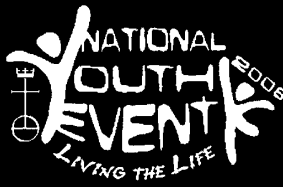


**NYE 2008
Workshop
Catalog**



Dear NYE Participants:

We are excited to provide you with a wide variety of workshop choices to choose from and enjoy during the National Youth Event. These workshops are made possible by many gifted people who agreed to serve as workshop leaders; they will be named and thanked in the NYE Program Booklet.

Because we anticipate hosting more than 3,000 people at this exciting event, we are asking everyone to identify top workshop and forum choices so that we may create workshop schedules that honor individual interests and yet accommodate our large number of participants. Please read the following directions very carefully to avoid any delays in your registration process.

God's blessings to you as you register and prepare for your time with us in Knoxville!

The NYE Planning Team

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Registering for Workshops

Registering for Workshops

NYE workshops are going to be an exciting and important part of the NYE 2008 event. This catalog should be used as an informational guide to help you decide which workshops most interest you. Workshops have been organized into 12 tracks and will be offered in the morning and afternoon on Friday and Sunday, July 25 and 27, and in the morning only on Saturday, July 26. The following pages contain complete descriptions of each workshop to be offered.

Please read and study these descriptions. Then, fill in your top 6 workshop choices on your Individual Registration Form (Adult or Youth). On the back of that form, you will find a complete list of all NYE workshops. Please also take the time to circle each and every workshop that interests you. Your workshop schedule will be completed based first on your top 6 choices, and then on the preferences circle in the workshop section of the form. There are 2 rules to keep in mind: (1) Participants must sign up for at least 2 forums in Track A (can sign up for more if you wish); (2) Participants may only sign up for 2 Sports and Games options total (Track I). Please feel free to include a note with your registration form to explain any special requests or needs as they relate to workshop selections.

If you have questions about the content of any of these workshops, feel free to contact The Reverend Kelly Burd at Burdk@ucc.org or call (866) UCC-UCC4 ext. 3871.

If you have questions about the registration process, please feel free to contact The University of Tennessee at 865-974-0280 or e-mail Conferences@utk.edu (be sure and list "NYE 2008" in the subject line).

Track A – Forums

Note: All participants must take 2 forums but may take more if desired.

1. Telling Your Sacred Stories

If you are alive, you have a story to tell! How have you seen God in your life, through your tears, and in moments of great joy? Storytelling is a powerful way to teach, encourage, comfort, inspire – and change the world, one story at a time! Join Valerie Tutson on a journey through the storyteller's life – and find your own voice!

2. You Are the People: Changing the World through Interfaith Cooperation

Young faith heroes have changed the world through interfaith action. Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, Jane Addams, and the Dalai Lama are just a few examples. Eboo Patel leads an organization called the Interfaith Youth Core, which is looking for the diverse faith heroes of this generation to build a 21st century movement for interfaith cooperation that can change the world. You are the people he is looking for.

3. Old Faith, New Music!

Ever find yourself wishing worship had more lively music? The UCC will be publishing a Praise Song Book this year – come to this forum for a mini-concert and meet the songs that may liven your home church with rock, jazz, and heart-lifting beats!

4. The Crisis in Sudan: One Man's Story

Meet Manyang Mangar, who as a young Sudanese boy was forced to flee Sudan. Hear his incredible story of trekking from one country to another with other boys, long years in refugee camps overcoming incredible odds simply to survive, and his eventual journey to the United States to build a new life. Come learn first hand about the refugee experience and how we as individuals and faith communities can help make a difference for the 24 million uprooted people in our world.

5. When We Were Youth: Collegium Members Share Their Faith Journey

How does God move through our lives and nudge us into situations that need our gifts and our leadership? Meet the leaders of our denomination and hear their unique and inspiring stories of God's presence through trial and triumph, faith and call.

Track B – College & Vocational Call

1. Gifted for a Purpose:

What Are Your Spiritual Gifts?

Have you ever wondered what God's purpose is for you? Have you claimed the 'gift' God has chosen for you? If you have made a commitment confirming your faith, find out the next step in living the life God intends you to have. Come find out how you are uniquely gifted for daily "kingdom work" and learn to "name" your Spiritual gift.



