



**LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT AND
SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

From Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) to Fall Workshop, Summer Camp Staff to Campus Ministries teams; youth and young adults live out their faith with hands on service and leadership training.

BETTER TOGETHER

As United Methodists in the West Virginia Conference we have a connection of leaders and resources to help your youth ministry thrive!

**SAFE SANCTUARIES
TRAINING**

In-person and online training to prevent harm to children and youth in any local or conference ministry.



Youth & Young Adult Ministries #wvumc

Visit our website: wvumc.org/young-disciples or contact
Rev. Shea James, Director of Youth and Outdoor Ministries (304) 344-8331 ext. 25
Louisa Copenhaver, Director Spring Heights Camp & Retreat Center (304) 927-5865

Youth & Young Adult Ministries at a Glance

Youth Ministry

Leadership

- **CCYM** (Conference Council on Youth Ministries) chaired by Elise Moll.
- **Adult Team for Youth Ministries** led by Jake Henley and Lauren Shanholtzer.

Resources & Training

- **The Youth Ministry Network** is a social media space for Conference youth leaders to support, share, and learn. **Free youth curriculum** posted weekly.
- **REBOOT Youth Leader Cohorts** offer coaching for congregations looking to “reboot” their ministry to grow young disciples.
- **WVUMC participates with the Perkins School of Theology School for Youth Ministry** to develop youth ministry leaders.

Young Disciples Gatherings

- **Fall Workshop, November 10-12, 2023** at Jackson’s Mill. This year’s theme is “*Hello, My name is _____*,” and students will be learning from different characters in scripture about who God made them to be, how God used them, and how God has a plan for them too. Find out more here: wvumc.org/2023-fall-workshop
- **In July, 67 youth & adults from 11 West Virginia congregations traveled to YOUTH 2023**, a UMC gathering for youth to learn, worship, do Bible study, serve, and have fun.

Spring Heights Camping & Retreat Ministries (springheights.org)

- **Spring Heights Camping & Retreat Center Director Louisa Copenhaver** began her role in spring 2023, guiding the camp to maintain American Camping Association accreditation. Six summer staff grew as leaders as they helped campers experience Christ.
- **The Conference Camping Team** guides the camping ministry of the West Virginia Conference, supporting both on-site and mobile camps.
- **Through its 2023 On-Site camp and its DaySpring Mobile Camping Ministry**, hundreds of children and their adult leaders met Christ through camp. DaySpring brought camp to sites in 6 communities, working with local UM congregations.
- **Spring Heights’ retreat ministry is growing, hosting 16 retreat groups** to date, including community agencies, schools, and churches from throughout the region.

Campus Ministry

- **West Virginia Conference Campus ministries are supported on five campuses:** Fairmont State, Potomac State, Marshall, West Liberty, and West Virginia Wesleyan.
- **The Conference Higher Education Team** works to equip campus ministries and campus pastors. Campus pastors, campus ministry board members, and the Higher Education team met in January to focus on expanding their capacity for ministry to new people.
- **Grants are available for congregations to be in ministry with college students.** Any congregation can be in ministry with college students, regardless of size or location!

Safe Sanctuaries Training

- **In-person and online training** is provided to prevent harm to children and youth in any local or conference ministry. Over 1,000 ministry leaders have completed Safe Sanctuaries training throughout the West Virginia Conference.
- **The Conference Safe Sanctuaries team** updates policies, prepares training materials, and leads training.