

We write today to share information about the National Gathering for United Methodist Youth, YOUTH 2019, which will take place in Kansas City, July 10-14, 2019. This event is unique as it brings together United Methodist youth and congregations from across the USA and the world, for worship, fellowship, and discipleship. The YOUTH event only takes places every four years, and we want to make sure that you and your annual conference are aware of YOUTH 2019 in plenty of time to learn about the gathering and make plans to attend.

As an annual conference level leader invested in networks of youth leaders in the California-Nevada Conference, we would like to offer you a complimentary registration for YOUTH 2019. If you are personally coming to YOUTH 2019, Young People's Ministries will cover your registration cost. Selfishly, we make that offer so that we can see you in Kansas City...and because we believe your presence will encourage churches from your annual conference to attend! This offer will help you say, "I'll see you there!" and provide you opportunities to expose your congregations to our larger connection as the United Methodist Church.

There are several ways you can support our church's national youth event:

- Connect with our social media accounts and sign up for the email list at <u>www.youth2019.com</u>
- **Share information about YOUTH** 2019 in your regular conference communications, including websites, announcements, meetings, etc.
- **Consider organizing a shared travel option** to Kansas City for churches in your annual conference.
- **Consider serving as a group leader for smaller** churches in your conference, and coordinate their trip to the event.

In the past, annual conference leaders who have coordinated travel for groups discovered incredible value for their ministry beyond the event. Relationships were formed in the planning, during travel, and at the event. Those relationships became new ministry opportunities and connection points upon the return home. The toughest hurdle we hear about from local churches who would like to participate is travel. Some churches have never taken a trip like this. Some volunteer church leaders have never planned trips with travel to a different state. You can be a part of creating new connections by your willingness to share your wisdom and time! Those new connections will build value for your conference and your districts!

We will be sending out media kits in the near future that will be helpful in your planning and sharing about YOUTH 2019. Excited to see you in Kansas City in 2019!

Chris Wilterdink

(Z/olterdank

Director of Young People's Ministries Program Development – US

cwilterdink@umcdiscipleship.org

615-340-7058