

**ABOUND  
IN HOPE**

**ROMANS 15:13**

# 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.

### Sponsors:

- Minimum age 21 by convention.
- RYS strongly recommends groups adhere to a 5:1 student/sponsor ratio.
- Sponsors are required to attend convention events and remain on campus with their conventioneers all week.
- All sponsors are required to complete the child safety screening emailed to them after registration.

## Registration Fees:

### Member Churches

- Prior to April 14: \$490 (U.S.) per person
- April 14-30: \$540 (U.S.) per person

### Non-member Churches

- Prior to April 14: \$540 (U.S.) per person
- April 14-30: \$590 (U.S.) per person
- After April 30: You may be placed on a waiting list by contacting RYS Director Paul Van Dyke at [rysdirector@gmail.com](mailto:rysdirector@gmail.com).

## Cancellations:

- Before May 30: Cancellations will be refunded less \$50, and transfers can be made with an additional \$25 fee.
- On or after May 30: There will be no refunds or transfers.

## Travel:

- Dordt University is located in Sioux Center, IA about 1 hr away from Sioux Gateway Airport (SUX) in IA, and 1 hr 15 min from the Sioux Falls Regional Airport (FSD) in SD.
- Travel is your own responsibility. RYS has no shuttle service, or pre-event/post-event housing available on campus.

## Convention Schedule:

- Check-in: Between 1-5 p.m. (CST) on Monday, **July 13**.
- Convention concludes around 11 a.m. (CST) on Friday, **July 17**.
- Lunch will be provided soon after the last session on Friday.
- All conventioneers must be off campus by 1 p.m. (CST).

## Questions:

- Please contact RYS Director Paul Van Dyke at [rysdirector@gmail.com](mailto:rysdirector@gmail.com).



## How To Register:

- Go to [www.reformedyouthservices.org](http://www.reformedyouthservices.org)
- Registration will open January 13, 2026.
- Click on the Convention tab
- Complete the online registration form
- A designated leader/primary contact from each church must create an account and will be able to view information regarding their students.

**Choose only one roommate:** The roommate you choose must also name you on their registration forms. Married sponsors may room together. Note: bathrooms may be on separate floors for married sponsors.

**Choose your workshops:** Everyone will attend five workshops. Select workshops in the order of your preference.

**Complete the medical forms:** Parents must 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.

**Apparel:** You may pre-purchase a convention sweatshirt (\$30) or a RYS hat in pink or black (\$20) when you register. There will be a limited number available at convention.

**Payment - Leaders Please Note:** After registration is closed, your primary contact will be emailed an invoice. Please **confirm** that **all** of your participants are listed on the invoice! Wait until you receive your invoice to make your payment. Mail one group payment to: Reformed Youth Services and **write "Convention" on the memo line.**

PO Box 127, Hudsonville, MI 49426.

### \*New Mailing Address

Payments are due postmark May 30; late payments will be charged a late fee.



From Pharaoh's court to Babylon's palace, the Old Testament is filled with dramatic showdowns between God's true power and demonic powers of this age. How are we to respond to the demonic realm, spiritual counterfeits, false prophets, and the many ways they attack our faith? We will consider modern-day deception and how God's Word crushes all 'demonic' powers.

**Rev. Chris Gordon is the pastor at Escondido URC of Escondido, CA.**



God's Word warns us about idolatry and false gods, but what does that mean today? This workshop will explore the Bible's surprising description of the demonic evil behind the scenes that wants us to worship the good things of God's creation in place of God, and will provide practical advice for resisting that evil.

**Rev. Nick Smith is the pastor at Christ Reformed of Nampa, ID.**



How do you experience God in your everyday life? We profess that He "upholds heaven and earth and all creatures," but do we really believe that and live it out? We will explore what Scripture teaches about God's sustaining hand and how our awareness of His presence might help us experience more joy and assurance as we live and serve in His amazing creation.

**Justin Vander Werff is a professor at Dordt University and attends Sioux Center URC of Sioux Center, IA.**



Contentment, in our age, is hard to come by. Our hearts long for relationships, achievements, praise, fulfillment - and social media tells us to expect perfection. This workshop explores how unmet desires can steal joy, and how Christ offers true satisfaction. Join us as we discover where true peace, joy, and contentment can be found!

**Rev. Doug Barnes is the pastor at Grace URC of Alto, MI.**



Are we living in the end times? What happens when it all ends? Ideas

about the end times are everywhere, from Scripture to screens. But what does the Bible actually teach? Join us as we explore the perspectives, consider what will happen in the end and find out what we believe and why it matters.

