

YOUTH MINISTRY

Tennessee-Western Kentucky Youth Ministry Transition Team 2021-2022

Despite the challenges the 2021-2022 ministry year brought, the Holy Spirit has been at work within the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference Youth Ministry. In fall 2021, the Youth Ministry Transition Team launched. Consisting of youth and adult volunteers who are passionate about youth ministry, this team shepherds the continuing alignment and creation of ministry with youth in the new conference. After holding virtual listening sessions with youth ministry partners throughout districts to discern the immediate pressure points facing youth ministry in the transition to a new conference amid a continuing pandemic landscape, our team spent fall 2021 building trust and relationship and establishing consensus for the Spirit-led direction of conference youth ministry. After a successful Vision Summit in February 2022 and through continued conversation in team meetings, we adopted the following mission statement:

The youth ministry of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference exists to connect, equip, and invest in youth and their leaders in order to develop communities of faith in which students from all backgrounds find belonging, serve their neighbors, and grow as followers of Christ.

As we continue to build structures and strategies for ministry with youth across the conference, the Youth Ministry Transition Team meets on a monthly basis to review our goals as a team, set progress benchmarks for measuring success, and work together to accomplish our mission. As we do this work, we embrace these shared core values:

- **BOLD** – Trusting in God’s Spirit to provide, we confidently walk forward, unapologetically passionate in our conference’s commitment to ministry with young people.
- **GRACEFULLY ENGAGING** – We seek to create meaningful connections with youth and their leaders while embracing people where they are.
- **INTENTIONALLY INCLUSIVE** – We seek to create a safe environment where every voice is valued and every youth is welcomed with love.
- **EMPOWERING** – We purposefully invest in youth, encouraging them as they learn and lead in ministries for, with, and by youth.
- **SUSTAINABLE** – We are committed to ministries, systems, practices, policies, and programs that maximize the future of the conference youth ministry.

The work of this team also includes overseeing conference youth ministry programming and events. We are happy to announce that the inaugural TWK Youth Gathering will take place in October 2022, bringing together youth from across the conference for worship, spiritual growth, connection, and celebration. In addition to this important work, our team is also actively designing the next phase of youth ministry leadership and structure. As we move forward, we continue to trust and believe that God is up to something beautiful and that the Holy Spirit has, can, and will work through the youth among us in particularly special ways to make disciples for the transformation of the world. Thanks be to God for the privilege it is to partner together in this work.

Respectfully Submitted: Tennessee-Western Kentucky Youth Ministry Transition Team 2021-2022

Youth Members are indicated by an asterisk ()*

Amanda H. Westmoreland – Co-Coordinator
Jordan Littrell – Co-Coordinator
Jefferson Furtado – Conference Liaison
Emma Collard* – Stones River District
Sophie Barker* – Metro District
Virginia Varden* – Purchase District
Graham Wheeler* – Caney Fork River District

Allison Doyle – Tennessee River District
Joshua Shaw – Mississippi River District
Hank Hilliard – Harpeth River District
Russell Casteel – Harpeth River District
Beth Shirley – Stones River District
Christine Penner – Caney Fork River District
Latricia Trull – Tennessee River District