

Ecumenical Young Adult Ministry Team

Co-moderators: Monica Roberts
Bill Lazor

Staff: Garland F. Pierce
CTTF Contracted Staff: Courtney Richards

Program Mission/Purpose:

With a mission of enriching young adult ministry, the EYAMT is a unique group that includes both denominational staff persons and young adult constituents from seven different communions. In addition, the EYAMT relates to/resources fourteen other denominations and organizations, including the World Council of Churches Youth Programme.



1. What specific actions has the program ministry committee taken or plans to take to follow through with the work on cultural proficiency begun in the January 2005 ELMC meeting?

Cultural proficiency continues to be an important organizing principle for the work of EYAMT. The principles learned were employed in the planning for the 2006 Come to the Feast impacting programming and leadership. Denominational staff members of the program ministry are also encouraged to keep matters of diversity in mind in their discernment processes to determine the young adult constituent members of the team.

2. What actions has the program ministry committee taken to strengthen its relations to:

- a. Other ELMC program ministry committees:** We have not addressed this specific question as of this date.
- b. NCCC member communions not represented at the table:** Each year we extend invitations to communions who are not currently represented at the table in an attempt to discover what the difficulties are with sending representatives and how we might assist in getting broader representation for our work. We do continue to co-sponsor and work in collaboration with the NCC/CWS General Assembly Young Adult Steward Program and the Young Adult Pre-Assembly Event, which helps us connect to more young adults in the member communions.
- c. Other communions and/or agencies?** This team has traditionally had representation from communities who are not member communions of the NCCCUSA, but who have strong commitment and interest in faithful, broad-reaching young adult ministries. The Unitarian Universalist Association has sent two representatives to be a part of the team.

3. How does the work of your program ministry committee make ELMC a stronger witness to the unity of the church?

Young adults are the present and future leaders of the church. Their diverse voices, extraordinary gifts and passionate commitment to the communities they belong to bring depth, energy and richness to the ecumenical table. The program initiatives and goals of the EYAMT enhance and encourage young adults and young adult ministries, thereby strengthening the entire body of the ELMC and the NCCC. Communities are made

stronger by the openness of their welcome and the depth of their commitment to all of God's people. The EYAMT brings an inclusive, diverse voice representing young adults and young adult ministries' important place in the NCCC community.

4. What work of this program ministry committee was carried forward between meetings of the committee and how was it done?

At each team meeting sub-committees are formed to continue work between meetings. "Come to the Feast" requires a lot of detail work between meetings and therefore it is a necessity for our sub-committees to commit to accomplishing a significant amount of work between meetings. At the same time, it is a struggle to make this model function well due to the frequent transitions of team members as well as team members' already hectic schedules.

5. What resources/products/services does the program ministry offer to denominations/congregations/the public?

The EYAMT shares denominational resources, experiences, education, and events cultivating young adult networks, and facilitating the ongoing development of young adult ministries. Denominational staff who sit on this team communicate opportunities for constituents to participate in events for and with other young adults across denominations. In addition, Garland Pierce (NCC) frequently makes use of the EYAMT list-serve to send information about events, programs, and resources, which are then forwarded throughout our personal, professional, congregational and denominational networks.

6. What recommendations do you want to make to the Education and Leadership Ministries Commission? To the NCCC?

No recommendations at this time.



Membership as of October 2006:

The Rev. Douglas Fenton	The Episcopal Church USA
Ms. Monica Roberts	The Episcopal Church
Mr. Christopher Wendell	The Episcopal Church
Ms. Kristen Glass	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Mr. Ray Ranker	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Ms. Rozella White	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Mr. Michael Tino	Unitarian Universalist Association
Ms. Elandria Williams	Unitarian Universalist Association
The Rev. Da Vita D. McCallister	United Church of Christ
Ms. LiErin Probasco	United Church of Christ
Mr. Bill Lizor	The United Methodist Church
Ms. Julie O'Neal	The United Methodist Church
Mr. Justin Mapes	The United Methodist Church



Associated denominations and organizations:

Mr. Emile Gauthier-Washington	African Methodist Episcopal Church
Mr. Derek Anderson	African Methodist Episcopal Church
Ms. Stephanie Perry	African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
The Rev. Charles Armstrong	American Baptist Churches, USA
Ms. Becky Heneise	American Baptist Churches, USA
Ms. Arpi Kouzouian	Armenian Church of America
The Rev. Jane Lawrence	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Ms. Cyreeta Collins	Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
The Rev. Christine Douglas	Church of the Brethren
Ms. Beth Rohn	Moravian Church
The Rev. Jud Hendrix	Presbyterian Church (USA)
Father Abjar Bahkou	Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch
Mr. Ken Brown	United Church of Christ
Ms. Natalie Maxson	World Council of Churches (US Office)
Ms. Sherri Hausser	NCC, Interfaith Relations Commission
Ms. Michelle Miller	National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association



Come to the Feast