

PYWA

Pentecost Summit

Zephyr Point; Lake Tahoe

Wednesday, November 02, 2005

Morning Worship: Rejoice in the Lord Always dance; opening prayer by Billie Healey; Psalm 133 (good n' plenty), singing

### **Symbol brainstorm for PYWA**

- Animated graphic, grass blowing in wind; distance figure (Jesus), people appear in grass—walking towards Jesus. People will reach out and join hands as they approach/follow Jesus. End: still graphic: group of people holding hand around Jesus—focus on hands?
- Vine & branches, wild tangled vines out of it come to peace, cross, people joining hands on outside. Roots somewhere, but vines go out wherever and can always come back to roots.
- Christmas lights—connected on a chain, separated, yet connected—together make a light. Electricity needs a spirit/energy source...Flames fueling the Christmas Lights.
- Camp fire, circle up and be together and be warmed by conversation & flame, can take a piece of that flame with you as you go, and can come back together to form a big fire.
- Sunrise—representing new day, flame—representing Pentecost; community, sandals—walk together...chalice with flame/candle in it, sunrise in background, sandals alongside
- Bread & oil: oil (abundance given to us, generous, healing, needs to be shared/handed out) & bread (loaf that never goes away, sustenance, ongoing)
- Square peg in square hole—youth workers often feel like square pegs in round holes...PYWA = people like you
- Bird bath vs. bird cage—take what you need, when you need it (one eared Mickey Mouse—youth group outside whole church—two need to merge) Not closed-open to all.
- Sitting around table, sharing, not yet closed—leaving open space
- ‘Y’ coming together to split out with life (fireworks)

Gina: Discernment as a group process. What did you notice about conversation with Rick? Questions? Ideas? Agree? Disagree? Things swirling?

- Movement vs. top-down...it can be messy,
- Fear-working with & for youth can be scary...young people need training, and leadership within the church
- Passion & excitement for movement, yet tone and language so all can be on same page
- Para church organizations—seem to have mission & vision that we don't yet have
- Conversation vs. pulpit, lectern, & script. Only paper we've been reading from is the Bible.
- Habitat for humanity...sometimes it's ok to rebuild old house, but others it's time to go with architect's dream. That's where we are.
- Challenge: do things differently, no formula (scary), new—some rebellion in that. Are we the one's that are going to stand up and say we need to do this differently.
- Is movement something you can create vs. is it something that just happens? How can we do this? Not a checklist.
- Is there a common vision? For PYWA, our youth, our church?

- Is the purpose of this organization to reinvent the church or is the role of this group to connect with each other as Presbyterian youth workers....touching the dead rock. What is the common stuff we can share & connect with? Sharing the warmth and passing it on.
- We always need to ask the question: SO WHAT? What now? (we need a purpose) Not just a “warm & fuzzy” organization, but we have/work towards a “so what” answer
- ACTION...missing it, leaving connected, looking at how we’ve done things in the past and how we need to do things in the future. Need to be unified as people that work with youth. Have a message & not getting wrapped up in politics of the church. Need to trust & build trust within the church. Training youth to be a member of a church.
- Which traditions do we need to let go?
- Jesus wasn’t seeking “safe”...tradition is safe. If we’re about following Jesus and 1) modeling that to youth and 2) teaching that to youth need to step out of “safety” and traditions. We can be the model of how to do that and say that to the Church.
- Defy convention—can be simple or something that is huge. Where is God calling us to be in that shift?
- Youth are natural movement makers...gravitate towards that much more than an organization. Tap into that energy and areas that they’re drawn (not make sense, wild, etc—that’s the SPIRIT). Empower young people, be there and hold them. Fuel is in the youth....how can we tap into that within us?
- Need to agree across the breadth of the church on some foundational beliefs, and we can have some differences beyond that. Core beliefs are sail (wind is breath of Spirit) on ship vs. our core beliefs as an anchor.

Remember:

- 1) Focus is on youth workers NOT youth. The invisible word in youth ministry: adults.
- 2) This event is a grassroots movement not driven by Office of Youth Ministry
- 3) Dream about strong foundation under this association. NOT checklist, NOT book of order. What is God calling OUR association to be?

Foundation Groups:

Administration (split among each of the other 4 groups)

Association Structure & Governance (organization and leadership)

Constituents & Audiences

Mission & vision

Discernment & discipleship (scripture passages, invitations by God)

## 4:00 pm **Report Back**

### **Organization & Leadership**

1. Opening Scripture Ephesians 3:14-21
2. Core Practices of a Healthy Association
  - a. Flexibility
  - b. Community** (all people involved, prayer partners, interest groups)
  - c. Clear mission & goals
  - d. Leadership** (ability to delegate, humble, honest with faults, willingness to serve/be connected, intentional language--TEAM)
  - e. Ownership & commitment
  - f. Accessibility** (not only at events—email or letter based)
  - g. Open to new people
  - h. Rejuvenating to its members** (interest groups, travel, new education, meditation/Sabbath, fellowship & play, reminders of our time together, shared experiences)
  - i. Members share what we receive
  - j. Accountability
  - k. Keep connected to call
3. We're looking for a leadership TEAM (that facilitate)
  - a. Coming from within the body
4. How we govern ourselves is through a covenant
  - a. Sharing what we receive
  - b. Rejuvenating to membership
5. finances
  - a. personal investment
  - b. other budgets (church, presbytery, etc)
  - c. endowments
  - d. pool our resources

