

THE DIVISION ON MINISTRIES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

The Division on Ministries with Young People began its year with a group of youth, young adults, and adults attending the first ever Global Gathering of the Division on Ministries with Youth People in Johannesburg, South Africa. In addition to Worship experiences and plenary sessions, the group toured Aids facilities, Nelson Mandela's home and the museum that shares the story of Africa and the struggle for independence.

Youth Network

The Youth Network began its 2007 year with retreats...1 at Lake Junaluska and 4 at Springmaid Beach. These Spiritual Life Retreats continue to be a highlight in the life of the youth across the South Carolina Conference. Each year hundreds of youth and adult workers attend these retreats that move youth beyond youth ministry on the local church level to being a part of the Connectional Church.

The next event was the Basketball Tournament held in Columbia in 2007. W. Timothy McClendon was the preacher for the Sunday morning service and the Spirit Singers provided the music leadership for the Worship Service. Basketball Teams from across South Carolina were a part of this tournament.

The Washington Seminar with the theme on Immigration was another highlight of the year. Forty-six persons were a part of this seminar. These forty-six persons were an inclusive group representing the SC Conference. A lively discussion on the Immigration topic was held. The Worship experiences in the Chapel were exceptional.

An early morning visit to the Day Workers site in Maryland was deeply appreciated by the group. This was the second time a seminar group from SC had visited this group and were greatly impressed with the extent of work that had been done to make sure these workers were treated fairly and had good positions when they left the site. The first visit that the SC group made was in a parking lot. It was wonderful to see the building and the workers at the new site.

The Spirit Singers continue to be a blessing to this Conference. This group of 32 persons sang throughout the Conference. And in 2008, this group will be on a Mission Trip to Italy singing in different sites in Italy. Under the direction of Kathy Jo Long, Accompanist, Beth Lewallen, and the Deans, Scott and Liz Smith, this group continues to grow in their faith and in their witness.

Youth Annual Conference was held at Spartanburg Methodist College in 2007. What a delightful group to work with on the SMC campus. The youth network group for 2007-2008 were selected during interviews. Selected as Co- Chair persons were: Kayla Mullins and Detwain Scott; selected to serve on the Leadership Team were: Ariel Snow, Benji Spivey, Bryan Tucker, Chris Suggs, Detwain Scott, Elizabeth Sharpe, Hannah Williams, John Garrison, Katherine Haselden, Kayla Mullins, Kelcy McCray, Kelsey Taylor, Meredith Kidd, Tevin Johnson, and Wyatt Minton, IV. This group has been faithful in leading the youth of the South Carolina Conference during 2007-2008.

A Leadership group from the SC Conference was a part of Youth 2007 held in Greensboro in July of 2007. This was a faith forming event in all of our lives.

The Mission Possible Team of 12 from South Carolina worked with the children in Rio with the leading of Marion and Anita Way. Marion and Anita Way are retired missionaries from the SC Conference. The youth from Brazil spent two weeks in the South Carolina Conference. The team was lead by Sonia Ortigoza and Lee McMillan.

The Youth Network group spent a weekend at Ashland UMC putting together the program for the coming year. During the weekend, the Youth Network wrote scripts to be made into videos for Lifted and Spiritual Life Retreats. Our thanks to the Media Bunch for giving their time and expertise to the SC youth to film these videos.

The Youth Network Group ended the year with two Spiritual Life Retreats at Springmaid Beach. They were challenged by both speakers, Bill Gravel and Tom Tufts, to live their faith in a world that is in need of persons to live as Jesus lived.

*Kayla Mullins, Co-Chair
Detwain Scott, Co-Chair*