



2012 ELCA National Youth Gathering

New England Synod
Spring 2011 Training Session



Gathering Theme

Citizens with the Saints



Ephesians 2:14-20

- 14 For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.
- 15 He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace,
- 16 and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.
- 17 So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near;
- 18 for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.
- 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God,
- 20 built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.



The 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering will be a service learning experience that will:

- Affirm young people's welcome into God's story through baptism
- Help them draw closer to God by engaging in intentional faith practices
- Train them to bear witness to Jesus' activity for the sake of the world
- Arouse in them their vocational call to "serve all people, following the example of Jesus"
- (ELW p. 236)



Day One

- Welcome – Community to belong to
- Eph 2:14-19



Day Two

- Believe – A Creed to believe
- Eph 2:15-16
- One of the “Three Days”



Day Three

- Hold on to hope – a hope to hold onto
- Eph 2:14-16
- One of the “Three Days”



Day Four

- Live Out – A call to live out
- Eph 2:19-20
- One of the “Three Days”



Day Five

- Sending – A Story to Tell
- Eph 2:17-18



“The Three Days”

- Day 2, Day 3, and Day 4
- In no particular order
- Grouped with our Synod for all three days



“The Three Days” Practice Discipleship Day

- Practice Discipleship Day
- Gathering as a Synod
- Hotel, Dome, Convention Center
- I will be putting together a leadership team for this
- Worship with the Bishop
- New to the Youth Gathering



More on Practice Discipleship

Participants will demonstrate the capacity to articulate their unique witness

That witness will include:

- Claiming and valuing their baptismal identity
- The ability to talk about the grace that Jesus offers
- Allowing themselves to wrestle with questions of faith
- Demonstrating openness to the movement of the Spirit in their life



“The Three Days” Practice Peacemaking Day

- Practice Peacemaking Day
- In the convention center
- Interactive
- Workshops
- A day of learning



More on Practice Peacemaking

Participants will act in a way that reflects God's value for everybody, particularly those who are marginalized by society

Behavioral Evidence will include:

- Recognizing when they hold the power in relationships with people who are marginalized, and freely giving that power away

- Being able to take a back seat comfortably (i.e. deny self, to reach a point where their self is no longer the most important thing in the world)

- Listening before speaking

- Working toward reconciliation in Christ in all relationships



“The Three Days” Practice Justice Day

- Practice Justice Day
- Various Justice Experiences
- We leave from the Dome, and head out into the City of New Orleans
- This will be done differently than it was in 2009



More on Practice Justice

Participants will live boldly in the face of injustice, crisis, and suffering

Evidence of “living boldly” includes:

- Realizing that daily choices make a difference that benefit the thriving of all God’s creation
- Being able to differentiate between accompaniment and charity, and commit to reflecting a posture of accompaniment in their daily lives with others
- Knowing that it is Jesus who makes us able, not our efforts



More on “The Three Days”

- The Three Days will use the seven faith practices of the ELCA:
- Worship
- Prayer
- Study
- Invite
- Encourage
- Give
- Serve



After the Gathering

- Emphasis on what happens next.
- How do we bring this experience back to our congregations after the Gathering?
- How do you see your community now, after your visit to New Orleans and after your experiences?
- What are you doing in your community, now, to make a difference?
- Where did you see God during the week?
- The ultimate goal is to be able to share your story with others in a language of faith when you get back from New Orleans.



Fundraising

- Lets share our most successful fundraising Ideas