

TO: Virginia Mennonite Conference Delegate Session
FROM: James Musser, Chair
Congregational Life Commission
Subject: Congregational Life Commission Report
Date: January 23, 2017

Youth Workers Summit

A youth workers summit was held on October 8, 2016 at Eastern Mennonite School. A total of 55 youth workers representing 14 churches participated. The intended group for this event was youth pastors, youth leaders, Sunday school teachers and other who work with youth in the congregation. Debra Hirsch was the speaker on the topic of "Healthy sexuality". Three workshops were offered. Ross Erb addressed sexual issues, Debra Hirsch addressed healthy sexuality: Yearning to Know and Be Known" and Micah Hurst presented on pornography. Glen Guyton from MCUSA was skyped in and gave a preview of the 2017 Youth Assembly on Orlando, FL, July 4-8.

Middle School Retreat

There was no middle school retreat last fall because of a desire to revision this retreat

Senior High Retreat

There will be no senior high retreat this year because of this summer's MCUSA 2017 Convention in Orlando and youth assembly also in Orlando, FL.

Visioning for the future

"Celebrating Congregational Life". A one-day event will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at Eastern Mennonite School. This event is directed toward lay leaders and pastors. The vision is to equip lay leaders and pastors for the missional impulses that nurture congregational life and the mission of the church. The keynote speaker will be Art McPhee on "The Missional Church". Twelve work shops will be offered throughout the day on topic relevant to congregational life.

Youth Council. VMC has not had a youth minister for several years. There is a call from some VMC youth pastors to have some type of organization for them. We have discussed the possibility of forming a youth council. Such an organization could plan conference events for both junior high and senior high youth. This will continue to be on our agenda.

Mennonite Women of Virginia. Mennonite Women of Virginia continues to be very active. They sponsored their annual missions day in May, a prayer breakfast in July at the VMC Summer Assembly and their annual retreat in October.