2. Talking About the Life

How do you talk to others about your experience of God and your church? Come and listen to youth share how they speak of life, faith, and church. Discover how to clearly speak about your life, church, and God with others.

3. Your Mission in Life: Finding it, Living It

God has a plan for you, and the clues are right under your nose! Finding your higher purpose is a lifelong journey. We'll talk about some tools to help listen to that Still-Speaking voice. God has a plan for your group, too. Adapt some of those same tools to explore your group's purpose.

Track C – Adult Workshops

Track C Workshops are specifically for adults, but adults may also choose from other tracks.

1. SuicideTALK - Resource for Adults

SuicideTALK® is a 1.5-hour exploration in suicide awareness. Organized around the question, "Should we talk about suicide?" it provides a structure in which session members can safely explore some of the most challenging attitudinal issues about suicide, and encourages every member to find a part that they can play in preventing suicide.

2. Best Resources for Youth Ministry

Bring your favorite ideas of good resources for youth ministry and learn what others are finding helpful in their church. Ken Ostermiller, Minister for Curriculum Development, will share a list of the resources most recommended by youth ministers, educators, resource centers, and conference staff colleagues.

3. The ONA Process at Your Church

You may be the leader in your church to bring up ONA – and help create inclusion for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and same-gender loving people of all ages!

4. Securing Spiritual Space

This session will illustrate the positives and negatives of safety within the social networking world. Youth leaders know they have to be in this space to attract and retain their youth. Participants will view a variety of sites and identify those that may pose danger. With YouthRoots, participants will learn how to "bring youth groups online," upload pictures, videos, and music, and create calendars, forums, and original content. Come to this session and see how leaders can find the right place to secure their youth group's spiritual space.

5. Caffeine and... How You and Your Youth Group Can Have Fun Yet Meaningful Small Group Meetings and Bible Studies

"Caffeine and..." will show youth ministers how they and their youth groups can have: 1) fun yet meaningful small group meetings in public spaces such as coffee shops, fast-food restaurants, diners, etc.; and 2) interesting, engaging Bible studies that youth can relate to. The "caffeine" and "coffee shop" themes are themes with which youth resonate, and youth are more willing to respond and share in a more casual setting. Youth ministers will also discover, as a result, that they too will have more to offer as leaders.



6. Autism Spectrum Disorders 101: An Overview on Strategies for Youth Group Leaders

As Autism Spectrum Disorders become more prevalent in our society, no individual or group is left untouched in some way. That includes Youth Groups, their members, and their leaders. If you are working with a Youth with Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, or PDD or you think you might be in the future, then this workshop is for you. Find out the meanings of these disorders, learn to identify the associated behaviors, discover strategies to help your other neuro-typical members cope and embrace their peers with disorders on the spectrum, and find out how to communicate lovingly with parents.

7. Youth Ministry as a Vital Component to Vital Congregations

The presence of an active, healthy youth group is a sign of vitality and vision in the life of a congregation, but some churches, because of size or location, struggle to bring young people into their midst. This workshop will explore the possibilities and challenges of sustaining strong youth ministries, and offer practical information and resources.

8. Listening to You: Adults/Youth Leaders

National setting staff will be available to listen to your needs for youth ministry. What could/should we provide or not provide to you? How can we partner with you to do God's mission?

9. Making Safe Space: Boundary Issues, Abuse Prevention, and More

"Safe Space" is not only a matter of policies and safeguards; it's a perspective on how we live together in community. How can we help one another grow and thrive? How can we build trust while decreasing risk? Explore the balancing act of making your church a true sanctuary, and how to start the policy development process, too.

10. God's in Our Lives – the "How-to" on Sharing Faith Stories

The youth-event book "God in Our Lives – How and Why We Share Faith Stories" has a resource section about using personal stories in a youth group setting. Participants in this workshop will work through these methods and share others which they have used.

Track D – Creative Arts

1. Come Write a Song!

Discover the songwriter in you! Come and learn the basics of songwriting– then take some time to express yourself through words and music!

