
April 1, 2023

Dear Harvest Conference,

It took quite some time to put together a new team, but I am pleased with the team that we now have. The team members are Emilee Smith, Katie Cichoski, Valerie Cichoski, Steven Hlatky, Timothy Thunberg and Amy Marosz.

The Impact Youth Task Force has been hard at work. We spent time seeking the Lord, reviewing the things that we have done in the past and dreamed of new things that we could do in the future. Our desire is to create environments centered around Jesus where 6th – 12th grade students can worship, fellowship, and serve together, while also empowering local churches to connect with their students on a deeper level.

To implement this, there are a variety of ministries and resources we are working on providing for students and local leaders:

- Bi-monthly gatherings to establish a sense of community throughout our local student ministries
- Creative ways to equip local churches, providing resources and materials to help reach young people
- Youth gatherings like: Youth All-Nighter, Fall festival, & more

Because we are working with limited funds, we did send out a letter to every church asking them to take a love offering. This was approved by Supt. Carl. Only a handful of churches responded, but we did receive approximately \$1,300.

We held our first event, an All-Nighter, on Friday March 31st. We had 39 students attend and it was a wonderful time to connect with the students for the first time following the pandemic.

We plan to spend the next year or so working to help build the youth ministry programs within our local churches. Our goal is to be able to have bi-monthly "area rally" type gatherings that would create community amongst local churches, but because of the small number of churches that currently have youth groups this is something we need to work towards. Our plan is to find ways to partner with local churches to equip them to do youth ministry on a weekly basis by providing resources for curriculum, trainings, etc. We also plan to hold quarterly events so that as the local youth ministries begin to grow, students are able to connect and begin to build community.

Blessings,

Emilee Smith

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Acts 1:8 - "...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."