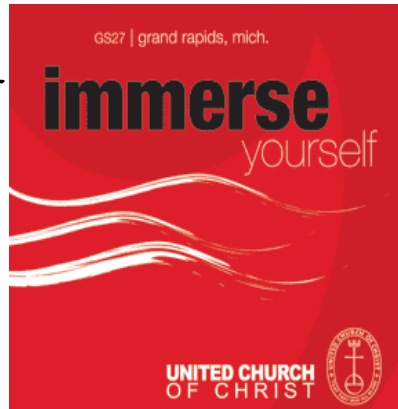


YOUTH @ General Synod... June 24 - 30, 2009

Save the Date!

Come to Grand Rapids and



*In... Faith
Service
Friendship
Justice
Compassion
Worship
Adventure*

What is General Synod?

General Synod, which meets every two years, is a gathering of people delegated by our 38 Conferences to represent the United Church of Christ and to address important matters relating to the church. General Synod participants also include visitors from UCC churches; local, conference and national UCC staff; representatives from many diverse UCC institutions, agencies and ministries; and friends and colleagues from other faith traditions. This gathering offers us a chance to worship together, build friendships, share and celebrate our varied ministries, and recognize our relationships in the ecumenical and world community. General Synod delegates meet to address important business, which includes approving a budget for the mission of the church at the national setting, electing the Collegium of Officers, and voting on Pronouncements, Resolutions and Proposals for Action.

When and where is General Synod?

General Synod 27 will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan from June 26 – 30, 2009. **However, the Youth @ General Synod program runs from Wednesday, June 24 through Tuesday, June 30 (groups departing on Wednesday, July 1).** Since budget and logistical considerations force many youth groups to choose between a service/mission trip and General Synod, this year we are offering service/mission experience with General Synod events for youth groups.

Why come to General Synod?

- Reunite with old friends and make new ones!
- Awesome worship experiences and inspirational speakers!
- Three days of service project opportunities!
- Help the church discern how to live out our faith in our churches, communities, nation and world!
- Faith conversations to help you on your journey!
- Learn about justice and advocacy education, actions and opportunities!
- Concerts, workshops, exhibits, movies, games, socializing... and more!

Who can participate?

Youth @ General Synod 2009 is for youth who will be in grades 9 – 12 in 2009 (including 2009 graduates). Youth groups will be invited to register with a minimum of 2 adults and 2 youth, with adult genders matching the gender of the youth. Individuals may not register on their own, but must be with a group meeting this minimum; youth group leaders and their adult chaperones will be responsible for the supervision of their youth during the event. We will also request that youth leaders and chaperones partner with each other as needed to supervise youth at service project sites. Groups may register as local church, church cluster, Association or Conference groups.

Where will we stay?

Limited housing is available at Aquinas College, a Catholic Dominican liberal arts college which offers a beautiful campus facility and impressive services catering to summer camps and outside groups. (To take a virtual tour of the campus, visit www.aquinas.edu/undergraduate/tour.) Aquinas College is about three miles from DeVos Place (the site for General Synod) in downtown Grand Rapids. Shuttles will be provided.

What is the cost, and how do we register?

The cost of **\$515 for adults and \$465 for youth** includes housing at Aquinas College; thirteen meals (Wednesday dinner, daily breakfast, plus lunch and dinner on the three service project days); youth programming and service projects; and General Synod registration fee (price difference reflects a General Synod registration discount for youth and children). Online registration for General Synod opens in December 2008, with registration details to be posted on www.ucc.org.

Tentative Overview: Youth @ General Synod At a Glance

Wednesday	Welcome! Registration & check in Dinner, program overview and getting to know you
Thursday	Daytime - Service projects in Greater Grand Rapids Evening - UCC Multicultural Festival for Children & Families Afterhours – recreational options
Friday	Daytime - Service projects in Greater Grand Rapids Evening - General Synod Opening Worship Afterhours – recreational options
Saturday	Youth groups participate in River City Saturday workshops, concerts and other festivities Evening/Afterhours - Jason & DeMarco concert!
Sunday	Youth groups participate in General Synod program and worship Evening – General Synod Committees Afterhours – recreational options
Monday	Service projects in Greater Grand Rapids Evening – “Beyond Service” - sharing our experiences, linking Justice & Witness to our work Afterhours – recreational options
Tuesday	Daytime - Plenary sessions, Regional Youth Event overview/planning/promotion Evening - Closing worship Afterhours – recreational options

Questions about Youth @ Synod? Contact Kelly Burd at burdk@ucc.org.