2. Making Spaces for Spirit: Understanding Sacred Space & Imagining the NYE Stage for Saturday's Sessions

Have you ever walked into a church sanctuary where the colors were cold and the atmosphere was gray and boring? On the other hand, what happens when you walk into a sanctuary, or see a stage or concert hall that is engaging, dynamic, filled with the right colors, shapes, and lighting? Spaces like the latter ones can be a wonder to witness. But when



you also include the live element of worship, drama, music, or ritual, the spaces can be truly transformative. Environments like this, while they look like they “just happen,” take some intentional planning and some understanding of 3 dimensional and 4 dimensional spaces. Come talk about art and worship, learn about the Seven Elements of Sacred Space, and then explore the holy act of brainstorming. With the Spirit’s help we’ll come up with the actual plan for Saturday’s NYE stage for Julia Butterfly-Hill!
– Putting Heart, Art & Spirit Together.

3. Photography - Show Us the World Through YOUR Eyes!

Anyone can point and shoot a photograph, but if you want to take great artistic photos, you need to know the “secrets” of the pros. Luckily, these “secrets” are easy and fun to learn and they don’t require expensive equipment. So come and learn the secrets of the pros, and you’ll be on your way to expressing yourself through photography. If you have a camera (digital or film), bring it along. If not, no worries, we’ll have some cameras everyone can share.

4. Come Find Your Sacred Groove!

Join us as we move to the groove of Spirit! Come and experience a variety of Sacred Movement styles including: tribal style, yoga, interpretation of spoken word, and more. No experience necessary. Please wear comfortable clothing appropriate for dance.

5. Drama 101

Have a heart for theater and drama? Come and learn the basics . . . have fun with creative expression, improv, and dramatic interplay!

6. Sheltered Reality

Sheltered Reality employs the power of music to engage and motivate audiences to make positive changes both in themselves and the world they live in. Through stories of hardship and triumph, and a sequence of Steps to Success, SR teaches personal empowerment and character building, and then encourages the application of these abilities to its primary focus of advocacy for youth in crisis. Prepare yourself to be amazed by cool choreography, talented drummers, and an inspiring message!

7. Living the Life – Writing the New-zletter

This workshop in hands-on journalism will put together a two-issue newsletter for the Youth Event. Workshop participants will write articles about events that have happened, conduct interviews (even think up some Youth Event jokes), and lay out a two-sided newsletter. Volunteers can help with photocopying and passing out the newsletter to the whole gathering!

8. I Write and I’m All Right

This workshop is a chance for youth to talk about what creative writing – journaling, fiction, poetry, song-writing, drama – means to them. Creative writing, very different from “assignment writing” or “standardized test writing,” is often solitary, even lonely. In settings where athletic, academic, and music “stars” are affirmed, writers often find themselves on the margins observing school life. We will develop community around writing and talk about what writing... as a profession or a passion... can mean in the future.



9. Finding... and Editing New Voices

Participants in this workshop will learn simple ways to invite youth to write prayers, liturgy, chancel skits, and even “group sermons” for Youth Sunday. Both individual writing exercises and collaborative techniques will be shared. Written resources will be shared and the group will experience some of the exercises.

Track E – Justice & Witness

1. Living in the U.S. Empire:

What Is God Calling Us to Do?

Many people, both conservative and liberal, argue that the U.S. is an Empire. What does this mean? Is it true? This workshop will examine the question of whether the U.S. is an empire and the impact of U.S. policies on people around the world. Participants will view a PowerPoint presentation and then discuss whether the U.S. is an empire, the impact of U.S. policies and actions on people in North America and the world, ways that each of us supports and resists the U.S.-led global system, and how we and the Church can respond to this system.

2. Ministry for God's Animals

It is likely that America currently causes more pain and suffering to God's animals than any other country at any time in human history. Given that most Americans care about animals, oppose cruelty to animals, and profess belief in a Christian faith that calls for compassion and concern for animals, how can this be? The workshop will explore how institutionalized “factory farming” practices have turned God's creatures into resources for exploitation, and it will solicit audience comments,

experiences, and suggestions on how we can better care for God's animals. We will also explore modern animal agriculture's effects on God's earth and our God-given bodies, the “temple of the Holy Spirit.”

