



EXPRESS

Winter 2019

Reformed Youth Services

A Newsletter to RYS Member Sponsors

2019 Convention registration is now open, sign up today!

Lord willing, Reformed Youth Services will be holding its **2019 National Youth Convention** July 22-26 at Cedarville University in Cedarville, OH. Online registration is now open! To qualify for the regular member church registration rate of \$395.00 (U.S.) you must be registered online (at reformedyouthservices.org) by April 1. Sign-ups after that date until registration closes April 15 (note earlier date) will cost \$435.00 (for supporting member churches), so make sure your group is informed and aware to avoid any late fees. Each registrant must use a unique email address to register. Invoices will be sent out shortly after the registration deadline. Please make sure your group contact leader (who needs to be attending convention) confirms all the participants are listed on the invoice.



Our keynote speakers will be Rev. Paul Murphy, the pastor of Messiah's Reformed Fellowship in Hell's Kitchen, NY and Rev. Bradd Nymeyer, pastor of the First URC of Chino, CA. The theme of this year's convention is "Total Life Insurance," based on Romans 8:31. We are looking forward to praising the Lord together in Cedarville's spacious and state of the art auditorium. Ten related workshops will also be offered, including guys and girls-only breakout sessions. This year, convention participants can choose from two great options included with registration: The Kings Island Amusement Park or the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, both conveniently located within an hour of the campus. Informational brochures have been mailed to member churches. Any questions may be directed to RYS Director Ed DeGraaf at reformedyouth96@gmail.com.

The annual **Grand Rapids area All-Nighter** will be held February 22-23, 2019 at the Visser YMCA in Grandville, MI. Cost is \$22.00 per person. Pizza, pool, pop, donuts and lots of fun are the features of this special event, which will run from 10:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. Register by emailing your number of total participants (adults and youth) to reformedyouth96@gmail.com by February 18.

The **Midwest Junior High Retreat** is scheduled to take place May 3-4 at Camp Geneva in Holland, MI. Students in grades six through eight are invited to attend, along with their adult leaders. Cost will be \$60.00 per person; more information will be coming later on the website and/or the RYS email update.

The **LOGOS 2019 Young Adults Conference** is going to be held August 7-10 at Potter's Ranch, located in Union, Kentucky, D.V. Our keynote speaker will be Mid-America graduate and Fuller Theological Seminary PhD candidate Tim Scheuers, who also serves the 1st URC in Chino, CA. His theme will be "Inerrant or Not?" Cost will be \$290.00 per person for the program only, with the day away option being the nearby Ark Encounter for a discounted additional fee (only \$30.00!). There will also be plenty of on-site recreation options available. The LOGOS conference is open to adult singles ages 18-30 in college or working. The past two times RYS held the LOGOS conference at Potter's Ranch, we enjoyed our largest summer groups ever, so we anticipate another good group to attend. Preferred housing will be first-come, first-serve once registration opens online in the spring.

Finally, keep your eyes open for our latest lesson material booklet, entitled "Not Even a Hint," based on the workshop that Rev. Paul Murphy led at the 2018 convention at Dordt College. Copies will be mailed to member churches soon.

RYS Youth Leaders Training Conference, Hudsonville, MI

A group of 20 youth leaders from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and New Jersey attended our Youth Leaders Training Conference held in early September at Cornerstone URC in Hudsonville, MI. Rev. Bill Boekestein, pastor of Immanuel Fellowship URC in Kalamazoo, MI, spoke on the theme of "Building Relationships with Today's Youth." Two additional breakout sessions were presented by RMS Director Rob Brinks and youth leaders Dan and Luanna Jipping, who spoke on the topics of "Serving Him in Body and Spirit" and "The Nuts and Bolts of Doing Youth Group," respectively. The leaders also enjoyed the opportunity to exchange ideas and fellowship together.



Faith & Fellowship “Movie Night,” Hudsonville, MI

More than 60 students and leaders from seven West Michigan churches attended the first-ever Faith & Fellowship “Movie Night,” held at Cornerstone URC in Hudsonville in late October. The event featured the viewing of the movie “Calvinist,” which smartly combined animated illustrations with quick-paced interviews to explain tenets of the Reformed faith. The group also enjoyed pizza, popcorn and a variety of indoor games.



East Coast High School Retreat, Bushkill, PA

Approximately 60 students and sponsors from five area churches attended the 10th annual East Coast high school retreat held in mid-November at the Montlawn Retreat Center in Bushkill, PA. Rev. Kevin Hossink from Hudson Valley URC in New Hampton, NY spoke on the topic of "Crazy Love," using scripture and apt illustrations to encourage a biblical perspective of romance.



California High School Retreat, Badger, CA

More than 100 people from six churches attended the 20th anniversary California high school retreat held in mid-January at Hartland Christian Camp in Badger, CA. Rev. Angelo Contreras of Zion URC in Ripon, CA spoke effectively as he challenged the students to make an early decision to commit to “Battling Sin.” The group also enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities such as the zipline and ga ga ball as well as the always-delicious food at the camp.



Upcoming Events, D.V To pray and plan for!

- ◆ **February 22-23** -- Grand Rapids-area All-nighter at the Visser YMCA in Grandville, MI.
- ◆ **April 1** -- Online registration deadline for regular registration rate for the 2019 convention.
- ◆ **May 3-4** -- Midwest Junior high retreat at Camp Geneva, Holland, MI.
- ◆ **July 22-26** -- RYS National Youth Convention at Cedarville University, Cedarville, OH.
- ◆ **August 7-10** -- LOGOS 2019 Young Adults Conference, Potter's Ranch, Union, KY.

Note: RYS events conclude on 12 midnight Saturday evening. Sunday worship is under the authority of a local member church consistory and led by an ordained pastor or seminarian.

LOGOS young adults winter retreat, Cedar Lake, IN

Approximately 50 young adults from 20 churches in the midwest attended the LOGOS winter retreat held the first weekend of 2019 at Cedar Lake Ministries in Cedar Lake, IN. Puritan Seminary student Ottavio Palombaro spoke on "Seek Peace, Holiness and the Lord." He emphasized the necessity of sanctification in our lives, saying "We're not just called to be saved, but to continue in holiness and personal evangelism," encouraging the group to "hunt for holiness." We encourage your post-high singles ages 18-30 to make plans to attend the LOGOS 2019 summer conference to be held August 7-10 at Potter's Ranch in Union, KY.

