**119th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Utah, 2024**

**Report of the Youth Faith Formation (Changed name to Faith Formation in 2024)**

**Members:** Karen Gleeson with support from Ingrid VanZanten, Christine Jenkin and trained counselors from Camp Tuttle.

\*\*We are looking for members to join our team to help form and build an ongoing community to support intergenerational ministry. **\*\***

**Mission:** Support faith formation programs for all generations to have a loving, safe, inclusive community to share and grow in their faith.

**Goals:**

It is our continued hope and prayer that our youth, family members and parishioners of all ages in the Diocese:

* Has a loving, safe, inclusive community to share and express their concerns
* Has a relationship with God
* Grow spiritually in worship and outreach
* Gains knowledge of the faith, practice, and spirit of the Episcopal Church

**Actions and ministries supported by Youth Faith Formation:**

Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) and gatherings in 2023:

Monthly planning gatherings for youth, family members and leaders were organized to work together to raise funds to attend EYE at the University of Maryland in July 2023. For more detailed information on EYE gatherings, please read Youth Ministry Report. Also, for a summary of our EYE Trip, please see the EYE Summery Report below.

November, 2023: Teamed up with the St. James Family event at St. James to lead a gratitude session with the youth and decorated gratitude journals, and wrote a letter of gratitude to someone who has influenced their lives.

January 2024 - Soup, Serve and Sing:

Youth leaders as well as senior high youth joined together to serve soup and sing camp songs to spread songs of joy at St. Mark's Towers as well as St. Marks Mill Creek. These are 2 of several outreach ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah.  These communities consist of low income individuals who live independently in their own apartments and are widely diverse in culture and faith. Many individuals are without family, live at a distance from their families.

**Recommendations:**

Offer programs to allow intergenerational members of our community to bond together:

Wisdom Keepers - Gatherings for members of our Baby Boomers and Traditional Generations to establish and maintain connection and community.

Evergreen Society - Gatherings of intergenerational community members that are held consistently to foster fellowship, service, and to support and build a spiritual and inclusive community.

**Future Events:**

Intergenerational Afternoon Tea: Saturday, May 11th - Youth are invited to bring an older family member, grandparent, neighbor or friend to join us for a joyful afternoon tea with appetizers and biscuits.  This is a lovely event that provides an opportunity for multi generations to connect.  We will enjoy a time of sharing and making greeting cards together. This event is also for our older generations to connect and bring a younger grandchild, friend or neighbor along. You are also welcome to come on your own and join us for tea and activities.  This event will be held at the Wasatch Retreat and Conference Center

Summer Camp Lunch for Wisdom Keepers: Join us this summer at Camp Tuttle to relax and enjoy the afternoon in the mountains. Bring your lunch, share stories together and feel free to go for a walk. Dates to be determined.

**Summary of EYE2023 (Episcopal Youth Event) July 3rd-8th, 2023**

After waiting 6 years, EYE was back with incredible power and messages of love and hope! EYE was held at the beautiful campus of The University of Maryland.

“As an attendee and a chaperon, we enjoyed nothing less than being faithful, respectful, loving, attentive, mindful and of course taking care of each as a family of Christ visitors to The University of Maryland Campus, Maryland” Quote from Chaperone Gabriel Makuei Tor

The theme of the week was the story of Esther and how “You were born for such a time as this.” Esther 4:14

There were 21 of us representing Utah, with 16 youth participants and 5 leaders. Bishop Phyllis Spiegel also joined us for a couple of days, where we walked DC and toured museums and monuments together. We enjoyed the 4th of July parade and ended the day with watching fireworks. It was a memorable 4th of July for all of us!

The rest of the week was filled with morning and evening worship services. About 1,000 participants consisting of clergy, youth, and their leaders all worshiped together and danced to incredible music. The speakers and clergy shared stories of their challenges and messages of hope.

Each day a wide variety of interesting workshops were offered for youth and leaders to choose from. We were able to meet people from all around the country, share ideas and make new friends.

“God is calling you with all of your strengths and weaknesses and vulnerabilities and powers because it is you that our church needs today.” Julia Alava Harris, President of the House of Deputies, EYE23.

“Go out into the world writing the story of God into your life. Because with all of you, the Church will not die… it will thrive!” The Rev. Nancy Frausto, Director of Latinix Studies, EYE23

We are so grateful to everyone who supported this opportunity for our youth, our amazing chaperones who took the whole week off work to join us, and for our Bishop Phyllis Spiegel.

If you would like to view photos, videos, quotes and Presiding Bishop Curry’s sermon, please check out the Facebook page for the Episcopal Youth Event or Https://events.episcopalchurch.org/eye

Submitted by Karen Gleeson, Diocesan Youth Director (New Title: Koinonia Coordinator)