

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

Attending: Wendy Schumacher (adult chair), Amanda Szczepanski (youth chair), Liz Kozak, Andy Metzloff, Jay Phillippi

Following check in **Camp** chosen as first item for discussion. Camp attendance was down with Junior High being canceled altogether. The exact cause remains to be determined. Senior High went very well and was successful with it's low numbers. Sleep Away was about the same as last year and very successful as well. ARTS camp had smaller numbers and no Episcopalians this year but also successful. Some potential problems arose with the new interim director at DCC. He called and was borderline rude with the Youth Missioner. This raises the question of whether it's time to move Junior High to another facility. Previous discussions centered on the lack of a clear cut advantage of LCLC over DCC (or vice versa). If the relationship is going to be impaired under a new manager we may want to look. Plus if the camps had been at the same facility Junior High would NOT have been canceled. There are disadvantages and changes would need to be made by both Sleep Away and Junior High on the use of facilities but it needs to be explored.

High marks were given to an LCLC staff person named Priscilla who was VERY popular with campers and staff. She seemed to enjoy the camp as well.

The Youth Missioner was told to begin work on a theme for next year so it can be used in publicity ASAP. He'll consult with Fr. Schindler on the subject.

Happening – The next Happening team has just met and it looks to be a very good one. There were problems getting enough people but that appears to be taken care of at this point. It looks to be a good team and a good weekend.

Province II – Jay announced that he has resigned as Provincial Youth Ministry Coordinator (PYMC). With his hours still at 80% of full time, the increased needs of the diocesan ministry and some personal needs he simply felt that it was the best decision. The provincial youth ministry network is functioning again which had been his primary task. Youth Commission expressed their sadness that he had to leave the position but are encouraged that he will be more fully focused on diocesan projects.

Tribe – In August of 2007 Province 2 will hold a provincial youth event called Tribe. It is modeled on EYE. Preliminary details are that it is open to 9-12 graders and their adult sponsors from P2, August 2-6, 2007 in Painted Post NY, at Watson Homestead. The provincial youth network has sought financial support from the national church and the province but is also seeking support from member dioceses. Jay noted that the budget for 2006 included an EYE line of \$2,000 and suggested that money be used for the PEYE (Tribe). The motion was seconded by Andy M and approved. Like EYE the diocesan group would be chosen from applications (deadline established for January 17) and that additional fund-raisers would be needed for support and transportation. Wendy, Liz and Amanda are on the design team for this event. They will be traveling with the group from Rochester for the event and will need to rent a van.

Youth Missioner priorities- In light of Jay's resignation as PYMC (see above) he requested guidance from the Youth Commission on where he should expend his effort. Clearly at 80% of full time it's impossible to be "all things to all people". (Probably impossible at full time too!) After some discussion the following priorities were recommended (to be certified with the bishop):

- 1: The health and growth of existing programs with special emphasis on camp.
- 2: Promotion (“Getting the word out”) about youth ministry in general and diocesan ministries in specific.
- 3: Working with congregations to strengthen local ministries and help them connect with diocesan, provincial and national ministries.

Diocesan Youth Convention (DYC) – recommended that we proceed and try to find additional adult leaders to help with overnight. Jay will lead program. Also need to move young people from St. Patrick's to convention site on Saturday.

Convention – Jay requested reimbursement for table fee (\$25), approved by Youth Commission. Wendy would like the names suggested for Youth delegation, Jay to forward to her. (Note: the names do not appear in the appropriate minutes. They apparently were not forwarded with the minutes) The display area should have camp dates (and theme) materials available along with dates for other established events.

Calendar – Looked at setting dates for upcoming years events. Agreed that Senior High event is not to include 8th graders this year since they were very disruptive in 2006. Dates set for:

Senior High mid year event – January 5-6

Bishop's Ball – February 17

Junior High mid year event – March 17th

Camp dates (tentative) Senior High – June 24-30, ARTS August 5-11, Junior High August 12-18,
Sleep Away August 15-18

Next meeting – October 15.

Meeting adjourned followed by prayer at 4:15PM.

Notes taken by Liz Kozak, translated by Jay Phillippi