



Ecumenical Youth Ministries Staff Team

Convener: Gina Yeager-Buckley

Staff: Garland F. Pierce

Program Mission/Purpose:

The Ecumenical Youth Ministries Staff Team (EYMST) gathers each December for a time of continuing education and networking, a time apart to renew their spirit and energy for working with youth throughout the year in retreats, mission trips, and youth gatherings. The primary purpose of EYMST is to resource denominational staff in youth ministry. The secondary purpose is to resource adult youth leaders who are members of the participating denominations. In addition – the EYMST works to identify new trends in youth ministry and advocate for young people in the Church.

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?

Those who represented EYMST at the January '07 meeting will bring the information to our December '07 gathering.

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

- a. Other ELMC program ministry committees**
- b. NCCC member communions not represented at the table**
- c. Other communions and/or agencies?**

We have invited a number of denominations who have not previously participated in our team to send staff persons to our annual meeting and to participate in the planning and sponsorship of the 2006 EYMST YOUTH WORKER SUMMIT in Orlando, FL.

3. How does the work of your program ministry committee make ELMC a stronger witness to the unity of the church? The EYMST met in December 2005 for our annual gathering. This time was a bit different than our usual time of continuing education. We focused primarily on the scoping and planning of the 2006 Youth Worker Summit. The EYMST welcomed Will Penner – editor of the new *Student Journal* to talk with the team about the possibility of partnering with NCCC youth ministry staff in this new endeavor. The team determined that individual denominations would approach Will if they were interested. In 2006 we held an additional planning meeting in Nashville, Tennessee for the purpose of continuing the planning of the Youth Worker Summit. In addition to the two meetings that were held the EYMST has “met” monthly via conference calls and consistently (weekly) through our e-group.

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

Previously, this group had not done program work together, but at our 2004 meeting we began planning for a November 12-15, 2006 Youth Leader Training Event in

Orlando, Florida. We were pleased to welcome 200+ participants representing 11+ denominations and communions to the event. The theme for the event is “We Do Not Lose Heart.” The Youth Worker Summit strengthens ELMC as a whole in several ways. An event such as the Summit offers sustenance to the tireless youth worker community. Sustenance that is found in worship, study, community building and ecumenical dialogue and networking. Adult youth leaders who are inspired and renewed return to churches where they in turn can inspire and offer sustenance to young people. Youth and adults who are energized by the gifts of education and community bring a powerful witness to the church.

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

For NCCC member denominations, this group offers the resources of continuing education and renewal to their denominational youth ministry staff. In 2006, it also offered the leader training event described above.

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

At this time we do not have any recommendations but simply offer gratitude for the accompaniment of the Reverend Garland Pierce.

Membership:

Reginald Blount	African Methodist Episcopal Church
Paulette M. Cryer	African Methodist Episcopal Church
David A. Williams	African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Arpi Kouzouian	Armenian Church of America
Jane Lawrence	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Willa Ross	Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Chris Douglas	Church of the Brethren
Frank D. Ward	Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Betsy C.W. Boyd	The Episcopal Church USA
Thom K. Chu	The Episcopal Church USA
Heidi Jo Hagstrom	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Donna Wiegel	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Rod G. Boriack	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Dianha Ortega-Ehreth	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Todd Buegler	ELCA Youth Ministry Network
Abe Bergen	General Conference Mennonite Church
Carlos Romero	Mennonite Board of Congregational Ministry
Gina Yeager-Buckley	Presbyterian Church USA
Ron Den Hartog	Reformed Church in America
Ken Brown	United Church of Christ
Da Vita Carter McCallister	United Church of Christ
P. Jay Clark	United Methodist Board of Discipleship
Terry B. Carty	United Methodist Board of Discipleship
Susan Hay	United Methodist Board of Discipleship
Lillian Smith	United Methodist Board of Discipleship

Crys Zinkiewicz

United Methodist Publishing House

Robert McCarthy

National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministries

Eileen McCann

National Conference of Catholic Bishops

David Burroughs

Passport, Inc.

Colleen Burroughs

Passport, Inc.

Allan Burton

Passport, Inc.



Youth Worker Summit
November 12-15, 2006
Disney's Coronado Spring, FL