3. Origins of Violence

Why have wars plagued human civilization since the dawn of time? Borrowing from the cultural anthropology of Ernest Becker (*The Denial of Death; Escape from Evil*) and René Girard (*Violence and the Sacred; Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World*), a theory will be offered for human violence informed by both anthropology and the biblical witness. Then, ways that the Judeo-Christian tradition has revealed strategies to overcome this perennial problem will be discussed.

4. Ho-Ho-Homophobia: No Laughing Matter

This workshop addresses homophobia (fear of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender people) and its impact on all of us, including straight people. This presentation is designed to heighten awareness of homophobia, discuss the functions of prejudice, and to equip people with some tools.

5. Gender and Beyond

Transgender people are creative and insightful. We come in all varieties, and have stories of stretching – or crossing – the gender line. It can be difficult to be “trans” but then again, true faith is always a challenge! Come and learn with us!



6. Bringing Justice to the Fast-Food Industry, One Burger at a Time

Fast food can be bad for your health if you eat too much of it. But fast food can also be bad for the health and well-being of farm workers who pick the tomatoes that are served on our burgers, salads, and other foods. Farm workers picking tomatoes in Florida are paid less than they were 30 years ago and seldom are provided with health insurance or even paid sick days, and they suffer from injuries and grueling work conditions. However, change is coming. The workers are organizing and pressuring companies to treat them with fairness and dignity. They have received commitments for better pay and improved treatment from Taco Bell, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, and some other chains. But Burger King still refuses to do the right things. Learn more about this struggle to make fast food also fair food, and find out how you can help.

7. My Money = My Power!

Does God care how we use our money? Whether we save it, spend it, or give it away? Jesus sure talked about money every chance he got! Discover how your money translates into power you can use to live more justly and build not only a better, safer world, but a world more like the one God had in mind.

8. Leading the Way to Green

You already understand the importance of caring for the earth – now learn how you can help lead your church, your school, and your family to a greener way of living. You'll leave with ideas you can put into action quickly, and with techniques for convincing others to follow your lead.

9. What We Eat, Where it Comes From, Why it Matters: National Farm Workers Ministry

National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM) is an interfaith organization that supports farm workers as they organize for empowerment, justice, and equality. Grounded in faith, NFWM works side by side with farm workers throughout the country, organizing vigils, picketing, coordinating boycotts, and educating constituents. Find out how you can help NFWM pursue justice and empower farm workers to fundamentally change their living and working conditions.

10. The Burning of America's Places of Worship; "Just for the Thrill of it!"

More than 500 churches have been burned in our country in the last three years. The alarming thing is that more and more churches are being burned by young people than ever before. Meet youth and ministers whose church has been burned. Hear the "Spirit Moving" true stories of those who have rebuilt burned churches. Youth can stand up to such terrorism by helping to rebuild burned churches and march this December to protest to the youth in our country to stopping burning churches.

11. From ME to WE: Dismantling Racism

Racism still impacts our lives in subtle and not-so-subtle ways. But you have the power to make a difference in the world, and as people of faith we are called to work for justice, dignity, and opportunity for all God's children. Come and explore the dynamics of racism and your power to make a difference.



12. What Does Pro-Choice Really Mean?

Abortion and reproductive health and justice are complicated and confusing issues. Let's talk frankly about all this, and learn why and how this issue has been prayerfully discerned, discussed, and addressed in the United Church of Christ for more than 30 years. This workshop is for all genders!

Track F – Leadership

1. Mentoring Queer Youth

Too often, the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, down-low, and same-gender loving young people is left to those working in youth-serving organizations. This workshop will explore some of the issues about why it is important for members of the queer community to step up to the plate and take responsibility for fostering the development of our own young people, as well as straight allies to clearly identify themselves as such. Much can be accomplished through informal mentoring relationships. Straight allies are also often in the position of being mentors. (Note: The workshop will also explore a bit of the 'how' to do that. The content of this workshop is significantly different than the "Pastoral Care with LGBT Youth" workshop.)

2. Extreme Hospitality, Yeah!

Being Hospitable is more than just saying hello or inviting someone to church. Showing hospitality welcomes new people to your group and also encourages new Ministries. Discuss extreme ways to show how open,

welcoming, and hospitable you, your church, and your ministries can be.

