

PYWA
Pentecost Summit
Zephyr Point; Lake Tahoe
Thursday, November 3, 2005

Morning Prayers: Psalm 121

Mission & Vision Team Foundation Report:

Connecting, upholding, and inspiring Presbyterian youth workers to faithfully serve the one triune God among young people.

Proposed changes:

Change “Presbyterian youth workers” to: “Presbyterians who work with youth”

Change “Presbyterian youth workers” to read “each other”

- Original mission statement was adopted by consensus/majority

What does it FEEL like to be connected as a Presbyterian youth worker?

Affirmed, supported not alone, we share the same planet, friends, have a common language (and that’s a good thing), embraced, someone’s there to “post bond” for you, theological tie, having a warm sweatshirt on a cold day,

What does it LOOK like to be a connected as a Presbyterian youth worker?

Celebratory, networking, play, website with a chat room, knowing who is on your left and right, being connected locally, regionally, & nationally, dancing, registry, like family, fresh, gatherings—local, regional, national, sounding board, positive anticipation – not dread,

What does it FEEL like to be inspired as a Presbyterian youth worker?

Fruitful sowing—inspiration to inspire young people; calm, peaceful (easy feeling)—awe, excited—filled with moving spirit, strong/invincible (spiderman), energized, close to God, safe—willing to take leap of Faith (action & risk) , completely full of the spirit (full sails), fellowship, worship, Sabbath (by-products of “wanting” to do something instead of “needing” to do something), contagious,

What does it LOOK like to be inspired as a Presbyterian youth worker?

Renewal, celebration, energized in/by the Spirit, rediscovered passion, hearing & sharing stories

What does it FEEL like to be upheld as a Presbyterian youth worker?

To feel loved & appreciated, supported, affirmed, validated, to know that people like me are going through the same thing I’m going through, Hebrews 13 (great cloud of witnesses cheering me on.), there are others outside local congregation who think my job is important, somebody’s “got my back”, cradled, safe, recognize our collective appreciation for being Presbyterian

What does it LOOK like to be upheld as a Presbyterian youth worker?

Included in staff meetings, planned with the Youth worker in mind, appreciated, prayed for, be respected by governing bodies, validation, to have a home (association/body)

Structure & Governance Foundation Team Report:

How do we carry out the work that we've done here?

1. Synthesis team will take notes/minutes/etc and create a document to be handed off to a "leadership team." Synthesis team will start with current steering committee plus 3 or 4 people from Pentecost gathering. Craft a "document" that defines WHO WE ARE—mission, covenant, CORE team etc. Kinds of people needed: writers, graphic people, interpreters, word smiths, etc. Goal hand it over to a leadership team within year.
 - *is keeping steering committee involved "top down" leadership?
(response: NO—that is grassroots, cultured leadership)
 - *are we leaving people out by not including those not here in synthesis team?
 - *caution about this team NOT being first clique
(response: Hope is that the synthesis team will finish something and then be able to GIVE IT UP)
 - *need to reach benchmarks in order to keep ball rolling & synthesis team would be a good way to help keep this happening.
2. Synthesis group will select nominating committee that will select CORE team (co-facilitators, with different ministry teams). CORE team will/can be people at Pentecost or not.

Synthesis team is "training wheels" for association, will come off soon.

The Structure & Governance "plan" was accepted by consensus

Pentecost Teams:

Advocacy & Call

Annual Gathering

Resources

Association Identity

Networking & Partnerships

4:00 pm Pentecost Team sharing:

Advocacy & Call

- Spirituality of youth workers
- "In my corner" and "I got your back"—able to share stories, be real, help each other through tough times
- Advocate standards for terms of call (expectations, comp time, etc)
- Training & education (want high caliber of youth workers in church),
- evaluation & motivation (vocational tools to determine call for youth ministry)
- Burn Out (several times, many ways) – helping eliminate/ease
- Affirmation & thank-you for work that youth workers do
- Scheduling & time management (training & education)
- Youth budget vs. church budget. Encourage church to establish youth budget (dollars and people)
- Accessible & affordable resources & training (online)
- Presbytery Youth Worker Advocates

- Philosophically—advocating for CALL of youth ministry (not one eared Mickey Mouse)
- Validation & respect
- Advocacy for lifetime call to youth ministry (not a disposable position)
 - Not disposable lighters, we're Zippo—can refill
 - You CAN stay in youth ministry & be married, have children, be over 30
- Realistic expectations (no quick fixes) about youth ministry and youth workers
 - Help churches understand evaluating youth ministry is faith based and not number based (qualitative)
 - Quality of Ministry—not babysitting, occupying time...moving from high activity to high spirituality
- Identity/role of youth worker in church (local and larger Church)
- Evaluate models of Youth Ministry—association needs to be fluid and not static. Evaluate on many levels
- Sabbath, sabbatical—help youth workers advocate for it, and experience it
- Soul tending—rejuvenation of own spiritual needs
- Spiritual accountability—calling each other out to be leaders & role models in church
- Mentors, spiritual directors, prayer partners, etc
- Discernment of call: spiritual gift inventory, campus ministry (peripheral to PYWA)

