

REFORMED YOUTH SERVICES CONVENTION



Evangel University • Springfield, Missouri

JULY 25-29, 2016

# Reformed Youth Services 2016 National Convention

**Salt life!** The words conjure up images of sand, waves, tee shirts, board shorts, and flip-flops. All of this with a casual, hang-loose attitude. Live for today, for it may be the only day we have. However, for the Christian, the biblical use of salt as a metaphor for our life leads us in a different direction. It reminds us that we are called by our God to live distinctive lives and to positively influence the lives of those around us as well as the culture in which we live. Come and explore the biblical picture of what it means to truly live a salt life as a child of God.

Please make plans to join us and hundreds of your friends (and new friends to be!) at the RYS National Youth Convention to be held July 25-29 at Evangel University, Lord willing. A total of 11 workshops will complement our main theme. See you there!



## Main Speakers

Rev. Bradd Nymeyer has been the pastor of Sioux Center URC since 2008. He led a workshop at last year's convention and was the keynote speaker at LOGOS 2014.

Rev. Jason Tuinstra has been the pastor of Bethel URC in Jenison, MI since 2009. He led a workshop last year and served as a main speaker at four RYS Conventions since 2003.



“Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another.”

**Mark 9:50 (ESV)**



reformed youth services  
Committed to the Spiritual and Social Nurturing of our Covenant Youth

## Day Away & Other Fun Stuff!

This year's Day Away will be at Silver Dollar City Amusement Park, one of the biggest tourist attractions in nearby Branson. Silver Dollar City features thrilling roller coasters — heart-pumping Outlaw Run, Wildfire, PowderKeg and the breathtaking FireFall (an eight-story fire tower free fall) — as well as other new exciting rides.

Daily shows such as Great American Country Live in Echo Hollow and live country music performances are other fun options. Laugh your way through mystifying slanted and mirrored rooms in Grandfather's Mansion or descend nearly 500 feet into Marvel Cave.

As always, we will have guys and girls basketball tournaments as well as coed volleyball. Lawn games and indoor games will be available, too. If you have a special talent to share, please start making plans today to try out for our annual talent show. God-glorifying variety is highly encouraged!



# WORKSHOPS (choose six)

## Life is War, Pray Hard

Kingdom Prayer is an indispensable weapon for God's people as they stand firm against the forces of spiritual darkness and stand firm for the kingdom of King Jesus. Let us enter the War Room, trained and equipped in the strategy of Prayer Warriors. *Rev. Jeremy Veldman is the pastor of Covenant URC in Kalamazoo, MI.*

## Counterfeit Religions?

Knock, knock. Who's there? Your friendly Jehovah's Witnesses. Knock, knock. Who's there? Your local Mormon missionaries. Knock, knock. Who's there? Your new Muslim neighbors. Today, more than ever, we are certain to encounter people of other faiths. How do we engage these people, and what do they really believe? *Rev. Angelo Contreras is a pastor at Zion URC in Ripon, CA.*

## Who Do You Need to Forgive?

Christians are called to "forgive one another, just as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:32b). Forgiving others can be very difficult when the hurt cuts deeply, trust is shattered, or they remain unrepentant. God's word motivates and encourages us by exposing the severe costs of unforgiveness, and also displaying the wonderful blessings of true, biblical forgiveness. *Joel Weaver is a seminary student at Puritan Seminary in Grand Rapids, MI.*

## It's Not All About You!

What are you trying to "get out of" life? Is that what life is all about? Is that why you're here? God has a greater purpose for your life: to walk the pathway of servanthood as part of His redemptive work in Christ. It's not all about you: it's about Christ! *Rev. Corey Dykstra is the pastor of Walker URC in Grand Rapids, MI.*

## Created Male and Female

The Supreme Court's decision on same sex unions changes the moral landscape of our country. What do Christians believe about homosexuality? Same sex unions? How can we be steadfast in our convictions and still winsomely and lovingly seek to reach homosexuals with the Gospel? Answers are presented and discussed. *Rev. Paul Murphy is the pastor of Messiah's Reformed Fellowship in Brooklyn, NY.*

## Why Do We Do What We Do?

When you worship the Lord, does the question "why" ever pop into your head? Why are we standing, sitting, bowing, singing, praying, giving, reading, and listening? Throughout this workshop we will be examining the topic of worship in an effort to understand why we do what we do. *Rev. Robert Godfrey is a pastor at Trinity URC in Visalia, CA.*

## Beatitude Attitude

Poor in Spirit? Meek? Pure in Heart? Peacemakers? At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus lays out the way of a life of blessing that we are called to live out in Him. But what do these words mean and how are we to live them out together? *Rev. Matt Nuiver is the pastor of Faith URC in Holland, MI.*