3. Repair the World, God's People!

Jesus was generous. You can be, too. Learn to be generous in the spirit of Jesus as a way of life. Be a leader in your church, school, family, and world. Use a new resource, "Stewards in the Household of God," as a springboard for your passion to live love, live green, live in peace with your stuff, friends, creativity, whole being. . . Take action, share stories and ideas to offer to ucc.org for all UCC churches to work together to restore God's world to shalom.

4. ONA-Spirited Youth

Come get ideas for what your youth group can do to be a safe space for all people, no matter how they identify – as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or something else. We will discuss powerful ways to put beliefs into action!

5. Get Active: Advocacy and LGBT Rights

This workshop will discuss local, state, and federal advocacy issues concerning lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons. Come find out what is happening with Safe-School Policies, Nondiscrimination Acts, hate crimes, marriage equality, and more. Learn how you and your congregation can get more involved.

6. How to Plan Your Youth Program for a Year

A portion of this workshop will focus on the steps we follow to plan our program for the entire year. The remainder of the time we will share program ideas we've used for events such as our fall Kick-Off programs, mixers, special fund raiser, retreat ideas, and scavenger hunts.



7. *Spiritual Activation: Leading Lives of Purpose, Passion, and Power*

In a production-driven society, we believe our purpose is what we are supposed to DO. We ask ourselves questions like, “Can I as one person make a difference?” In a spiritually-driven life, we realize our purpose is who am I called to BE? And then our actions and choices begin to grow from that deeper place. We realize then, that every word, thought, and action shapes our world and makes a difference. In this place, we understand the question we need to ask ourselves is, “What KIND of a difference do I want to make?” This workshop will provide tools and insights into how to live Spiritually Activated lives full of purpose, passion, and power.

Track G – Service & Global Mission

1. *Living the Life – Challenges of Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean*

To share the challenges of youth in Latin America & the Caribbean, especially in four representative countries: Chile, Guatemala, Haiti, and Venezuela. The following topics will be discussed within the context of those countries: Living Green (faith and stewardship of creation); Living Love (faith and relationships); and Living Peace (faith in action). We will also discuss the similarities and differences in which youth from different cultures relate to these topics, and how they can apply what they learn in their daily lives.

2. *When Disaster Strikes...Will You Be Ready?*

We see almost daily on the television news and Internet the destruction caused by fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and flooding known as natural disasters. Do you know what might happen where you live? Are you and your family...your church... your community prepared? Come and share your knowledge and ideas in this live “chat” room experience.

3. *Young Adult Volunteer Communities for Service - Your Opportunity for Mission*

Young adult volunteer communities for service and advocacy are being formed by UCC congregations in various parts of the United States. Learn of this opportunity to serve in mission in the United States from those already participating in the Volunteer Corps of Westmoreland UCC in Bethesda, Maryland. Be part of this expanding initiative to serve others while living in community.

4. *Service Projects - Opportunities for “Hands on” Mission*

THIS IS A 4-HR WORKSHOP USING COMBINED AFTERNOON WORKSHOP AND RECREATION TIME.

Serve with local organizations in the Knoxville area for an afternoon. Yard work? Serving meals? Spending time with others? Lots of possibilities to show Christ’s love. Wear work clothes and closed-toed shoes. Bring a water bottle, and a servant’s heart. Participants will be assigned to teams and transported off-site to project sites. One adult leader needs to accompany up to 5 youth.



5. Service Project Constructing Hunger Labyrinth

Participants in this on-site service project will construct a hunger labyrinth to benefit the Knoxville Food Bank using donated items. All NYE participants are encouraged to bring one non-perishable food or toiletry item with them to Knoxville for this project. Learn ways to bring awareness and to address issues of hunger in your community back home and around the world.

6. Service Project Deconstructing Hunger Labyrinth

Participants in this on-site service project will de-construct the hunger labyrinth used during the week to box items for transport to the Knoxville Food Bank. All NYE participants are encouraged to bring one non-perishable food or toiletry item with them to Knoxville for this project. Learn ways to bring awareness and to address issues of hunger in your community back home and around the world.

