

Youth Commission
Diocese of WNY
Minutes for meeting of December 17, 2006
St. Mark's, Orchard Park

Attending: Wendy Schumacher (adult chair), Fr. Dan Weir, Matthew Seufert, Jay Phillippi (Amanda Szczepanski – youth chair was ill and couldn't attend)

Meeting began at 2:22 PM with Check in and a brief Bible study

Tribe – Wendy reported on Design Team stuff. All going very well, team is very excited. Looking at a service project. WNY needs to be looking at delegation selection, especially adults. Cheri Krull and Fr. Dan are interested, also possibly Jen Seefeldt. Need to do an article on “Tribe” for ChurchActs Also need to get info out in newsletters and diocesan postings. Jay reported that the forms are ready to go on the web page.

Senior High overnight - Need to assure female adults. Possible recruits Jenn Seefeldt, Giselle Jackman, Gus and Jeff Perfect have indicated they might want to be involved. Possible males – EJ, Fr Will, Fr. Harry. Fr. Dan will lead worship which will be the last item of the event. Mid-night worships don't seem to have youth in proper mindset. Schedule will start with games and Wendy will take some leadership for that.

Bishop's Ball - Site and bishop are confirmed. Wendy will follow up with Nick Hurd about music. Need to make sure that someone is manning table at entrance to take admission. Looks good at the moment.

EMX – Jay reports that sites list is now available. He will distribute info. Great idea for youth groups or congregations looking for mission trips. Broken into Easy, Medium and Xtra challenging (EMX)

Clergy mailing – In early January all ordained clergy will receive a mailing “Everything you Ever Wanted To Know About Youth Ministry but Didn't Know Who to Ask”. It is an introductory piece about all the ministries and how to get involved. Wendy suggested that it should go to ALL adult leaders and Jay said that it will eventually. This is a targeted mailing to a group we have a diminished visibility with at the moment. Fr Dan will make sure that something goes out on the clergy e-mail urging everyone to read it at the time of the mailing.

Diocesan Council – We continue to have a problem raising up a youth to serve in this leadership role. Transportation is often a problem so it helps if the youth comes from either a Buffalo congregation or has another member of Council from their parish. Given the numbers in youth right now we need to expand our search to both freshmen and sophomores. They could serve a year or two and not have conflict with senior year issues. Fr. Dan suggested Rowland Brown, it was agreed and he will approach Rowland.

Fr. Dan also suggested to Council that youth ministry report should be offered. It was agreed that this needed to be more than just the Youth Missioner. About 20 minutes with some Q&A. Wendy agreed that she could help out (others a possibility too). The bishop has agreed that this is a good idea. We simply need to wait for an invitation.

U2charist – April 14th at the Cathedral with the bishop in attendance and Fr. Phil Dougherty possible preacher. Funds raised go to support Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Niagara Deanery

youth are taking leadership with Judith Lee. Diocese of Rochester is doing a Hip Hop Mass also in spring of 2007. Looking forward to having youth from this diocese attend.

Jr High Camp – Peter Avery has accepted position as new director and begun to work! Very excited. We have deadline issues to deal with since DCC wants to be given sufficient time to “re-sell” our week if we cancel. A 14 day advance notice is no longer sufficient. Suggested that we offer an “early-bird” registration to encourage. Costs are going up rather dramatically this year (about a \$25 increase in base cost from DCC) Relations with DCC are much improved.

Suggestion – to create a “Clergy at Camp” program. A specified day when clergy can come and observe camp. A special presentation for them to talk about program(s). Outside leadership (like Fr. Dan and Wendy) could lead program so it has no impact on staff of camp. Need to check concept with directors.

Youth Commission money – Need to close outside account. Have spoken with Fr Whitmore, need to follow up to make sure it takes place. He has many things on his mind as he prepares to retire. Also need to look at spending those monies. We are not supposed to have large amounts of money just lying around. Need to find funds for T-Shirts. May need to do an appeal for support.

Next meeting – January 21

Meeting adjourned followed by prayer at 4:20 PM.

Notes taken by Jay Phillippi