



Appendix A: Report of the Lutheran Youth Organization

Statement of Purpose

The Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) continues to serve young people across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) by providing a context in which youth can share in their oneness in Christ and by encouraging young leaders to be full participants in carrying out the mission of this church.

Youth Leadership Events

In the churchwide expression, the LYO ministry is supported by various gatherings of young leaders:

LYO Convention

This gathering convenes every three years and includes delegations of young leaders from every ELCA synod. The eighth convention of the LYO was scheduled for July 26–30, 2009, to be held at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. On the agenda were votes on a number of proposed LYO constitutional changes, election of new leaders, and setting of priorities for the next three years. A report of actions of the convention is posted on the Web at www.elca.org/lyo.

Council of Synod LYO Presidents

This annual gathering of leaders provides a rich opportunity for networking and leadership development for young leaders serving in synodical youth ministry. In 2007 the council was hosted by the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Area Synods at Camp Wapogasset in Amery, Wisc., and focused on financial, environmental, intergenerational, and spiritual stewardship. In 2008 the council was hosted by the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod at Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center near Fayetteville, Ark., and focused on diversity.

Multicultural Youth Leadership Event

The triennial Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) was slated to be held in New Orleans on July 19–22, 2009. This leadership event gathers nearly 1,000 persons from across the ELCA, most of whom are young people of color, this year under the theme “God Is Key: Open Your Heart and Step to God’s Beat.” The focus of MYLE’s ministry is being expanded to encourage young leaders to identify their vocations in the multiple contexts in which they are called to serve God: ethnic, congregational, global, leadership, and familial.

Definitely Abled Youth Leadership Event

The triennial Definitely Abled Youth Leadership Event (DAYLE) also was scheduled to be held on July 19–22, 2009, in New Orleans. More than 60 persons, including definitely abled youth, their companions, special guests, and staff were invited to gather under the theme “Hope.” Led by a large and diverse planning team, DAYLE 2009 is focused on inspiring and building up participants for hope-filled lives and witness, both locally and globally.

In addition to providing leadership to the events listed above, the Board of the LYO, the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC), and the Definitely Abled Advisory Committee (DAC) gather twice a year to implement LYO priorities, share updates with ministry partners, and engage in leadership development.

Major Directions for 2009–2011

Since 2007, the board of the LYO has given significant energy to the LYO study process. The 2006 LYO Convention had called for examination of the mission and structure of the LYO. In this process, the board has intentionally engaged various ministry partners, such as synod youth presidents and those who work in synod youth and family ministries, the Synodical Youth Ministry Band of Leaders (SYMBOL). The self-study will continue into the 2009–2011 biennium.

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