

SEGA Nurture Division Recommendation for the Future of our Outdoor Ministry Programs with Children and Youth

Beginning in the fall of 2009, our area entered a cooperative relationship with both the Northeast and Ozark Lakes areas of the Mid-America Region to offer joint ministry programming for children and youth. In the last twelve months, we have mutually sponsored weekend retreats for senior high youth (held in St. Louis) and middle school youth (held in Macon), an intergenerational mission trip to the gulf coast, backpacking trips, and summer camp programs for all ages at the Rickman Center in Jefferson City. These efforts have been jointly proposed, planned, and led by leaders from SEGA, the Northeast, and Ozark Lakes areas and in conversation with leaders from the Northwest Area.

As camp registration fees and administrative costs continue to rise, we believe this cooperative approach to region-wide ministry has great practical value. More importantly, cooperative ministry such as this allows children and youth to gain a greater understanding of the wider Church and to interact with many Christian peers from different locations. The partnership between our three areas provides solid evidence that ministry with our youth beyond the local congregation can be done effectively in a variety of settings with positive results for all involved.

Given all this, we propose that SEGA continue its efforts to partner with the other areas in the Mid-America Region to offer youth ministry and outdoor ministry experiences for our young people. We further propose that the Orchard Crest Camp property be sold and the proceeds be used to set up an endowment to support outdoor ministry programs in the form of camp scholarships and program costs.

These actions will enable us to freely nurture our partnership in youth ministry with the other areas of our region, to move further in our efforts to develop a region-wide approach to youth ministry, and to live into the vision and mission statement for youth ministry developed in the Fall of 2009 by representatives of all four areas of the Mid-America Region:

Vision: As the four areas (NEA, NWA, OLA, SEGA) of the Mid-America Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) it is our vision to provide meaningful youth and outdoor ministry that fosters relationship with Jesus Christ, nurtures spiritual growth, and builds a strong sense of Christian community.

Mission: Youth and outdoor ministry exist to provide a safe environment for young people to explore a relationship with Christ within the community of faith and to equip them to find their place in the wider mission of the Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

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