

RE-THINK COMMUNITY!



For many years the Southeastern Jurisdiction Youth Staff Association has enjoyed a twice annual gathering for networking and learning. Each spring and fall we gather to retain/regain our collective sanity; professionally, socially, and spiritually. And because this has meant so much to us, we would like to invite YOU to be a part of this great experience of learning, fellowship, and re-newal!

Flowing off the Re-Think Campaign of the UMC we want to name and focus our event around Re-Think Community! As we vision-ed this time together we had before us a definition of community in the place we were staying; Community: Living one's life as life together, in a commitment to shared mission and a common life. Isn't that a beautiful description of what our young people could lead for our denomination?

Our gathering will include:

- Community life time (fun)
- Bible Study
- Collaborative Learning
- Jurisdictional Time
- Worship
- Re-newal time

Presenters/Facilitators:

- Many Conference Young People Staffers from the SEJ
- GBOD National and Regional Staff
- Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor of the South Carolina Conference
- And Many Awesome Others!



Location:

Beautiful Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center is nestled in the Smoky Mountain National Forest in western North Carolina. Less than a half hour away from Asheville NC, this area is a must see for the fall colors and adventures. Discover more about Lake Junaluska online at www.lakejunaluska.com. Accommodations and meals will be at the historic Lambuth Inn.

Participants:

We ask that every conference prayerfully consider sending one point person who facilitates Ministry with Young People to this event.

Start Time:

Tuesday, October 12 at 3:00 pm eastern time. Our first meal on campus will be dinner on that Tuesday evening. For those arriving early we will have some options to explore the Smoky Mountains and Waynesville area on Tuesday morning through lunchtime.

End Time:

Thursday, October 14 at 12:00 noon eastern time. Again, if you would like to spend some extra time in the area, there are many attractions and food options.

Cost:

\$178.50/person double occupancy or \$242.50/person single occupancy (Want to share a bed? \$150.50/Triple & \$142.50/Quad). Cost will cover all program, housing and food from dinner on Tuesday, October 12 through breakfast & morning program Thursday, October 14. Following the program on the 14th, we will plan some meal gathering places in the local area. For additional nights' lodging, room rates are \$98/double and \$81/single.

Transportation:

Lake Junaluska will help provide transportation from the Asheville NC airport. All activities of the retreat will be on the retreat grounds and comfortable walking shoes are suggested.

Registration:

Lake Junaluska will handle our registration, which opens on June 1. Go to www.lakejunaluska.com and navigate to the Ministry with Young People page or go directly to www.MYP.lakejunaluska.com. Please register as early as possible so that we might begin communications with each other. We do ask that all registrations be in by September 13 so that our planning team has a handle on what they are fully expecting for this first-time event.

For Questions or for More Information:

Registration, Housing or Lake Junaluska Questions: Tammy McDowell at tmcdowell@lakejunaluska.com or 828-454-6681

Programming Questions: Angie Williams of the Virginia Conference at angiewilliams@vaumc.org or (800) 768-6040



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OTHER QUESTIONS:

Q: Why should I come? A: The SEJ group has found great value in gathering together to learn, play, and pray as unique persons who do what they do. With only 63 conferences in the U.S. we are about as rare as you can find...we think there is great wisdom in shared learning; awesome fellowship in shared stories; and incredible prayer and support in shared responsibilities.

Q: Who should come? A: Any person who is responsible for the youth and/or young adult ministries of your conference. Fully aware that we all might share some other responsibilities and that not all time and staff commitments are the same (i.e. full-time/part-time/volunteer, clergy/lay). We are looking for the persons that carry the responsibility of Ministry with Young People in our conferences.

Q: What is the goal? A: That each of us would find support and encouragement. That we all could strengthen the impact of our conference ministries with young people through hearing the “best practices” of others. And that united, we might understand and prepare for the coming cultural changes so that we may better lead the Church to face those days and times.

Q: Is this a onetime event? A: We don’t think so. We simply wanted to invite you to share in what we have been having together, and from our experiences we believe that others will want to plan and host future similar events.

Q: How should I dress? A: Dress should be casual as we will have lots of great “group activities” planned in addition to learning, worship, and Bible study. The average high for this time of year in western NC is 67 degrees with nighttime lows averaging 37 degrees. Bring a jacket and/or sweatshirt – and definitely bring some good walking shoes as all will want to experience the beautiful fall colors of the Smoky Mountains.

Q: What is available for free time or additional time in the area? A: Western NC/East TN has lots to offer in hiking and other outdoor activities. And the Waynesville community is full of great antique shopping and fantastic dining. Additionally Lake Junaluska offers discounts to many area attractions, including the Biltmore Estates. And there is an 18 Hole Golf Course just across the street.

Q: What else should I know about our time together? A: We know that there is much brokenness in many of our lives. Some of our greatest times together have been asking the questions of “how are things with your soul?” Our hope is that we all find some quiet time to hear the still small voice of God in these days. But also, we have asked two of our own to prepare and plan to be “resident Chaplains” during our days together. Rev Carolyn Poling and Rev Dan Gray will be available to listen, pray, and counsel those that just might need to pull away from the larger group gathering for any special reasons.