

**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.

**Cost Reduction:** Grateful for the ability to meet in person again, cost to attend diocesan youth events has been reduced, and scholarship support has increased. Children and youth of clergy as well as church staff may attend any diocesan youth event for free.

The Diocesan Youth Event Coordinator is the Rev. Jane–Allison Wiggin. DYLC Members are Blake Burns (Christ Church, Covington), Darryl Durham (St. Anna's, New Orleans), The Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley (St. Paul's, New Orleans), The Rev. Gina Jenkins (St. Paul's School, New Orleans), Meghan Scarlato (Christ Church, Covington), The Rev. Peter Wong (Trinity Church, Baton Rouge).

Clergy, parents, grandparents, and youth ministers are encouraged to join the DYLC to represent each deanery in the diocese. Youth membership is open to high school students in grades 9-12 committed to their home parish and interested in leadership development and Christian discipleship.

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 2022-2023 Program Year:** Grateful for the work of the committee for the last two years, and cognizant of the rebuilding to take place in 2022-2023, these events are subject to change:

**Kick Off:** Planned for Saturday August 27th at St. Anna's Episcopal Church from 10AM to 4PM for grades 6-12. Cancelled due to registration being too low to gather.

**New Beginnings #1** October 14-16, 2022, for grades 6-8 to attend, 9-12 to staff. 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.

**High School Retreat** March 3-5, 2023 for Grades 9-12

at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center. This weekend retreat will be a time to connect and recharge at the Solomon Center. Crafts, worship, fellowship, and games will bring us closer together. Let us love one another as Christ loves us! Registration will open in 2023.

**Spring Send Off** April 22, 2023 for Grades 5-12 at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center. Welcome 5th graders who will soon be 6th graders for diocesan events in the Fall! Congratulations graduating seniors in the class of 2023! We will meet at the Solomon Center's outdoor pool and pavilion. This Pool+Eucharist is not to be missed. Registration will open in 2023.