

TWK Youth Ministry Report Youth Operations Team

2022 was an important year in the life of our conference young people. Churches and ministries, still in recovery after the COVID years, began to experience the return of families and their young people in significant ways. In turn, the TWK Youth transition team—convened to help the transition of youth culture in the creation of our conference—has worked to foster a growing culture of discipleship, call, and support in the years to come. The transition team has been aided in its work by the support of Equip Ministry as well as Ministry Architects, who were contracted to help develop and sustain the work of the team. After two years of work, the transition team is now shifting to become the TWK Youth Operations team. The team is now focusing on:

- Creation of the Conference Youth Leadership Team (CYLT). CYLT will take the place of former CYC and CCYM groups. Youth will be able to apply and take part in planning conference youth events, developing district youth events, and developing spiritual leadership. Our first TWK CYLT will begin August 2023, with applications opening May 1;
- Support for youth ministers to receive training in district events and coaching opportunities;
- Creation of a children's operations team, to develop and support a culture of discipleship for children, families, and churches to connect to youth and other age level progression;
- Supporting conference youth and children's programs, including a yearly Youth Gathering;
- And publishing a yearly calendar of district and conference youth events.

Interested in joining the youth or children operations team? Contact co-leaders Rev. Amanda Hartman Westmoreland at ahwestmoreland0601@gmail.com or Jordan Littrell at jordan@gracemj.org.

Youth Annual Gathering

Fall 2022 saw the first Youth Gathering of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference. Over 300 youth and adults from over 35 churches attended the gathering, "Begin Again," which was held at Opryland Hotel and Convention Center. Students from Memphis to Crossville worshiped together; worship was led by Mason Caviness from Brentwood UMC, with preaching from Rev. Erin Beasley and Rev. Rob Wheeler. Students had the opportunity to gather together with their districts and district superintendents to create relationships with one another, and they had opportunities to gather with small groups as well.

Students will have the chance to gather again in Fall 2023! Register and find out more at <https://twkumc.org/equip/youth-ministry/>

Cohort

Student ministers from across the conference have gathered quarterly at Cedar Crest to find community support as well as professional development from Ministry Architects. Leaders have developed best practices and skills as they seek to develop sustainable student ministries. Are you or your church interested in joining the cohort? Please contact Rev. Amanda Hartman Westmoreland at ahwestmoreland0601@gmail.com.