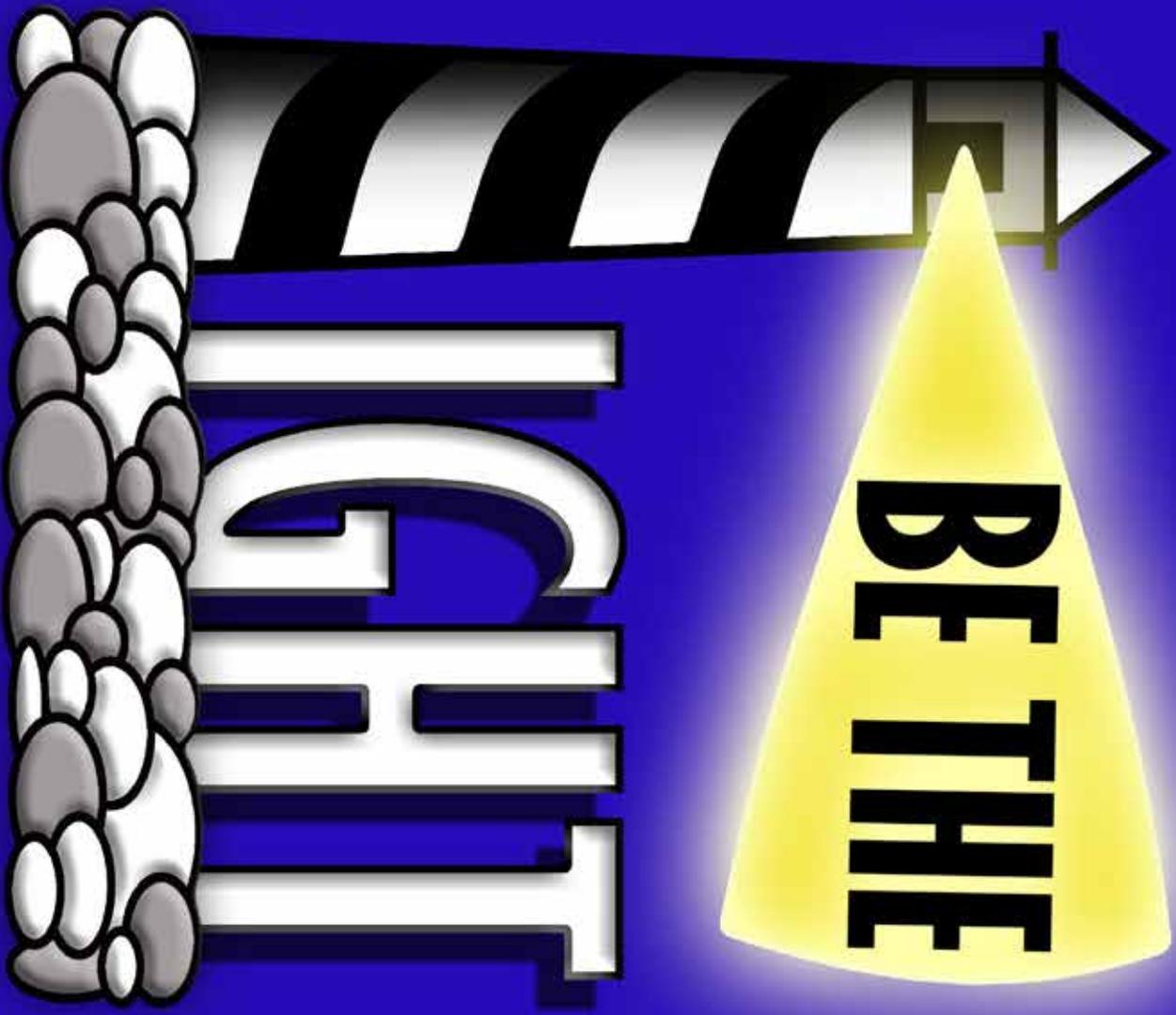
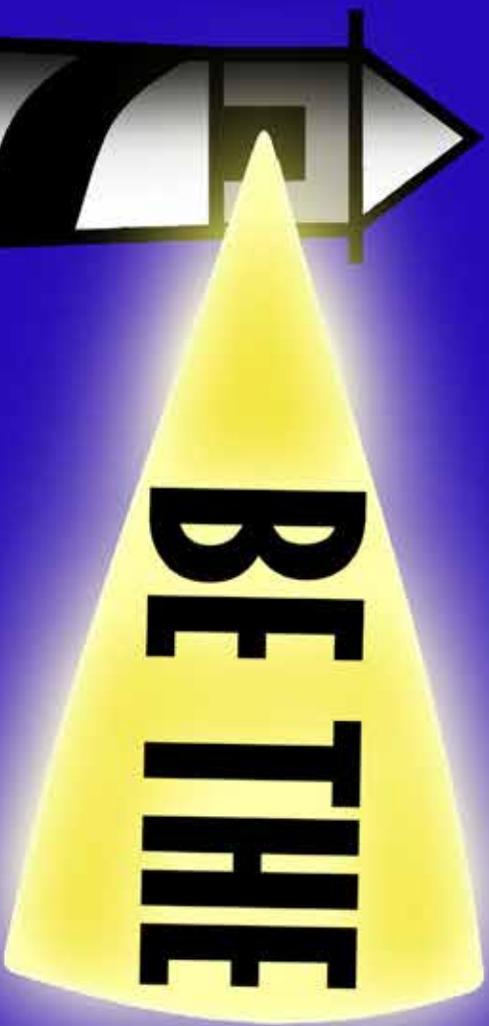




