Regional gatherings: easier in lots of ways, BUT important to be connected with others on a national level.
- How do we make this DIFFERENT from other events (APCE, etc). Not just a different group of people doing same things
  - Small group time
- History: ConEd
  - Connecting—was only consistent thing. KNEW you would get/have connections. That was enough reason to go. Good national connections.
  - ConEd event got smaller and smaller and smaller. Started over 350 down to maybe 100.
  - Fluctuated from GA staff driven, to grassroots, back to staff.
  - Reputation of being cliquy
  - Skills based (keynoter, workshops, roundtables, etc)
  - Early January was a good time of year to meet
- Event where you can be fed spiritually (worship, nurture)
- Lift up excellence. Youth Worker of year—not always “big name” everyone knows. Recognizing accomplishment. Regional gatherings might share successes.
- When there is a gathering of PYWA the guiding principles are connecting (community building), upholding & celebrating each other (lifting up excellence—skills), and being fed spiritually.
- Events need to be done very well and model skills youth workers need.
- Affordable Sabbath get-aways; intentionally including Sabbath in every event (upholding)
- Skills in feeding young people spiritually, skills in taking care of yourself. How do you offer/appeal to volunteers?
- Emphasis on local events:
  - If we're grass roots, should we grow local/regional events first?—national will come out of that.

- Ideas/resource sharing
- \*\*Variety—living, moving, flexibility.
- Important to remember people that are isolated. How do we equip & energize them?
- Core national events will fertilize passion in association. Rekindle fire
  - Essential for local areas that don't have local leadership
- Language of gathering vs. event
  - Local gatherings are not chapters
- Value: LOW MAINTENANCE
- Liquid church! Old church! Fluid & alive!
- Interest groups...different types of “gatherings” (backpacking, Toronto Film Festival)
- Next November—NCCC event for youth leaders @ Disney World. Should PYWA consider this our national event?
  - Initial event needs to be a gathering of just PYWA
  - must keep it cheap
  - PYWA “endorses” it
  - Host a gathering of PYWA @ Disney
- “ground crews” in each presbytery to help get the word out!

**Other ideas:**

- Covenant to do something tangible—host a gathering to share about what has happened this week. Report back to synthesis team feedback, thoughts, etc.
- Yahoo Group to share ideas
- Unfolding PYWA vs. exploding

**Function of gatherings (heart for all gatherings): Keep it Simple! Interpret it how you want/need**

Community (more than skills)

Connections

Fed spiritually (Sabbath)

**Action Items**

- Affirm language: Gatherings vs. events...we HOST gatherings, not PLAN
- Gatherings need to include: connecting (community building...), upholding (lifting up excellence, skills), inspiring (feeding spiritually)
  - Need to have tools/resources/ideas bank to help people connect, uphold, & inspire
- National gathering is something we want to do, but not something we're dependant on. Need to foster local gatherings.
- Synthesis Team: host another similar event in 2006 to see what has been accomplished, keep momentum going, etc.
  - Need to set the date soon so word can get out
  - Keep it affordable