**Rev. Jon Bushnell is the pastor at Sioux Center URC of Sioux Center, IA.**



How can I, as a Christian, live boldly for Christ in a current culture that hates and is often violent towards individuals who believe the gospel? How can I faithfully interact with individuals who strongly disagree with Biblical truth?

**Rev. Bob Van Manen is the pastor at Little Farms Chapel OPC of Coopersville, MI.**



This workshop will be very practical, looking first at how God's word encourages us to live before a watching

world, then focusing on some tangible ways to reach people for Christ, all for the glory of God.

**Rev. Eric Watkins is the pastor at Salt and Light Reformed Church in Daytona Beach, FL, and the Director of the Center for Missions and Evangelism at MARS.**



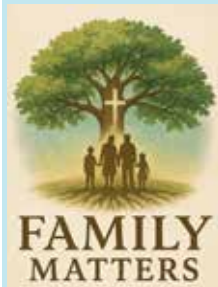
Worldliness and godliness clash in our everyday lives. We live in a culture in which sin looks normal and righteousness seems strange. In this workshop we will explore how we can live a God-centered life in such a world. **Rev. Russell Herman is the pastor at Cloverdale URC of Boise, ID.**



We live in a culture that normalizes sexual sin and constantly pulls our hearts away from God's design for purity. But the gospel tells a better story—one of freedom, forgiveness, and

holiness through Christ. In this workshop, students will confront the real struggles of sexual temptation and learn how to fight for purity not by willpower alone, but by resting in Christ's finished work and walking by the Spirit.

**Rev. Angelo Contreras is the pastor at Escondido URC of Escondido, CA.**



The Christian family can be one of the greatest blessings, but they are not without their challenges. At times, family life can be difficult. Is there hope and help? What is a family, a "Christian" family, a "good"

family? How can I prepare for my future family? While our culture is drastically confused on these things, in this workshop we will look at the inspired manual for family life, the Word of God, for wisdom and answers to these challenges and questions.

**Rev. Greg Lubbers is pastor at Covenant Reformed Church of Pella, IA.**



Feeling disconnected at church? You're not alone. Disabilities, insecurities, inadequacies, hard experiences, social awkwardness, etc. make people feel like they live on a different planet. How can you close the gap to make anyone in your church family feel at home—including yourself? Get the understanding and action steps to welcome unseen people into genuine friendships.

**Rev. Ken Anema is a pastor at Immanuel URC of DeMotte, IN and the director of Divine Hope Seminary.**



Today's average Christian teen is growing up in a "Brave New World" of new technologies: faster phones, AI, social media algorithms, and more. While these

resources provide incredible opportunities for learning, experiences, and connection, they also come with significant risks that have real-world consequences. What are some biblical and practical ways that students can defend themselves as they navigate their way through this ever-expanding and growing world of digital technology?

**Dr. Jared Poulton is the Director at IRBC of Hudsonville, MI.**

# Reformed Youth Services 2026 National Convention

## Abound in Hope

Life can feel like one long scroll of bad news, and the future seems dark to many. This summer, we'll turn to the "God of all hope" to explore how Christian peace and joy aren't built on our feelings or achievements, but rest on God's unchanging character and purposes in Christ. We'll learn how the Holy Spirit can powerfully fill us with confidence, and the role which worship, the Word, and church play in strengthening our faith. We'll also face the hard realities of life, and discover how even our groaning can become an act of hope. Finally, we'll lift our eyes to the bigger story: God is gathering His people from every nation and building a kingdom that cannot fall—and He invites us to participate! Come ready to think deeply, worship fully, and find hope that endures.

## Main Session Speakers

Rev. Michael Spotts is the pastor at Phoenix URC of Phoenix, AZ. Rev. Jeff De Boer is the pastor at Redeemer OPC of Ada, MI. Both have spoken as workshop leaders at previous Conventions.



## Calling all Creativity!

Please start making plans to try out for our annual variety show. God-glorifying variety is highly encouraged! And don't miss out on joining the convention choir directed by our longtime song leader, Julie Bussis.

## Day Away & Other Fun Stuff!

Experience an RYS State Fair! Enjoy our own exclusive rodeo where you can participate in activities like: dummy roping, hay bale toss, mutton busting, calf scramble, wild mule race, greased pig contest, mechanical bull and more!

Basketball, spikeball, human foosball, cornhole, volleyball tournaments, and others will be held, as well as a 5K run. A variety of non-sport activities and some time at Siouxnami Water Park will also be available to enjoy throughout the week.



MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, SO THAT BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU MAY **ABOUND IN HOPE**

ROMANS 15:13