7. Make a Souper Bowl Commercial!

Ever want to make or star in your own commercial? Now's your chance! During this workshop, we will make a commercial for the 20th anniversary Souper Bowl of Caring. Your commercial could be viewed by thousands of participants across the country!

8. The Power to End Hunger in Our Time

We can end hunger in our generation. In this workshop, you will learn how God is working to liberate millions of people from hunger and poverty, and how you can be a part of it. Hands-on activities and practical take-home

materials make this a lively and memorable experience.

9. Go Global – Global Mission Interns

Young adult Global Mission Interns invest 1-3 years living, learning, and sharing their gifts and skills with a Global Mission partner church or agency in ministry with the poor, or with Christian action groups dealing with human rights, reconciliation, and development projects. Current Global Mission Interns will share the joys and challenges of their experiences in places such as Israel/Palestine, South Africa, and the Dominican Republic. Are you called to be a Global Mission Intern? Come and begin to discern if global mission service is for you.

10. Forced to Flee

Refugees and asylum seekers are people forced to flee their homelands. Experience "The Uprooted Game," explore the biblical basis for welcoming the stranger, and learn how to share hospitality in ways that will help refugees achieve peace and stability in their lives. This session also examines "Day in the Life of a Refugee Teenager."

11. Immigrant's Nightmare

This workshop utilizes the BRIDGE curriculum (Building a Race and Immigration Dialogue in the Global Economy) from the National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights. Youth will learn more about their own history in the context of the U.S. and global migration history. What does the Bible say about migrants? How can we apply our faith to reforming U.S. immigration law?



12. Partners in Christ: Learning about Yourself and God through Mission Partnership

See the pictures and hear the stories of one local UCC congregation's special sister-church relationship and partnership with a church in Costa Rica. When you see the world through someone else's eyes, you learn a lot about yourself and God. Come, relax in this fun workshop, and imagine how your church could share in a mission partnership.

13. Building a "Tent of Hope" for the Sudan

"Tents of Hope" is a national UCC-sponsored campaign in which local groups construct refugee-style tents in order to raise awareness and support for the people of Darfur, Sudan. Come learn about the issues and decorate tent panels in ways that inspire hope for peace in Darfur. Our tent will join others at a national advocacy rally in Washington, D.C. in October 2008!

Track H – Spirituality

1. Creative Spirituality: Labyrinth Walking & Prayer Journaling

Center yourself with movement and prayer, or with journaling. For centuries, people have connected with the divine by moving ink on paper, and by repetition and silence and step. Join us for this interactive spiritual quest in the labyrinth room.

2. Buddhist Practice and Christian Belief

What is Buddhism? Who was Buddha? Can Buddhist principles and practices make us better Christians? We'll explore the Buddhist practices of meditation and mindfulness and learn why it is used for deeper living and faith.

3. Yoga Moves: Feed Your Mind, Body and Spirit!

Join us for some beginner to intermediate yoga moves – all levels welcome! Yoga can help you manage stress, stay healthy, and clear your busy mind. Now is the time to learn some yoga moves! Wear loose, comfortable clothing.

4. Native American Ties to Christianity and Reconciliation

Blessed be the tie that binds! Early Missionaries, Military, the government, etc. tried to take away the identity of the Native American. They haven't succeeded. There are many hard feelings that remain today, but there is hope. This workshop leader will share with you how the gap was bridged between Christianity and the Lakota. It is an exciting new world and one that will be as wonderful as we can make it!!

5. Crafty Spirituality: Connecting to the Divine through Paint and Movement

Looking for a way to connect with God, but don't know what to say? Come explore some creative spiritual practices! We'll work with nonverbal, "crafty" means of expression and communication, including paint and physical movement. These exercises are great for individual or group use, personal discernment, or community building!



Track I – Sports & Games

1. Basketball – “NYE Hoops, Ba-by”

Lace up your hi-tops and strap on your head-band: play this fast-paced game with your friends to claim the conference title.

2. Tennis – “Advantage...You”

We’re serving up a good time on the hardcourt for all you netters out there.

3. Sand Volleyball – “Dig it out!”

Don’t miss this chance to get down and dirty at the Sand Volleyball Court next to the Aquatic Center.

4. Racquetball – “Bounce, Serve, DUCK!”

Whether you hit a wicked “Z” serve or just hit it as hard as you can, you’ll have a blast at this fast-paced tournament.

