

Children, Youth & Families Convention Report 2023

I began in the role of Canon for Children, Youth, and Families in March 2023. In the first phase of my work, I have been gathering information, visiting churches as I am invited, and getting to know clergy, youth, and lay in the Diocese. I am also connecting with other Dioceses and learning about the work they do in their context while also finding ways to collaborate. My hope is to work on creating structures that will support individual parishes and convocations in their work with Children, Youth, and Families.

EYE

I attended EYE (the Episcopal Youth Event) at the University of Maryland, College Park, with 11 youth and two chaperones from our Diocese. This was an amazing event that was transformational for the 600+ youth who attended from all around the country and the world. Some of the highlights included: worship with a lively band and dynamic speakers, engaging workshops, fun activities, and a Province 3 event with a stop at the Washington National Cathedral. Here are a few quotes from youth at EYE:

“What I liked about EYE is that it was so welcoming and inclusive, and when we went to the armory [where worship was held on campus] to have our worship and service, I liked hearing the speakers. The second thing I liked is how people around the world come to celebrate and learn more about being an Episcopalian and their faith.” -Sophia

“I liked how everyone was very friendly and inclusive with one another, and I think that made everyone feel comfortable and accepted and pushed some people out of their comfort zones in a good way. Also, the worship was a blast!” -Silas

Central PA Youth Advisory Team

In Fall 2022, a Resolution was passed to form a Youth Advisory Team with youth and adult representatives from each Convocation. This summer, I developed an application and began accepting applications for the Youth Advisory Team and began to spread the word about this opportunity. We are still in need of youth representatives from Harrisburg, Lancaster, Northern Tier, Southern, and Susquehanna Convocations. We are still in need of adult representatives from Harrisburg, Lancaster, and Northern Tier.

Children & Family Committee

We put a call out for members to join the Children & Family Committee that will help shape a vision for intergenerational engagement on a Diocesan level. We are continuing to look for interested members.

Children, Youth, and Family Workers & Volunteers

We began prayer and check-ins on Zoom for Children & Youth Workers and volunteers. This will continue monthly. We hope to plan a one-day retreat for this group in the late winter/early spring.

Upcoming Events & Projects

Youth Confirmation Retreat & Bonfire- **November 4th, 9 am-2 pm, Bonfire at 2 pm**

Youth involvement at Saving Lives: Ending Gun Violence Action Day- **November 15, 9:30 am- 4 pm**

Forma Conference (scholarships available)- **January 22-25, 2024**

Children, Youth, Family Workers & Volunteers one-day retreat- **Date TBA**

Inter-Diocesan Youth Retreat- **April 26-28th**

Respectfully submitted by Canon Micalagh Moritz