

Pilgrim Point Camping & Retreats 2011 Proposal September 18, 2010

The programming of Pilgrim Point Camping & Retreat will focus primarily on the MN Conference UCC mission priority of “Strengthening, building and inviting congregations.” The secondary focus will be on the conference mission priority of “Faith formation for children, youth and adults.”

PROGRAM

The program and ministry emphasis will strive to develop greater depth of relationships within congregations through the ministries of Pilgrim Point Camping & Retreats. In accomplishing that goal, the following proposals of involvement will include;

- Involving congregations and groups from a congregation in the renovations of the camp whenever possible. This means that every project that can be done through volunteers will be done, if at all possible, by congregational work group involvement. Some examples could be church senior groups, multi-generational groups, women groups, youth groups or many other assortments of individuals from a congregation.
- Working closely with the Outdoor Ministries Team as they provide grants in 2011 to congregations for family camps, multi-generational retreats and other events at the camp.
- Enhancing the site of Pilgrim Point to best facilitate group connections for a congregation while practicing radical hospitality with an affordable cost structure.
- Limited “conference sponsored programs”, which will only be done because the ministry could not be possibly accomplished through a local congregation and the purpose is to enhance the secondary mission goal of the faith formation for children, youth and adults.
- Conference sponsored youth camps with the adult leadership coming with the youth from the same congregations, if at all possible.
- The conference office doing our best to be proactive in facilitating connections for congregations to partner with other congregations for camping and retreat ministries, as well as when the request or need arises.
- Understanding the loss of specialty camps, general family camps and smaller children & youth camps with the hope that they will be replaced through greater opportunity for camping and retreats through local congregational leadership and initiative.

In transitioning to this new ministry model, there will be loss and fear of what is not known. It will be the job of the PPCC and the staff of Pilgrim Point Camping and Retreats to find creative solutions for individuals seeking new ways to be involved in the ministry through volunteering, attending “congregation-open” camps and supporting the wider ministry through financial resources.

STAFFING

The new staffing structure of Pilgrim Point Camping and Retreats will be led by the Associate Conference Minister for Faith Formation with two direct staff to focus on the following areas;

- 1) Volunteer and conference-sponsored program management
 - To recruit volunteer groups for work projects
 - To recruit and communicate opportunities for site volunteers with congregations and interested individuals
 - To recruit, train and evaluate volunteer program staff for conference-sponsored camps and retreats
 - To create and maintain a welcoming and hospitable environment for campers, volunteers and paid staff
 - To work proactively with congregations on creating meaningful camp and retreat experiences through resource sharing, identifying speakers and/or musicians and assisting with general program schedules

- 2) Site Management
 - To oversee kitchen staff, assist with ordering food and assist in kitchen as necessary
 - Hire and supervise waterfront staff
 - Supervise maintenance and cleaning staff
 - Assist with creating an environment of radical hospitality
 - To work within the budget parameters for food, supplies, maintenance and staffing costs
 - To make sure all health forms are completed and present for campers
 - To work with groups in making final payment for meals when necessary

POLICIES

The following policies will help to shape a more affordable and hospitable camping and retreat experience for congregations;

- Congregations register and pay for a full "area" of housing/camping per night, irrespective of the minimum number of their campers. The 4 housing/camping areas consist of;
 - POEM cabins = 48 beds (64 if no cabin updating)
 - Perhaps rate of weekday \$240/night, weekend \$320/night
 - Annex & North Shore = 50 beds
 - Perhaps rate of weekday \$200/night, weekend \$250/night
 - Lodge = 40 beds
 - Perhaps rate of weekday \$300/night, weekend \$375/night
 - Campground = 8 sites?
 - Perhaps rate of weekday \$80/night, weekend \$100/night
- Groups and individuals staying in any housing area are required to purchase a full meal plan for their stay. The exception to this requirement is for a congregation/group staying at the campground.
 - Perhaps 3-meal plan can be \$25/adults (13+), \$18/4-12, 3 & under free

- Perhaps 2-meal plan can be \$18/adults (13+), \$13/4-12, 3 & under free
- Meals will be served through a combination of serving line, buffet, and limited family style experiences. The dining service goal is to have high quality meals, very little food waste and a great dining experience for the congregation/group.
- Waterfront time will be included in the afternoon for summer groups and additional time can be included, at a fee, upon request.
- The facilities (Vespers Point, field, rec hall, gazebo/craft cabin) are used by all the groups at the camp and camp/retreat schedules need to be worked out by the groups ahead of time as best possible.

REGISTRATION

Registration Process will be as much on line as possible, done through the MN Conference office in Minneapolis and administered through the Assistant to the Associate Conference Minister for Faith Formation.

- Registration will open on November 1st with priority to the congregations of the MN Conference. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 per housing site (\$25 for campground) will be due within 2 weeks after registering. The full amount of housing is to be paid 30 days prior to the camp/retreat.
- An estimation of campers for meals must be submitted, with any special requests, at least 7 days in advance. All meals must be paid for in full before or at time of registering at camp. There will be no billing after the camp/retreat and a policy established of no reimbursements made for individuals leaving early.

CONFERENCE SPONSORED CAMPS/RETREATS for 2011

Conference-sponsored Camps and retreats will be minimal with registrations being done through the business office, mostly on-line, and still include;

- Middle School (6th-8th grade) and Senior High (9th-12th grade) Camp weeks with a Sunday-Saturday schedule. An attempt will be made to provide bussing, at a reasonable cost, starting in either Rochester or the Twin Cities. The goal of the bussing is to assist congregational leaders in attending camp training (Saturday-Sunday) and then not be responsible for driving their youth to/from camp.
- A women's fall retreat (which we will mostly assist this group in their registration process) and make an attempt at hosting a men's fall retreat.
- Confirmation Retreat in the fall.
- High School Conference Youth Event held over MEA weekend