5. Ultimate Frisbee – “The ULTIMATE Sport”

Don’t miss your chance to get in on this conference favorite!

6. Flag Football – “Air It Out”

Pass, run, or juke, just don’t let them get your flag!

7. Kayaking – “Paddle Out”

Cool off at this awesome session while you practice the wet exit, strokes, and even roll techniques that all beginner kayakers need to know!

8. Diving – “Make a Splash”

A little splash, that is!

9. Rock Climbing – “Go Vertical”

Get a grip on the session that is a fun challenge for climbers of all levels.

10. SCUBA - “Dive! Dive! Dive!”

THIS IS A 4-HR WORKSHOP USING COMBINED AFTERNOON WORKSHOP AND RECREATION TIME.

Spend some time below the surface in this all-fun, no-shark session.

11. People Puzzle – “Are You Sure This Is Possible?!”

Lead, follow, or laugh hysterically as your group works its way through several brain-bending team challenges.

12. Checkers – “King Me”

Jump your way to the top at this thinkers’ tournament.

13. Table Tennis – “Paddles of Fire”

Table tennis favors quickness, touch, and sneaky shots. Do you have what it takes?

Track J – Scriptures & Stories

1. Our Stories: A Panel of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth

This powerful workshop is a panel of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth telling their coming out stories, particularly as it relates to their faith journeys.

2. Biblical Self-Defense for Youth and Young Adults

Too often, the religious right misuses a few passages from the Bible to justify the oppression of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Too often, young people do not know how to respond to these texts, what they really mean, and their contexts. As a result, any conversation with the religious right – be it in person or in society – can become an invitation to an LGBT person to feel poorly about themselves. This workshop analyzes each of the so-called “slammer” examination of contexts and translations. The workshop also empowers young people to feel positively about the combination of being LGBT “and” a person of faith, no matter the faith, by looking at other passages from both testaments as well. It is also designed to equip straight allies with essential information.

3. Positive Stories: Young People Responding to HIV and AIDS

A panel of young people will share how they are responding and dealing with HIV and AIDS in their own lives, in their churches, and in their communities, and how they are working to stop AIDS. Get ideas on how you can become involved in HIV prevention education, HIV/AIDS care, and in the fight to stop AIDS.

4. Finding the Gospel in “Harry Potter”

Using video clips from the movies as well as printed scenes from the Harry Potter novels, we will explore the Christian message in these works by J.K. Rowling. Participants should have read the books or at least seen the movies.

5. Finding the Gospel in “The Simpsons”

Using video clips from “The Simpsons” animated television series and movie, we will examine the spiritual life and Christian message of Marge, Homer, Bart, Lisa, Maggie, and the other residents of Springfield.

6. Finding the Gospel in “King of the Hill”

Using video clips from the “King of the Hill” animated television series, we will examine the spiritual life and Christian message of Hank, Peggy, Bobby and the other residents of Arlen, Texas.

7. Journey of Faith (A bicycle trip)

LOST AND FOUND’s present journey began with an 8,000-mile bicycle trip around the United States. Originally from New York, they rode their bicycles (with no support vehicles) from New York to St Louis, to Miami, to San Diego, to Seattle, and back to New York. Come spend an interactive hour with LOST AND FOUND. As they share through song and story about their Journey of Faith. LOST AND FOUND is interested in hearing your story, too, as we make this journey.

8. Biblical Drama

Here’s your chance to get a better understanding of what happened in Biblical times. We will act out several stories to help you understand what the people of that time might have felt. Followed by group discussion.



Track K – Teen Issues

1. How to Be a Straight Ally

This workshop is for members of the straight community who want to know what to do to be an ally for the LGBT community. What things will a straight person face? What are some specific actions a straight person can take?

2. My Dad's Gay and I'm Not: What Next?

Children of LGBT parents face particular challenges. They get their own share of discrimination, heterosexism, and transphobia. They don't get to choose whether or not they are LGBT advocates. Often, their families don't fit into school or church expectations, and language used in those settings inadvertently excludes them. People make assumptions about the children's sexual orientation and gender identity. Mentors and peers can provide pastoral care, advocacy, and education on behalf of children of LGBT parents – learn how.

