

**The Diocesan Youth Leadership Committee** members include clergy, youth ministers, and high school leaders active in diocesan retreats.

**Mission Statement** The youth retreats of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, through the power of the Holy Spirit, engage, connect, and encourage all youth to grow deeper in relationship with themselves, Jesus, and others.

**Revive** was the theme for the high school retreat February 7th-9th, 2020. 10 youth attended and were encouraged by college small group leaders and adult speakers Blake Burns, Brother Todd van Alstyne, and Sheri Novak.

**DYLC Planning Summit** in March gathered 7 youth ministers from across the diocese with Ministry Architects consultant Mary Beth Abplanalp. The mission statement was drafted, and the 4 diocesan youth retreat offerings were reconfigured. We created four clear leadership roles that comprise a new “Directors Team.” These four positions are essential for each retreats moving forward: Director (Vision, Leadership, Communication), Assistant Director (Logistics), Chaplain (People, Prayer, Evangelism), Program Director (Retreat Program). We also drafted an implementation timeline. We took the responsibilities of all four director roles and mapped out when each task should occur (3 months prior, 2 months prior, etc.). The Preventative Maintenance Calendar provided by Ministry Architects maps out each retreat’s planning needs.

**August 15th “EpiscoFest”** moved to an online format. 11 participants spanning grades 6-12 attended. Games were played, prayers were shared, and guest speakers Mr. Darryl Durham and Deacon Joyce Jackson from St. Anna’s wowed us all.

**Happening #84 September 25th-27th, 2020** adapted to Covid-19 precautions: masks and social distancing, handwashing and hand sanitizers available, single occupancy rooms, small groups meeting outside, to go meals and eating outside, and Eucharist offered following diocesan guidelines. Thank you to the youth and adult staff who made this retreat possible for our 9 first time Happeners!

## **2021 Plans**

**Happening #85 (grades 9-12) is scheduled for March 12th-14th, 2021 at SECC**

**Junior High (grades 6-8) retreat scheduled for April 23rd-25th, 2021 at SECC**