

Youth Ministries Committee Report – Annual Report 2016

Federated's youth and the Youth Ministries Committee have had a busy year. Here are some highlights of 2016:

During the month of January, the youth and committee held its annual book sale fundraiser. Congregation members were asked to bring books they no longer used or wanted; and a free will offering was taken. Books that were not claimed were donated to the Columbus Public Library.

On February 6th, a well-liked fundraiser was held where many congregation members enjoyed homemade pizza made by youth and parents. Pizza was either delivered to congregation members' homes or picked up at church. Many thanks to the parents for donating supplies.

On Saturday, April 2nd, confirmands, their mentors, and Rev. Annika along with her daughter Vianne, attended service at Temple Israel in Omaha. We were given a tour of the synagogue prior to the Shabbat service. The sermon was delivered in both Hebrew and English, with Rabbi Azriel holding a question-and-answer session after the service concluded. Afterwards, we proceeded to Oakview Mall for lunch. Many thanks to Denny Vollbracht for driving the bus!!

On Sunday, April 10, the committee hosted a trip to Westbrook Lanes for the youth (Feds and Feddies) to go bowling. Over twelve kids attended, with three committee members chaperoning. Everyone enjoyed pizza for lunch.

The committee hosted a dinner Tuesday, April 26th, for confirmands, their mentors, Governing Council members, church officers, and Rev. Annika. This time was spent in fellowship with the confirmands and also learning about their faith journey.

May was a busy month for the committee as six youth were confirmed on Sunday, May 1st. They were: Megan Bower, Faith Dill, Allie Gotschall, Meera Lange, Lucas Miller, and Joshua Winig. A reception was held in their honor after the morning service. We would also like to say thank you to their mentors: Doris Augspurger, Peg Rupprecht, Jeanne Johnson, Denny Vollbracht, and Julie Graham.

We also celebrated with the Class of 2016 graduates on Sunday, May 15th. Prior to the service, graduating seniors were honored at a breakfast, where they were served by underclassmen. We had nine seniors graduate. They were: Sarah Bower, Emily Grant, Mia Grant, Parker Grant, Mitchell Griffith, Rachel Grisham, Connor Hahn, Alex Lange, and Kyle Royer. We also had a reception after the service in their honor.

Nine youth participating in Summer Mission Camp (SMC) and leader, Max Porter, were commissioned on Sunday, July 19th. And a prayer vigil was held Wednesday, June 22nd. Youth from churches in the region met at the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Lincoln and travelled to Bear Trap Ranch, west of Colorado Springs, Colorado, from June 26th through July 1st. The week was spent in service, as well as camp activities. Some of the youth reported to the congregation about their trip when they returned. Youth who attended SMC included: Reagan Gausman, Emily Grant, Parker Grant, Alex Lange, Meera Lange, Lucas Miller, Mitchell Norris, Coden Prokopec, and Joshua Winig.

During the week of July 11th, several youth helped prepare for the Women's Fellowship Garage Sale by unloading vehicles and helping take items to their proper room. On the day of the garage sale, the youth held a lunch stand fundraiser selling hot dogs, chips, pop, water, and popcorn.

On July 15th, Federated Church welcomed Edward Yang and his family as he began his position as Associate Pastor for Children, Youth & Families.

Two youth, Reagan Gausman and Emily Grant, attended the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University from July 19th through July 23rd. Our youth attended a mandatory meeting prior to their trip along with other members from the delegation. Upon their return, the youth provided written reports which were included in the August/September newsletter.

In September, Wednesday after-school and evening Youth Club programs began. There were about 8-10 middle school youth who attended after-school. Homework, snacks, and games fill up about two hours, and then supper was prepared. Afterwards, some of the youth attended puppet practice, while others joined leadership activities. At 7:30 p.m., around 10-15 high school and middle schoolers met with Rev. Edward and Max Porter for Youth Club which included time for games, sharing, and Bible study. Confirmation class also started up in September with four 8th graders and one 7th grader.

On September 18th, our committee co-hosted with the Christian Education Committee a Sunday school kick-off. The Horn T. Zoo brought their animals during the education hour. Afterwards, we held a cookout/potluck in the Fellowship Hall, which was well received. During the potluck, a meeting was held for youth (and their parents) who were interested in attending the 2017 Summer Mission Camp to Estes Park, Colorado.

A high school lock-in was held the evening of Friday, October 28th. Two teens participated with one teen staying for part of the evening. Food, activities, and movies were planned. It concluded with doughnuts early Saturday morning, October 29th. Our committee then participated in Federated's 2nd Annual Trunk-or-Treat beginning later that morning by decorating a car trunk and handing out candy.

On Sunday afternoon, October 30th, the Homestead Presbytery held an All-Youth Gathering in Lincoln. Several kids from Federated participated in going to Defy Gravity (indoor trampoline park). A total of 70 kids (including ours) attended. After "jumping," there was pizza, drinks, and sharing time. Federated youth made a snack stop at Dairy Queen on the way back.

In November, confirmands and their mentors met together for sharing over a lunch meal. They planned to meet about once every two months to share their faith journeys and prepare for confirmand's statement of faith.

On December 18th, our committee hosted a family caroling event. It was well attended and much appreciated by our homebound and nursing home members. We then returned to the church for supper together. Thank you to Bob Arp for conducting the carolers and Denny Vollbracht for driving the bus.

Sincerely,
Youth Ministries Committee