## Who Cares?

The Bible tells Christians to clothe themselves with compassion. This means that compassion is always in fashion for a follower of Christ. Our God, whose compassions are new every morning, teaches us to be compassionate in a cold-hearted, world that often asks, "Who Cares?" Come learn how to be compassionate without compromising so we can say with our lives: "We Care!" *Rev. C.J. den Dulk is a pastor at Trinity CRC in Sparta, MI.*

## Dates & Mates

In your life two of the most important questions you may ever answer are: "Who is your God?" and "Who are you going to marry?" In this workshop we will tackle common misconceptions about dating, with the goal of placing your singleness into the loving hands of our Lord Jesus. *Rev. Aaron Verhoef is the pastor of Covenant Reformed Church in Newton, NJ.*

## God's Glory on Game Day

What does Jesus have to do with a jump shot, a jump serve or a long jump? What's your play when game day is on God's day? We'll be practicing moves that help us execute God's priorities for athletes. Meet you where sports and the Savior sync. *Rev. Kevin Hossink is the pastor of Hudson Valley URC in New Hampton, NY.*

## Is This Your Church?

The church gets a bad rap these days. It is often spoken of as a religious relic that's filled up with hypocrites. Maybe? Jesus has some really amazing things to say about the church. He loves the church so much He came to make it a beautiful bride, a secure home, a loving family and much more. This IS your church! Come and learn your place in the body of Christ. *Rev. Chip Byrd is the pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian (PCA) in Holland, MI.*

*Please select the workshops of your choosing from the sectional descriptions online. Reserve your favorites online @ [reformedyouthservices.org](http://reformedyouthservices.org) as soon as possible! You will be assigned five of your preferences.*

# REGISTRATION/HOUSING/DEADLINES/FEEES

## Eligibility:

### Conventioneers

- Must be at least age 14 by convention
- Completed grade 9 but not more than grade 12
- May attend a total of 4 conventions

### Sponsors

- At least 21 by convention
- Adult sponsors are required to attend convention with their students
- RYS strongly recommends groups adhere to a 5 to 1 student/sponsor ratio

## Registration Fees:

### Supporting Churches

- Prior to April 15: \$375.00 per person
- April 16 – 30: \$415.00 per person
- After April 30: you will be placed on a waiting list and must contact RYS Director Ed DeGraaf at [rys@iserv.net](mailto:rys@iserv.net) or (616) 667-0694.

### Non-supporting Churches

- Prior to April 15: \$415.00 per person
- April 16 – 30: \$455.00 per person
- After April 30: Contact Ed DeGraaf ([rys@iserv.net](mailto:rys@iserv.net))



## Cancellation fees:

- Prior to June 15 - \$50.00 forfeited. Registration transfers will be accepted for a \$25.00 fee per person.
- After June 15 – no refunds or transfers.

## Travel:

- Evangel University is located in Springfield, MO. The Springfield airport is conveniently located in the area. The Tulsa, St. Louis and Kansas City airports are approximately 3 hours away. No shuttle service will be available from any of the airports, all travel is your own responsibility. RYS has no pre-event or post-event housing available.

## Convention Schedule:

- Check-in is 1-5 p.m. (C.S.T.) Monday, July 25
- Convention concludes by 11 a.m. (C.S.T.) on Friday, July 29
- Lunch will be provided soon after the last session on Friday.

## How to Register:

- Go to [www.reformedyouthservices.org](http://www.reformedyouthservices.org).
- Sign up and create a password
- Log-in to the website with password
- Click on the 2016 convention link
- Complete the registration form online including the items below
- Pick roommate. All roommates must list each other on the website -- if roommates do not list each other, they will be designated as “potluck” and housed at the discretion of the housing committee. Rooms hold two people, so list only one roommate. There is married couple housing, so list each other if you wish to room together.
- Choose 6 workshops. Everyone will be assigned 5 workshops.
- Fill out the medical forms with your personal information.
- Sign release form if you are 18 or older, or have your parents sign (enter name and date).
- Read and sign (enter name and date) the rules form.
- Optional (*new this year*) You can purchase your convention sweatshirt (\$30) or RYS fleece (\$35) using PayPal (both with the new RYS logo!). There will also be a limited number available at convention but each will cost \$10 more.
- We suggest that students print a copy of the medical release form and registration form and give them to their sponsor.
- Sponsors, please mail registration check to RYS, 2025 Baldwin, Jenison, MI 49428. Registrations are not official until ALL forms and signatures are completed online AND payment is received.
- Checks must be postmarked no later than April 15 to qualify for the early registration fee.

**Questions:** Contact RYS Director Ed DeGraaf at [rys@iserv.net](mailto:rys@iserv.net) or (616) 667-0694.