

Diocese of Central PA youth Committee:

The Youth Ministry Committee of the Diocese of Central PA initiated in 2019 a quarterly leadership training opportunity for all youth leaders in the Diocese of Central PA. The First two training sessions were led by John Knouse, from St. John's Lancaster. The Youth Committee also has initiated a monthly e-news note for all clergy and congregations to update events, programs and process. One main project was to engage in a joint Episcopal/Lutheran Children's camp experience at Camp Mt. Luther the summer of 2020 however due to Covid 19 it did not happen.

Provincial Events:

On October 11 - 14, 2019, Province III Youth Pilgrimage Trail to Truth: Racial Reconciliation from Washington DC to Philadelphia. We had six youth in attendance and two adults join the Province III Youth Committee for a bus trip from Washington DC. To Philadelphia, PA to discuss and dismantle the history of racism in the church and government. It was a fantastic experience for everyone.

Diocesan Events

On November 22 - 24 2019, we had a Winter Retreat at CML for grades 6 -12. 22 Middle Schoolers and 12 teens joined us as we prepared for Advent, the theme was "Warmth of God's Love". It was a great weekend of learning about Advent, doing traditions that families enjoy doing together like baking cookies, making decorations for others, singing Christmas Carols around the camp fire. It was a nice weekend for the youth to relax and prepare for the busy holiday.

On January 18 – 20, 2020 - We had a leadership weekend to prepare for Happening at Camp Mount Luther. Youth leadership is a key feature of the Happening program. The entire weekend was led by the youth with adult supervision and guidance. This weekend was used to plan the Happening retreat.

On February 13 – 16, 2020 a group of youth, Young Adults and Adults from our diocese and the Diocese of Central New York met at Camp Mount Luther for a weekend called Happening. The Happening "Experience" is a powerful instrument of Christian Renewal. During the three-day retreat, the participants listened to talks given by teenagers and adults. The presentation of the talks by youth using personal life experiences to offer Christ's message to attending Happeners on a level they can understand and to answer many of the faith questions youth struggle with on a daily basis. Talks about church teachings and their importance in the lives of youth attending the weekend were given. Each talk is a critical building block in the creation of the Happening message. The entire series of talks is given in a sequence that is intended to guide Happeners by opening an avenue of discussions to help them verbalize and internalize their faith questions in a safe environment, hopefully leading to a new or renewed relationship with Christ. Tierza Mendez served as Rector and Ryan Couch as Assistant Rector. All the



talks were amazing and very powerful that were given. It was a wonderful weekend for all who attended. The youth learned how powerful prayer can be and sharing in many “God Moments”.

We had eight Young Adults as part of the Celebration Team #3. This is the third year we had a curriculum for the weekend and everyone enjoyed the weekend. We had Karen DiPace cook and prepare all of the meals over the weekend. The Young Adults stopped each hour during the weekend and would pray for the Happeners and Happening staff. We ended the weekend with a wonderful closing Eucharist with everyone by our youth rector, Rev. Canon Ken Wagner-Pizza, and The Rev. Regina Barrett.

All the events that were planned for the spring, summer and fall had been cancelled because of COVID-19. EYE19 has been cancelled and is not going to be rescheduled. In the spring we felt we needed to touch base with our youth and young adults so we started a Monday night ice cream social. It started out strong but as all the youth and young adults continued to be taught at school virtually they were getting “zoomed out” and we stopped them in May.

Leadership Training

On August 13, 2020 we had a Zoom leaders meeting to help plan for the fall and winter for our youth. We invited all youth and Sunday school leaders to the meeting to help each other on ideas on how we can connect to our youth while not meeting weekly in church. Many ideas were shared. We are planning our next Zoom meeting on October 1, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

The Province III leaders started meeting in August and are planning on meeting every other month on zoom to help support one another. We share ideas of what everyone is doing to help keep our Sunday school children and youth involved. We have all shared the same concerns and have gotten very good ideas from each other.

We are sending out a Diocesan Youth ministry survey to see where children and youth are in our diocese and who is leading the groups so we can connect our leaders for support and to be able to invite all youth for retreats in the future.

Young adults were invited to a gathering Sept. 19th for a spiritual formation retreat.

Future Events

October 16 – 17, 2020 – Diocesan Convention, the youth will be helping with the services. Sharing stories on Friday PM.

October 31, 2020 – We are hoping to plan a social distant overnight at Camp Mount Luther for all youth and young adults. The theme is going to be All Hollows Eve. We will be following the guidelines for COVID-19 with social distancing.

We are realizing youth do not check e-mail regularly, we are hoping to set up an app for their phones to communicate Diocesan events.

Presently in the planning is to develop an opportunity to do bi monthly zoom gatherings with youth and young adults until we can be together for retreats.



Diocesan Youth Ministry Happening 2019, Pre-COVID-19

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Ellen Kilp on behalf of the youth Committee of the Diocese of Central PA

Youth Committee Members: *Mary Ellen Kilp chair; The Rev. Canon Ken Wagner Pizza, Karen DiPace, Erica Sipe, Joe Way, The Rev. Gina Batista, Tim Hanner, Emma DiPace, John Knouse, Robert Kilp, Kelly Paulsen, Beth Runkle, and Theda Tallman.*