

CONFERENCE REPORTS – Youth Activities Committee

Report: Youth Activities Committee

From: Chris Taylor

Youth Activities Committee: Duane Newman, Hailey Norman, Grace Pedersen, Joe Skotak, and Chris Taylor (Chairperson)

Vision Goal #1: Create Youth-Oriented Databases

Progress to Date:

- **Database**

- Identified youth membership and event data needed for the youth-oriented database. Currently collaborating with Duane Newman and will continue to work with Jan Jordison to ensure data needed for the Youth Initiative can be stored in the current membership (ACS) database.
- Created form to collect membership information at conferences and rolled it out at the National Conference in October 2015; will continue to encourage participation.
- Collection of general membership data continues to be a challenge due to little response to requests for information by the JCRB from branch presidents. Accumulating and maintaining data will continue to be challenging if an ongoing communication process among individual branches and the JCRB is not in place and vigorously supported. The importance of this effort to enable a highly effective national and international youth organization needs to continue to be communicated.

- **Website**

- Consulted with Duane Newman regarding the YAC website domain, www.Zion.Builders, and are planning on eliminating this website, thereby eliminating the cost of maintaining it – will integrate into the JCRB website for a more robust and functional youth-oriented aspect.
- Consulted with Duane Newman to eliminate the GoDaddy website, which was also created prior to the October 2015 National Conference; this action, too, will eliminate a cost to the JCRB.

- **Social Media**

- Expanded use of our Facebook page - Restoration Youth for Christ – monitored by Shelly Taylor – posts are fairly regular.
- Identify other social media outlets appropriate for communication with the JCRB youth and young adults.

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Summary:

- Integrating a more robust youth aspect into the JCRB website will continue to facilitate communication and promote the Youth Initiative. We believe that with Facebook, other social media, and more vigilant marketing of the JCRB website we can continue to focus on the other two vision goals of providing retreat/camp program information and coordinating multi-branch youth group events. More specifically, the completion of this goal will enable the following:
 - The JCRB website will continue to publish online classes, videos, and camps and other youth events.
 - We will be able to publish and send an agenda to youth and young adults across the world for both the General Conferences in the spring as well as the National Conference each fall.
 - We will be able to target age-specific youth and young adults with inspirational articles written by their peers as well as adults, offer aforementioned online church education classes, and continue to encourage youth inclusion and church membership.
 - We will be able to promote events to our youth and young adults (by age, location, etc.) that will enable their spiritual growth.

Vision Goal #2: Coordinate Multi-branch Youth Groups for All Ages Which Will Get Together for Specific Events and on Designated Weekends.

Progress to Date:

- **Events (2 in Year 1, 4 in Year 2)**
 - Dallas Restoration Branch hosted its annual paintball/worship weekend retreat in May of 2016 in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. There was a good turnout of area youth and friends as well as young adult attendees from as far away as Alabama. Another is planned for this April as well.
 - Promoted and held 2000 Strong Adventure Camp in July 2016.
 - Patrick McKay has come to Dallas to visit with area Church of Jesus Christ (Bickertonite) and LDS members to invite them to plan a Book of Mormon Festival in Dallas. Will continue to reach out to LDS leadership in an attempt to schedule a collaborative event in 2017.
 - Youth Quorum was held at the National Conference in October 2016.
 - October 2015 Conference aimed specifically at youth (“Chosen For Such a Time”)
 - Held panel discussions designed to address youth issues – came up with 96 ideas for branches to consider.
 - Youth rally as planned as part of Tent Revival May 21st.

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Vision Goal #3: Provide retreat or camping programs aimed at retaining young adults/college/military Saints

Progress to Date:

- **Young Adult Activities (1 in Year 1)**
 - Promoted 2000 Strong Adventure Camp which was held in July of 2016. This was the fourth year the 2000 Strong camp offered a Young Adult experience. It was also the initial attempt to draw mothers with babies.
 - Promote 2000 Strong Adventure Camp for July 6 - 10, 2017 for Young Adults - the camp will again offer classes for young families with children.
 - Working with military veterans and their groups to organize future events.
 - Publish young adult events on social media sites and websites.

- **Scholarship Funds**
 - Identify and implement process by which supported events can apply for and receive assistance from one of the two scholarship funds established for youth and young adult camps.
 - Ensure that funds are distributed as appropriate.