

NORTHERN PLAINS CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Youth Ministry



To our friends throughout the Northern Plains Conference;

*People were also bringing youth to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Luke 18:15-17 (NIV)*

Spring is almost here, and that means it is time to start thinking about the quarter yearly sojourn for the Youth of our conference to go to the United Church of Christ's National Youth Event at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Four years ago when the last *NYE* happened we had well over 20 youth, adults and clergy participate. This time, we are hoping for more to attend and take part, and to do this, we need your help!

***How can we or our congregation help?***

By sponsoring part or all the transportation cost for a youth to attend *NYE*. As you may have noticed last time you filled up the family car, the cost of petroleum has gone up dramatically in the last four years. This increase is most acutely felt when hiring a bus company to transport people from North Dakota to Tennessee and back. The best offer we have received is more than double what it cost four years ago. The average cost to the Conference of transporting the youth to and from *NYE* will be over \$450 per person. That is above and beyond the \$400.00 (\$380.00 for early bird registration) we are charging the youth to go on this adventure.

***Has money not been set aside in the Pilgrim Park Fund to cover these expenses?***

There is some money available from the Pilgrim Park Fund to help with some costs for the trip. Even if we were to use the entire yearly allocation to the Faith & Nurture Committee from the Fund, there will still not be enough to cover all the fixed costs for renting a bus.

***Why is sending the youth of the Northern Plains to NYE so important?*** By and large the churches of the Northern Plains are smaller than the national average and a high percentage of churches have five or fewer youth. They rarely get an opportunity to realize how vital our church is nationally and how amazing our faith is compared to all others. The time they spend at *NYE* will be a time to cherish and grow in love of our church. It is a time to be with friends and to make new friends from our Canadian churches, across the United States of America, and the US territories. In addition, it is also a chance, to deepen our youth's faith and understanding of our United Church of Christ denomination and how we stand as Christ's beacon to the world.

By now, your church should have received registration and enrollment forms for National Youth Event. Reverend Carl and I hope you will consider sending either your church's youth again, or for the first time this year to this wonderful experience.

And, on behalf of our youth, we would like your church to consider helping our youth attend this event, either by helping defray the transportation costs for getting to and from Knoxville, or to sponsor one of the youth of our conference to attend.

On behalf of our youth and our Conference, we thank you.

Sincerely In Christ's service;

Rev. Carl Borden & Pastor Darcy Borden  
Co-Adjunct Youth Ministers  
Northern Plains Conference – UCC