

TWK Children's Ministry Team Retreat

April 4-5, 2024

-Those in Attendance: Russell Casteel (Cedar Crest), Gracie Dugan (Belle Meade), Tracy Evers (Lawrenceburg FUMC), Betsy Haley (Calvary), Maggie Jarrell (West End), Audrey Jordan (Cedar Crest), Hannah Pratt (St. Mark's), Laura Ross (St. John's), and Kelsey Sledge (Cookeville FUMC)

As the TWK Children's Ministry Team

We Covenant To:

-Prioritize strong, timely, and transparent communication

-Build a deep relational foundation between team members, clergy, lay people, and local churches

-Value taking initiative, active listening, creating safe spaces, connectional collaboration, creative risk taking, being inclusive and bringing all voices to the table

-Commit to prayer, Sabbath, intentional presence, offering grace to ourselves, and others, and advocacy for children in our local churches, districts, and the TWKUMC Annual Conference

-Coffee Meetups' Feedback- Conference Children's Ministers would like:

- Curriculum Recommendations
- New UMC children's minister crash course
- More opportunities to connect with other children's ministers (retreat, training, etc.)
- Resources for volunteer and teacher recruitment and retainment
- Resources for mental health for kids: kids with anxiety, suicide
- Resources for self care for children's ministers and a conference lay policy for vacation
- Different churches sharing VBS, Sunday school, etc. ideas and schedules

-Upcoming Connection Opportunities: **Murfreesboro** on May 7th at 6pm Dinner La Siesta 1608 NW Broad St., **Clarksville** on May 16th at 10am: Location TBD, **Memphis** on August 15th at 2pm at Wise Acre Downtown on Broad, **Lawrenceburg/Pulaski** on August 29 at 5pm Back Porch Oasis: Address will be sent after sign up, **Zoom** on May 20th at 5:30pm, and **Annual Conference** Dinner Meet Up on June 17th after session at Camino Real 3359 Memorial Blvd.

Safer Sanctuaries Update

-Safe Spaces Team is meeting on April 18 to discuss updates and new training resources for churches

-The Safe Spaces Team will need this team's help distributing updates to churches

-This team needs to offer training to trainers in local churches, clergy, conference staff, DS, vulnerable adults, and Encore

+DS role in this: Are we asking for these are charge conferences, asking churches when they were last updated, etc.

+Can we identify a trainer in every district that can be trained and continue training churches and people locally?

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Sub-Committee Work:

September Retreat: Audrey, Betsy, Maggie

- Wesley in the Woods: Sept 13-15, 2024

A UMC Spiritual Formation Retreat for 5th-8th Graders at Cedar Crest Camp

- Will it meet the purpose of a confirmation retreat? Some but not entirely
- Session for leaders to share confirmation resources
- Worship together sessions and breakout sessions on key topics: grace, John Wesley, sacraments, spiritual practices, prayers, presence, gifts, service, witness
- Fun time: zipline, field games, free time, etc.
- Service component: UMCOR kits. Invite UMCOR or conference Disaster Relief Team to speak to attendees
- Offering prayer stations and time for groups to wonder and discuss topics together (maybe ask Lily Lewen to help, Betsy is also willing to help)
- Sign-ups, schedule, etc. will be released soon
- Price Point is TBD
- Next meeting for subcommittee is May 1 at 1:30 PM

Annual Conference Tables and Communication: Hannah, Kelsey, Laura

- Will invite churches' children to make friendship bracelets
- Will be given out at our annual conference table with a tag highlighting the active presence and importance of children with the team's information and website
- Churches are asked to mail bracelets to St. Mark's UMC by June 10 (St. Mark's UMC, attn: Hannah Pratt, 1267 N Rutherford Blvd, Murfreesboro, TN 37130)
- Table will have stickers and handouts with basic TWK children's ministry info
- All children's ministers are invited to join our team at Camino Real (3359 Memorial Blvd) after the Monday night session

Resources for Website: Gracie, Tracy

Resources will include:

- 1-2 Page Welcome packet
- Upcoming Conference Events or Opportunities
- Acolyte Handbook
- UMC 101 for Clergy and New Children's Ministers
- Sample Calendars from churches of 3 different sizes
- Resource document with different topical tabs (team members contribute to by EOD May 3)
- Will be on the conference website after May 3rd

Next Team Meeting

- May 6th at 3pm on Zoom