### **Constituents & Audiences**

- **Who?**
  - Advocates
  - parents
  - Non-youth workers (veterans, supporters, etc)
  - Supporters
  - Campus ministry
  - Camp directors
  - Solo-pastors
  - Heads of staff
  - Seminary students, reps, faculty
  - PCCCA
  - APCE
  - Reformed & Cumberland denominations
  - Presbyterians serving in other denominations
  - Retired youth workers
  - Writers, publishers, editors
  - SGL's
- **How?**
  - Personal invitation that is intentional (intentional contact with youth workers—not exclusive. The group inviting others to become a part)
  - Phone calls

- Web site separate from denomination (check out several different domain names)
- Getting a lot of people early
- 7 different ways to get word out (email, call, flyer, letter, postcard, etc)
- GA church directory, databases
- “bribe” (incentives)
- Weekly email newsletters with articles (sign up on line)
- Print information
- Message boards
- Consistent with time communication is coming

### **Mission & Vision**

- **Words, verbs, core beliefs:** (Lori Beth Jones, the Path)

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

### **Discernment & Discipleship**

- **Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 3:14-21, Ephesians 4:1-6, Colossians 3:15-17**

- Why?

- Jesus Calls PYWA to:
  - Community because in the great commandments Jesus calls us to be in covenant relationship with God and one another
    - Partnership, mentoring, fellowship, covenant, accountability, safety
  - Advocate for youth ministry as a viable call from Christ and honor and equip youth workers for service.
    - Youth ministry as a Call, honor, affirm, validate, recognize equip
  - Spiritual growth & discipleship so that we may be nurtured and live lives worthy of our calling
    - Ongoing discernment, prayer, worship, communion, Sabbath, Baptist, prayer

### **Questions/thoughts/comments:**

- Why intentionally include parents and non-youth workers in our audience?
- Is a personal invitation inadvertently exclusive (people get left out)?
- Graciousness in each of the four groups—full of hospitality, movement, love for what we do and wanting that to be known.
- Process? Are we making decisions? Consensus model? What’s next?
  - This body will create some information, then Pentecost team—that information will go to a “synthesis” team that will put things together and decide next steps.
- As a 501 3-c whatever, are we required to have by-laws, treasurer, etc?
- Leadership & Organization—were you proposing the 4 items lifted (community, leadership, accessibility, rejuvenation) up to be particular TEAMS?
  - LARC team (leadership, accessibility, rejuvenation, community)?
- How do we interface with other traditions (Cumberlands, etc)?
  - Are there natural places beyond PCUSA? Churches we are in full communion with, etc
  - Is it better to keep it only PCUSA?

- Racial/ethnic diversity?
- How do we interface with campus ministry? (they would have a vested interest in it)
- Conversation around language/identity...
  - this is more than just an event & programming, -- about spiritual capacity, encourage youth workers to live in “alive” way, like a “campaign” for healthy & alive youth ministers
- Mission statement:
  - Connecting—catch phrase to past? (PYC, etc) Connecting became an institutional word.
  - Connecting, upholding, and inspiring (something we’re doing vs. creating space)?
    - Parallels discernment group (community, advocacy, discipleship)
- Is “youth workers” the best/most representative/identity?
  - this is not a credential, but an organization NOT our identity
- constituency – non youth workers as part of the group?
  - Safety? If THEIR pastors (boss) are in the room, may not be a safe place.

### **Random Newsprint:**

The Promotional plan

1. Identify those working with youth in local congregations
  - a. Using existing databases and people; finding the gaps in those and filling them with a phone call to the presbytery or church.
2. Website, Print (and rest of 7 ways)
  - a. Independent domain; (pywa.org, .com, .net. .ch)
3. Intentional conversations—GRASS ROOTS

A connection with APCE

Online correspondence course

Certified youth workers (possibly several levels)

Partnership with colleges and presbyteries

Developing standards for call process

Developing standards for call referral

### **Vision**

Mission trip for youth workers

Killer website (small group chat)

Reaching small churches and NCD

How to do youth ministry from scratch

Excitement about events

Mentoring connections between new and experienced

Sabbath events

Setting high expectations of quality youth ministry

Lifting up excellence in youth ministry

Leadership development

Real publication & communication pieces

Set precedent for the denomination

Study best practices

Quick response to changes in YM  
online encyclopedia/sourcebook  
Leadership/youth workers database  
Being as effective as Youth Specialties & Group