Annual Gathering

- 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 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

Resources

- Important to have resources in reformed tradition
- Catalog of resources with PYWA “endorsement”
- Partnership with Amazon—PYWA “reading list” (Princeton Youth Forum has resource list online)
- PYWA acting as VOICE for what resources are needed (graffiti sheets, polling @ events, website)
- How do we make these resources available?
 - Searchable database, online catalog, print catalog
- Personal reviews/testimonials (online)
- CD-rom, similar to resource for young-adults
- Workshops
- Contact lists
- Welcome lists

- For those brand new in youth ministry (under a year) – give them a “gift basket”, resources, etc
- Bring back/re-vamp Roots of Youth Ministry—use PYWA as a voice to reprint, etc
- Priorities/time line
 - Top guru’s/experts in field. Have them provide top 5/10 resources
 - Publish resource lists in several formats (Amazon, web, print, pdf, etc)
 - Online database (top items)
 - New resources that come out—review them, endorse, etc
 - Evaluation—is this working? Helpful? What’s missing? What do we need?
 - Restructuring/rethinking
 - Encouraging Presbyterian Youth workers to create resources
- What’s out there? Can we piggy back?
 - Games, curriculum, volunteer training & recruitment, leadership development, dealing with parents, counseling, song, retreat/trip planning, worship planning, spirituality/sole tending, YW devotional, workshops/continuing Ed events, youth/human development, discipleship, program ideas, youth conferences/camps, leaders/speakers, administrative, youth culture—understanding & integrating

Association Identity

- Look at logo, booth, possible give aways, collateral marketing materials
- Logo:
 - Graphic in nature—not a picture
 - Communicate to designer: movement & action—not static or stale; centers on youth workers, bold—utilize Pentecost colors, reference the mission statement, not too churchy (ie chalice, dove, cross) or “typical Presbyterian”, engage people; people can see, recognize and know what PYWA is about.
 - Give aways—whistle! Pens, pencils, post it notes. Will change with needs of association. Have logo & website on it.
 - Send give away (post its) when someone registers. 2nd year (when they renew) get a t-shirt
 - Food: m& m, skittles, Hershey kisses/hugs
 - Booth: initial purpose to engage and gather youth workers
 - Pictures of youth workers & youth—personalize it
 - Interactive technology
 - Registration capabilities online (have database/lists available with t-shirt size)
 - Interactive cd-rom
 - Hand cut out with name on it (like march of dimes fundraisers, etc)– claiming that we’re part of PYWA
 - Websites (youth ministry, churches)
 - Resource oriented
 - Brochure—not a brochure, but an oversized laminated bookmark. Has logo, mission statement, important emphases, etc. 2-sided, give away about booth, available by mail, etc. If needed—could “morph” into a flyer, brochure, etc

Networking & Partnerships

- Those who need outlets apart from the job

- Connecting specialty ministries--developing solidarity among people doing similar things
- Those who need conversation groups/support in ministry
- Get youth workers connected to areas beyond their own
- Something between mentor, prayer partner, listeners
- Being inclusive/being intentional about including others
- Invite others into “cliques” using language that brings others up to speed and makes them feel left out. No one left out!
- Ecumenical youth worker organizations
- Relationship with APCE (booth info sharing)
- Call referral
- Conference centers and camps
- GA, synods, presbyteries, seminaries, PCUSA colleges, Racial ethnic colleges/caucuses
- Publications (outlook)
- Youth specialties events (booth, presence, etc)
- Urbana?
- Summer youth ministry (Princeton, Pittsburgh)
- Lilly Foundation (funding??)
- Youth ministry continuing education at seminaries
 - Encourage seminaries to offer courses collaboratively so could be certified by PYWA, but classes hosted at all seminaries
- Social justice organizations, mission work
- ARW, SARW
- Mo-Ranch, Massanetta, Montreat
- Endowment
- Major rock band to commission song for us
- Celebrity advocate
- Partner with sport teams, spas,
- Trips (taize, Iona, Kenya, etc)
- Scholarships
- Cruise
- Meaningful relationships, psychological health
- Web casts, conference calls, email lists
- Way to Live
- National recognized certification
- Continued education for ALL youth workers
- Time set aside/support for significant others
- Groups that go beyond lurking (PYC listserv, just lurking on your comments)
- Paid staff people to run association

Questions:

*Who would staff “booths”—local folks!

Booths @ APCE, GA, etc.

*can booth be shippable? Yes! No tri-folds!

*Did identity group suggest a dissociation with PCUSA?

NO! Just looking outside typical, churchy symbols to identify us. Something NEW
Want it to reach a variety of people, not look like something “GA produced”
*Important that WE ALL plug in and take charge. NOT just leadership TEAM driven.