

Northwest Young-Adult Ministry Conference Call: Thursday, June 4, 2009, 10:00 AM

Present:

Jason Sierra: Program Officer for Young Adult Ministry, based in Seattle

Lucas Grubbs: Canon Pastor of St. Michael's Cathedral in Boise, Idaho

- Leads young-adult group at St. Michael's – fellowship, Bible study, and service
- Serves on CYAM – Commission for Young Adult Ministry

David Campbell: Youth, Young Adult, and Camp Director for Diocese of Montana

- Christian formation for “children through age 35”

Robin Barnes: Priest in Diocese of Montana (currently non-parochial)

- Will be serving at camp this summer
- Graduated from GTS last year and was ordained to the priesthood last Sunday (congratulations!)

Kathy Hamilton: Canon for Youth and Young Adults in Diocese of Olympia

- Year-round diocesan conferences for youth
- Exploring new ways to minister to and with young adults
- In charge of support services for Diocesan Convention

Catherine Healy: Missioner with Youth, Young Adults, & Higher Ed in Diocese of Oregon

- Year-round diocesan conferences for youth
- Diocesan liaison to five campus ministries
- Working to improve leadership development and reach young adults outside the Portland area

Bryan Krislock: Young adult in Diocese of Spokane

- Youth, Young Adult, and Children's Formation Commission
- Works with Diocesan Council

Not present:

Kay Rohde: Diocese of Wyoming

Works with Wind and Wings – fledgling ministry with youth & young adults among native/First Nations populations

Current Programs & Best Practices

Kathy

- “Beer with the Bishop” kickoff event some years ago with Bishop Curry – had turnout of 40-50 people – repeated the event several times with continued good turnout, but it was very difficult to get onto the bishop's schedule – planning to revive the tradition with [new] Bishop Gregg

- Last week: Pub Trivia Night held at a church – billed for ages 21-35 – only 22 people present, but had a good time – planning another for fall and hoping to take the event to other regions
- Young-adult retreat coming up this summer (end of July)

Jason

- Passionate about engaging young adults in the arts – especially arts as a nonverbal way of exploring faith and theology
- Good Friday: “Dancing in the Dark” – Multimedia art exploration event, with Irish band and dancing; very nonverbal and arts-oriented; about 40 people in attendance; altar area set up with crown of thorns, cross, basin of water & towel; attendees were invited to pick up instruments and play with the band

David

- At the end of every summer, young-adult camp from Sunday to Wednesday, attended predominantly by camp staff – bishop has been able to attend, and conversations focus on exploring vocation
- Multiple campuses have local ministries that are not diocesan-run; Bozeman campus has a “Christus Collegium” sponsored by several local churches, and Missoula campus has an Episcopal-Lutheran ministry

Lucas

- Started in Cathedral position about two years ago; noticed substantial YA presence in pews, but with no real outlet for ministry or fellowship
- Collected contact information and began holding monthly potluck dinner parties at people’s homes, hosted by someone new every month
- As YA community grew stronger & more viable, it started branching out: Now it sponsors a weekly Bible study, shared with a nearby Lutheran church
- Recently begun ministry to Boise’s homeless & hungry population – “Come to the Banquet,” a lunch held on the last Saturday of every month

Catherine

- College ministries on five campuses
- Young adults are encouraged to volunteer with diocesan youth programs – still working on developing regional fellowship opportunities for young adults who prefer to engage in other ways

Bryan

- Spokane has been active with the Episcopal Young Adult Service Corps (YASC) – assigning interns to local congregations for 11-month periods

Moving Forward: Questions & Approaches

Lucas

- How do we begin to reach young adults who live outside our major population centers?

Catherine

- How do we develop liturgy and fellowship that are truly “all-ages” and appeal to both single young adults and young families?
- How do we help congregations find ways to engage college students in the real life of the Church, rather than consigning them all to “student ministries”?

Robin

- How do you combine ministries to college students, non-college students, and young parents?

Kathy

- How do we get the word out about what we’re doing?

David

- Working with congregations on governance (how they select vestry members, etc.) and encouraging them to examine each of their ministries – including service, worship, education, evangelism, stewardship, pastoral care, and building & grounds – and figure out how to appeal to different demographics (including young adults) and how to make Christian formation a part of the process
- Encouraging congregations to grow new leaders

Next Meeting

We’ll plan to make this a regular meeting: 10:00 AM PST on the first Thursday of every month. Talk to you soon!