

Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2019 update

The Presbytery of Northern Plains brought a group of 30 youth and adults to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium this summer. It was at Purdue University in West Lafayette Indiana. Our bus to the Triennium left late on Monday, July 15th, and got to the to Purdue early in the afternoon in Tuesday, July 16th. Just in time for lunch before we checked into our dorms.

The theme for the week was based on the hymn Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing. Tuesday evenings theme was “Tune my Heart”. The sermon for the night talked about finding our individual song. Getting our hearts ready for the week.   
Wednesday’s theme was “Jesus sought me”. We talked about the story of Zacchaeus. Way before Zacchaeus climbed that tree to see the Lord, Jesus was seeking him out, just like he seeks us out.   
Our theme Thursday was “Prone to wander”. We explored 3 parables, the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. When we wander away, Jesus is consistently seeking us out.   
On Friday, our theme was “Take My Heart”. It was based on the story of Jesus stepping out of the boat. We talked about having the courage to trust in Jesus. We talked about how even in the dark and scary moments of life, we always have hope for something better.

Our week at the Triennium finished on Saturday, July 20th. Our theme was “take and seal it”. We talked about what we did, now that it was time to go home. We talked about taking everything we’ve learned that week, writing it down, sealing it, and sharing it. We talked about going into the world and making disciples.

Besides learning, we also had a ton of fun! We had great meals prepared for us. We had tons of fun games both inside and outside. Having over 5,000 Presbyterians gathered together, there was plenty of opportunities to meet people from near, and from far away.

There were also great evening activities. Wednesday night we had a missions’ fair in the park, where kids could go, visit different missions, and participate in giving back. Thursday, we had a concert in the music hall from Soul Children of Chicago. Before they came on, we had dance performances by Minahasan Tribe of Indonesia and the American Indian Youth Council. Friday night, we had the Festival of Hearts on Memorial Mall, complete with food trucks where kids could purchase food. It was a night of music, dancing, food, activities, and FUN!

We left early afternoon, after closing worship on Saturday July 20th. We had an on-bus pizza party as we departed Purdue, and West Lafayette Indiana. With a few stops, and driving through the night, we arrived back at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo at about 1 AM on Sunday, July 21st. Some of the leaders that had to travel to get home decided to have a sleepover with their youth at the church and leave a few hours later on Sunday morning.

What a great week it was. All of the leaders from the Presbytery of Northern Plains were so happy with how well behaved our group was. We were so happy with how flexible our youth were, especially at the beginning of the week, while we were still figuring things out. It was so encouraging to hear wisdom from our youth during our delegation time. We had such a great time. I can’t wait to see some youth come back, and see the new youth that come with us to the triennium in 2022!