



# EXPRESS

reformed youth services

Committed to the Spiritual and Social Nurturing of our Covenant Youth

Spring 2021

A Newsletter to RYS Member Sponsors

## 765 people registered for Idaho national convention!

RYS is thrilled to announce that more than 765 people and 50 churches have registered for the 2021 National Youth Convention to be held July 12-16 at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, ID, Lord willing. We missed seeing all of you last summer, and truly hope and plan to be together again to praise God and rekindle our friendships. This year's theme of "Be the Light," based on John 1:5, will be explored by keynote speakers Rev. Nick Smith and Rev. Bob Van Manen. One of the area churches, Cloverdale URC, is the largest church attending with a total of 36 participants. Because of our large numbers, and the unexpected loss of one of our dorms, some of our late-registering students may be housed on air mattresses (with linens, of course).

Ten workshops will be led by pastors Bill Boekestein, Breno Macedo, Chad Steenwyk, Matt Nuiver, Sacha Walicord, Jon Bushnell, Greg Lubbers, Russell Herman and Chip Byrd. Scheduled speaker Rev. Harry Zekveld of Strathroy, ON, may not be able to attend because of Canadian travel restrictions.

We know that COVID-19 restrictions/concerns are on the minds of almost all of our registrants. The policies Northwest Nazarene University has determined regarding COVID-19, per its local government/CDC guidelines, will be communicated in our welcome and sponsor letters coming in mid-June. We have agreed in our contract with them to adhere to these yet-to-be determined policies. If some convention registrants are unwilling or unable to comply with those policies once they are determined, they will be given a registration refund minus a \$50.00 administrative fee.

Welcome letters with all the details will be mailed to all participants, so keep your eyes peeled for that communication. Sponsors will also receive a special informational letter and SON-rise material at that time. For more specific information about the 2021 convention, please contact RYS Director Ed DeGraaf at (616) 667-0694 or email him at [reformedyouth96@gmail.com](mailto:reformedyouth96@gmail.com).



Reformed Youth Services has a couple other events planned for this coming fall, with hopes to schedule more, Lord willing, based on conditions. After a year's absence, the **Washington-area high school retreat** is planned for October 15-16 at The Firs in Bellingham, WA. Rev. Mark Stromberg of Lynden URC will speak on the theme "Gospel Truth, Woke Lies." Cost will be \$110.00 (U.S.). The **East Coast high school retreat** will be held November 5-7 at the Spruce Lake Retreat Center in Canadensis, PA. Cost will be \$175.00. More details about all these events, and others, will be forthcoming via the RYS bi-weekly email and on our website.



The **LOGOS 2021 Young Adults Conference** registration is now open! Singles and couples ages 18-30 are invited to sign up at [reformedyouthservices.org](http://reformedyouthservices.org). This special event, scheduled for August 11-14, will be held at the scenic Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin, D.V. Keynote speaker Rev. Paul Murphy will discuss the theme of "Christian Integrity and Temptation." Other speakers include pastors Doug Barnes, John Klompfen and Ed Marcusse. Cost will be \$295.00 per person (U.S.) for the program only, with the day away option being Noah's Ark Waterpark (for an additional \$25.00) for a total of \$320.00. Register online at [reformedyouthservices.org](http://reformedyouthservices.org). Preferred lodging is first-come, first served. The LOGOS conference is open to adult reformed singles ages 18-30 in college or working and married couples age 30 or under. Regular registration will close on July 10.

The largest retreat in RYS' history was held April 30-May 1 at Cranhill Ranch in Rodney, MI. A total of 200 people from 14 member churches attended the event. Because of our large numbers and covid restrictions, we held the event outside and staggered our meal times. It was a little chilly and challenging, but our speaker, Rev. Vern Picknally from Bethel Reformed OPC in Fremont, MI did a great job communicating the theme of "Do You Have a Defender?" to the large group of energetic sixth to eighth graders. "Jesus is the greatest defense attorney of all time," said Pastor Picknally. "He is our Advocate and Defender. If you are in Christ, He is your defender and gives you His perfect righteousness."





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

- ◆ **July 12-16** -- RYS National Youth Convention at Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID
- ◆ **August 11-14** -- LOGOS 2021 Young Adults Conference at Green Lake Conference Center, IA.
- ◆ **October 15-16** -- Washington high school retreat, The Firs, Bellingham, WA.
- ◆ **November 5-7** -- East Coast high school retreat, Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA.

*Note: RYS events conclude at 12 midnight Saturday evening.  
Sunday worship is under the authority of a local member consistory.*



**More pictures from the RYS Middle School Retreat held at Cranhill Ranch. Make plans to join us next year!**



*Reformed Youth Services is a ministry of Cornerstone United Reformed Church*

◆ 6442 36th Avenue ◆ Hudsonville 49426 ◆ ph:616-667-0694 ◆ email:reformedyouth96@gmail.com ◆ website:reformedyouthservices.org