2021 RYS Convention



July 12-16, 2021

Northwest Nazarene University
Nampa, Idaho

Reformed Youth Services 2021 National Convention

Be the Light

Our theme this year is “Be the Light” based on John 1:5, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” That verse is first of all about Jesus; while we are surrounded by reminders of darkness in this world, it is good news that Jesus is “the light of the world” (John 8:12).

But Jesus also said to his disciples – and to us – “you are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). As followers of Jesus, we have been given the exciting calling to be light in the darkness, a calling that is easy to forget or neglect. Join us at this year’s convention as we seek to grow in embracing the comfort and challenge of the mission that Jesus has given to us.

In addition to the main sessions, a total of 10 workshops will be featured, as well as small groups, wonderful Christian fellowship and inspirational singing. We look forward to your attendance at the 2021 RYS National Youth Convention to be held July 12-16 at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho, D.V. Hope to see you there!



Main Speakers

Rev. Nick Smith is the pastor of the URC of Nampa, ID. Pastor Smith has led convention workshops the past two years as well as a regional retreat.

Rev. Bob Van Manen is the pastor of Little Farms OPC in Marne, MI. Pastor Van Manen was a keynote speaker in 2011 and 2015 and has spoken at many RYS events over the years.



“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

John 1:5



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



Day Away & Other Fun Stuff!

This year, convention participants can select from two great options. For those who prefer an outdoor adventure, we believe you will love whitewater rafting on the Payette River. It’s a perfect combination of splashy whitewater and relaxing floating. For those who desire a calmer afternoon, we have a downtown Boise excursion with Zoo Boise, several museums, paddle boat rentals, cafes and shopping as options, all surrounding a beautiful park. Cost of both options is covered in your registration.

As usual, boys and girls basketball, soccer, co-ed volleyball, and a 5K run will be held with RYS prizes going to the winning teams. A variety of non-sport activities will also be available to enjoy.

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

Please select six workshops online from the selections described below. You will be assigned five workshops. Reserve your favorites today at reformedyouthservices.org!

Courageous Christian Sexuality

How can I wisely navigate the murky waters of sexual ethics? How can I honorably steward my own sexuality and courageously and graciously engage those who take a contrary view? Cultural changes present new tests to biblical sexuality. But God's Word and Spirit give us just the help we need. *Rev. Bill Boekestein is the pastor of Immanuel Fellowship URC in Kalamazoo, MI.*

Absolute Truth in a Post-Modern World

America was founded on the belief of "self-evident truths." Such belief is the product of a biblical worldview. Christ teaches that God's Word is truth and affirms Himself to be the truth. How to defend such belief in a post-modern relativistic age? Christians need intellectual ammunition to fight the battle for truth. *Rev. Breno Macedo is the pastor of Messiah's IRC in Holland, MI.*

Co-Exist, Contradict or Just Confused?

84% of the world's 7+ billion people claim some faith. Can we claim Christianity is the only right one? We'll examine six major world religions – Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mormonism, and Jehovah's Witnesses – and compare them to biblical Christianity, looking at some practical ways to answer and respond. *Rev. Chad Steenwyk is pastor of Central Avenue CRC, in Holland, MI.*

That I May Know Him

We know the facts and information about Jesus. But do we really know Him? How do we make our faith more personal, more real, one with sure knowledge AND wholehearted trust? A desire to more personally know Christ, and to engage in living a real relationship, starts with His faith, power, and fellowship. *Rev. Matt Nuiver is pastor of Faith URC in Holland, MI.*

A Crisis of Caring

There is a "Crisis of Caring" in the church. Many Christians feel isolated and lonely in their churches, afraid to share their fears and struggles. Yet the Church is called and gifted by Christ to be a place of deep, spiritual friendships. We will discuss several barriers to friendship we need to remove, and how we can develop the "friendship climate" in our churches. *Rev. Harry Zekveld pastors Providence URC in Strathroy, ON.*

Covid, BLM, and partisan politics: What can Christians learn from 2020?

