

Report of the Associate for Youth Ministry

The last year has been an exciting, yet busy time for my position with the Penn West Conference. Planning for the 2018 Eastern Regional Youth Event has been in high gear for the last 12 months and as we get ever closer, the anticipation is growing stronger. In addition to working closely with the other conference reps in putting this event together, I have had the honor and privilege working with our own conference folks on various projects. We have teams working on coordinating the service project, fundraising and hospitality. Our mission/service project team has partnered up with LeMoyne Center in Washington County and will be providing a day of service for all participants of ERYE! This was a huge task to coordinate, but we are excited about our partnership and are looking forward to working the LeMoyne Center in the future. We will be welcoming youth from New York, Maryland, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, Germany, and all over PA to this event. Now is the time for the PWC to put on our “hospitality shoes” and get to work!

I am also excited about the recent formation of a new team within our conference, The Associate for Youth Ministry Team. This team was formed to give me support, accountability and guidance. Our main goal is to provide opportunities for our youth and youth leaders that help them in their faith formation and work within the wider church. We recently coordinated a confirmation retreat to our national setting in Cleveland, OH. The youth attended a workshop led by Rev. Ivy Beckwith (Minister and Faith Formation Team Leader), worshipped at the Amistad Chapel, attended a presentation by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley (Minister for Ministers in the Local Church) and enjoyed fellowship with other confirmands from within our conference. We also took the lead on coordinating the youth component of the Annual Gathering and Meeting. We have planned special workshops and activities just for our youth.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you to stay connected with the conference via the eNewsletter, snippets and other publications. We do our very best to provide our churches with information regarding events and opportunities, however if you feel that you are missing things or are out of the loop please let us know.

A full report on the 2018 Eastern Regional Youth Event will be in our August eNewsletter and be sure to keep an eye on social media for live reports and photos during the event!

Respectfully submitted,

Valarie Poole, PWC Associate for Youth Ministry.