3. Pastoral Care with LGBTQ Youth

Has someone in your youth group recently “come out”? Think a young person in your church may be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer? How do you react to gay bashing within your youth group? This workshop will respond to these questions and more, from a pastoral care perspective.

4. True to Your Faith Online

Often in social networking groups, teens are not truthful about whom they are. YouthRoots provides a community where young people can be “true” to themselves and to their beliefs, a place for sharing ideas with other like-minded individuals. Participants will learn to use the site to “bring their youth group online” uploading pictures, videos, and music; and by creating calendars, forums, and original content.

5. I Am A One-of-a-Kind Special Person! When the world is against me, how do I remember that? – Tools to Build Self Esteem

Everyone needs to know they are a worthwhile, one-of-a-kind, important person. This workshop will provide you with tools to build yourself up when it seems the world is knocking you down. Whether we are youth or youth leaders, we need ways to tell others and ourselves we are worthwhile human beings and special in God's eyes.

6. Living Beyond Grief and Loss

Grief is the sadness we feel when we lose something or someone of great importance to us. Everyone experiences grief in life. Whether you are grieving a broken relationship, death or some other change in your life, we invite you to come as we explore ways to understand grief and to find comfort and hope.

7. Bridging Generations AND Cultures – Ethnic Families and their Americanized Teens

Come and explore the unique challenges of first and second generation immigrant families and their Americanized teens.



8. *Surviving Separation & Divorce with Hope, Faith, and Love*

Separation and divorce are heartbreaking and difficult. It takes time to move beyond feelings of helplessness and feel happy again, but it is possible. Join us as we share stories and insights that can offer comfort and hope for those dealing with change.

Track L – UCC Identity

1. *Fifty Years of Youth:*

A Panel of Youth Leaders from 1957-60

Did you know the UCC turned 50 in 2007? Did you know the UCC youth groups turn 50 in 2008? Did you know that Martin Luther King, Jr., was a workshop leader for the first UCC youth event? This workshop is a panel of youth leaders from 1957-60. Come hear the stories of how the Pilgrim Fellowship (Congregational Christian) and the Youth Fellowship (Evangelical and Reformed) merged. Learn how youth were important leaders in our denomination, including Rev. David Van Epps, last president (1960) of the Pilgrim Fellowship and Rev. James Leamon, President (1958) of the E&R East Penn Youth.

2. *Listening to You: Youth*

National setting staff will be available to listen to your needs for youth ministry. What could/should we provide or not provide to you? How can we partner with you to do God's mission?

3. *UCC 101*

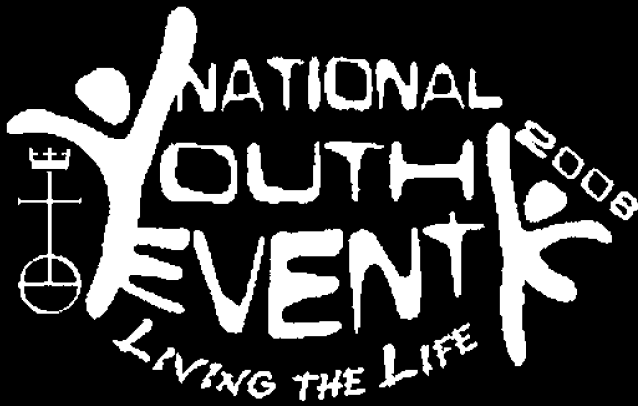
Ever wonder what makes the UCC the UCC? Have you ever been curious about the history of the UCC or how the national setting of the church works today? Do you want to find out about the latest, biggest changes going on right now? Find out first hand from the people who represent YOU in the national church—The Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries!

4. *UCC and CYAM 101*

Offered by the members of the 2007-2009 Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, this workshop will give an overview of the structure of the national setting of the UCC—government, programs, and events. We will also discuss the role of the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (CYAM). A dialogue about what the national setting and CYAM can do for you and what you would like to see from us will close our time together.

5. *Building Christian Community on the Web*

Is it possible for the church to gather virtually on the Internet? This workshop examines "i.UCC.org" and other social networking sites where Christians gather to pray, learn, and care for each other.



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