

Missouri Mid-South UCC Covenanted Youth Ministry Team

Annual Report

2017-2018

The covenanted youth ministry team is comprised of pastors, youth directors, Christian educators, and lay leaders who are active in youth ministry throughout the conference. In January we welcomed our new conference staff; Cindy Birkner and Courtney Chandler. Cindy was hired into the position of youth ministry resource coordinator, and Courtney as the youth events coordinator. The team meets the first Thursday of the month to plan youth ministry events, fellowship, and provide resources and encouragement to one another. Resources are also shared on our website, www.mmsuccyouth.org. The covenanted youth ministry team looks forward to connecting to more churches, youth leaders, and youth throughout the conference in the coming year. They plan to utilize their new conference staff to ensure new connections are made. We plan to publicize our website and the many resources that are available on it. The youth ministry team is led by Alysha Petry and Cindy Birkner.

Youth at the Conference Annual Gathering

At the 2017 Conference Annual Gathering, the youth had a great time! We spent time discussing the keynote addresses and workshops that we attended. We took a trip to the Ronald McDonald House in Columbia, MO to get a tour of the facility and volunteer to help with trash clean up and checking on how sturdy their playground equipment was. On Friday night the youth helped with communion at the evening worship and shared about their experience at the Ronald McDonald house. Each day the youth went swimming at the hotel pool and spent the late evening participating in fun activities including a frozen t-shirt relay. Youth at Cag were led by Jay Burbridge.

Conference Middle School Event

In November, 80 middle school aged youth and their leaders joined together at Camp MoVal for the annual Conference Middle School Event. This year we explored the Emotional Roller Coaster that comes along with being a follower of Jesus. We explored the emotional highs and lows of disciples starting with joy and plunging down through nervousness, fear, anger, sadness, and then back to joy and hope as we discussion the Resurrection. Along with exploration of the theme, we enjoyed all the wonderful activities that Camp MoVal has to offer. Alysha Petry and Cathy Pettibone provided the leadership for this event with the help of many other adult leaders.

Conference Youth Event

In February, Jay Burbridge and Cindy Birkner led 96 senior high youth and adults at Camp MoVal for the annual Conference Youth Event. Keynote speaker Dev Crist led us in thoughtful group discussion on different ways that we pray through music, prayer and meditation. Youth were encouraged to think outside the box on ways that they can communicate with God.

Regional Youth Event

Stephanie Delong, Paul Koch, Courtney Chandler, and Alysha Petry are on the West Central Regional Youth Event (RYE) planning team. The team consists of youth leaders and Pastors from Missouri Mid-South, South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas/Oklahoma, and Minnesota Conferences. RYE is themed Faith = Action. The event focuses on the three great loves and will be held June 19-22, 2018 at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa.