

The Diocesan Youth Leadership Committee Annual Report By the Rev. Jane-Allison Wiggin

The Diocesan Youth Leadership Committee meets monthly via Zoom. The focus of the DYLC is (1) To create systems and infrastructure to ensure the diocesan youth retreats' long-term growth and effectiveness (2) To ensure that the diocesan youth retreats clearly and compellingly communicates its priorities and programs, especially to the diocesan leadership and the churches in the diocese (3) To provide creative troubleshooting and support when obstacles to the work of the DYLC arise.

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

The Diocesan Youth Event Coordinator is the Rev. Jane-Allison Wiggin. DYLC Members are Blake Burns (Christ Church, Covington), Brianna Carr (St. Anna's, New Orleans), Darryl Durham (St. Anna's, New Orleans), The Rev. Liz Emblar-Beazley (St. Paul's, New Orleans), The Rev. Gina Jenkins (St. Paul's School, New Orleans), Deanna Lowe (St. Philip's, New Orleans), Meghan Scarlato (Christ Church, Covington), Brother Todd van Alstyne, OP (Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans), The Rev. Peter Wong (Trinity Church, Baton Rouge).

Planning for upcoming events is shared among the Directors Team, allocated among members of the DYLC. These four positions are essential for each event: Director (Vision, Leadership, Communication), Assistant Director (Logistics), Chaplain (Pastoral Care, Prayer, Evangelism), Program Director (Retreat Program). The Director and Program Directors coordinate with youth and college staff.

Upcoming Events for the 2021-2022 Program Year

Saturday at Solomon, November 20th, 2021, for grades 9-12. Outdoor fellowship, fun, and games from 11am to 6:30pm at the outdoor pavilion. Proof of vaccination is required to participate, masks are required within six feet of one another, and meals will be shared outside. Cost is \$30 per participant. Registration is open at <https://secla.org/events2/diocesan-youth-event/>.

Happening #85 January 7-9, 2022, for grades 9-12. **Staff applications are available.** Happening is a spiritual formation weekend designed for teens currently in 9th-12 grade and led by teens with the support of youth ministers and clergy. Happening is open to first time participants of any denomination who have not "happened" previously. Proof of vaccination is required to participate, and closing Eucharist will be offered following diocesan guidelines. Cost is \$75 per participant (reduced from \$150 for previous weekend retreats). Contact the Director (Rev. Jane-Allison Wiggin) or Program Director (Blake Burns) for more information.

New Beginnings #1 March 25-27, 2022, for grades 6-8 to attend, 9-12 to staff. Staff applications are not yet available. During the weekend, participants meet peers from around the diocese, enjoy skits, listen to talks, and participate in small group activities and discussions. These activities focus on friends, parents, siblings, school, God's love, prayer, and the church. This will be the first time this renewal weekend will be offered in our diocese.