Much has happened in 2020. The world seems to be different now. Everything feels so unstable. What has happened? Why has it happened? What shall we learn from it? Has the Bible anything to say to all this? Learn from the past in order to be prepared for the future! *Rev. Sacha Walicord is the pastor of Walker URC in Grand Rapids, MI.*

Knowing and Growing

How do you know that your faith is real and genuine? Are you just assuming you're saved? "I grew up in a Christian home, I go to church," but that doesn't save you. Maybe you're doubting, "What if I'm just going through the motions, faking it, not really a Christian after all?" Assurance of faith is not assuming or doubting your salvation but rather knowing that you belong to Christ through faith and growing in your trust in God. *Rev. Jon Bushnell is the pastor at Sioux Center URC in Sioux Center, IA.*



Stressed Out!

"I'm so stressed out!" is a common cry. Someone even confessed, "I stress about stress before there is even stress to stress about." Stress and anxiety are increasing in our lives. But, does our covenant LORD want us to live such a life? Join us in this workshop as we consider the why and how of "casting all your care upon Him." *Rev. Greg Lubbers is pastor of Covenant URC in Byron Center, MI.*

Idol Factories?

One of the awful effects of the Fall is that even though we were created to love and serve our Creator, we instead love and serve created things. So, will a lecture on idols cure us all of this problem? Unfortunately, no. That doesn't mean, however, there isn't hope for our idol-producing hearts. This session will bring clarity and direction to this issue and help redirect the affections of our hearts in a Godward direction. *Rev. Russell Herman is pastor of Cloverdale URC in Idaho.*

This is Your Church!

What if I could tell you what Jesus' plan for the future is? Would you want to be part of it? It's the church! Come and learn how you can serve Him as a teenager, right where you are now--in His church. *Rev. Chip Byrd is the pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Holland, MI.*

REGISTRATION/HOUSING/DEADLINES/FEEES

Eligibility:

Conventioneers:

•Students must be at least age 14, but no older than 19 by convention, and must have completed grade 9 in school, but no more than grade 12 immediately prior to convention. Students may attend no more than four conventions. "Super seniors" from last year are also eligible to attend.

Sponsors:

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

Registration Fees:

Member Churches

- Prior to February 1: \$425.00 (U.S.) per person
- February 2-April 1 \$440.00 (U.S.) per person

Non-member Churches

- Prior to February 1: \$465.00 (U.S.) per person
- February 2-April 1: \$480.00 (U.S.) per person

•After April 1: you may be placed on a waiting list by contacting RYS Director Ed DeGraaf at (616) 667-0694 or reformedyouth96@gmail.com.



Cancellation Fees:

•Cancellations before June 15 require a \$50 fee. Transfers may be made with a \$25 fee. No individual refunds or transfers after June 15.

Travel:

- Northwest Nazarene University is located in Nampa, ID, about 20 minutes from the nearest airport in Boise, ID.
- Travel is your own responsibility. But stay tuned to our Facebook page for possible shuttle options from the Boise airport. RYS has no pre-event or post-event housing available on campus.

Convention Schedule:

- Check-in: Between 1-5 p.m. (M.S.T.) on Monday, July 12.
- Convention concludes around 11 a.m. (M.S.T.) on Friday, July 16.
- Lunch will be provided soon after the last session on Friday.
- All conventioneers must be off campus by 1:00 p.m.

Questions:

- Please contact RYS Director Ed DeGraaf at reformedyouth96@gmail.com or (616) 667-0694.

How to Register:

- Go to www.reformedyouthservices.org
- Click on 2021 Convention
- Create an online account (or use last year's)
- Complete the online registration form

Choose a roommate or go potluck. If you do choose a roommate, you must both name each other on your registration forms. Married sponsors may room together (first-come, first-served, space permitting); please choose that on your registration form.

Choose your workshops. Everyone will attend five workshops. Select six workshops in the order of your preference so that we can schedule you for five workshops of your choosing.

Complete the medical forms. Don't forget to have your students' parents sign the medical release form by checking the box online. (You can do this yourself if you are 18 or older.)

Rules form. Read and sign the rules form by checking the box online. We expect everyone to honor this agreement; please take it seriously.

Sweatshirts and fleeces. You may pre-purchase your convention sweatshirt (\$30) or RYS zip-up jacket (\$35) when you register. There will be a limited number available at convention.

Payment—Group Leaders please note: When all your participants have signed up, please email rysconvention@gmail.com to confirm your church's complete registration. Once confirmed, we will email you an invoice. Please carefully confirm that all your participants are listed on the invoice! Wait until you receive your invoice to make your payment. Then mail a group check within two weeks to RYS Convention, 6442 36th Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426. Complete refunds will be given if the convention is cancelled.