Next Generation Ministries Council Report to the 41st General Assembly



Jennifer Burkholder *Chairman*

Summary of Work, 2020-2021:

- 1. Created a Contacts List with the Office of the General Assembly for Next Generation Ministries (children, youth, and college) workers to receive electronic communication from the council and sent first communication.
- 2. Continued to support current Next Generation Ministries networks and opportunities happening in Presbyteries and collaborate with Shawn Stewart/WO for mobilizing the Next Generation.
- 3. Revised plan for Next Generation Ministries Leadership Summit that was postponed due to COVID that will now happen in October 2021.

Recommendations to the 2021 General Assembly:

1. No recommendations this year.

Work of the Committee in 2020-2021:

- 1. Created a Contacts List with the Office of the General Assembly for Next Generation Ministries (children, youth, and college) workers to receive electronic communication from the council and sent first communication.
 - A. In collaboration with Presbytery Stated Clerks, Shawn Stewart (WO Mobilization Coordinator), and all Next Generation Ministries Council members, we compiled an email contact list of Next Generation Ministries workers and created a contact list with Brian Smith and Jerry Iamurri at the Office of the General Assembly so that the council has a way of communicating who we are and what we do with those Next Generation Ministries workers we are called to serve.
 - B. Our first email was sent to this contact list in February 2021. We introduced the Next Generation Ministries Council purpose and members, as well as resources (Jubilee Conference, RYM Youth Leader Training, Families Alive, etc.) we recommend and shared the vision for Next Generation Ministries networks.
- 2. Continued to support current Next Generation Ministries networks and opportunities happening in Presbyteries and collaborate with Shawn Stewart/WO for mobilizing the Next Generation.
 - A. Presbytery of the Alleghenies Next Generation Ministries networks.
 - 1) The Children's Workers Network is meeting virtually about once a month. Led by Martha Daniel and Memorial Park Presbyterian Church (Allison Park, PA) children's workers. They share best practices—especially due to COVID—and pray for one another.
 - 2) Youth Workers Network also is meeting virtually, collaborating on COVID shifts in ministry. This network prays and shares Scripture and mutual encouragement together. Led by Joe Stroup and Andrew DiNardo.
 - B. Presbytery of the East and Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean.
 - 1) Enid Flores and Meg DeHaven continue to collaborate on a youth retreat. They were forced cancel due to COVID, but are still planning for what can happen in 2021-22.
 - 2) Enid Flores had Jen Burkholder speak at the Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean meeting, sharing the purpose of the Next Generation Ministries Council, resources we recommend, and vision for Next Generation Ministries networks.
 - C. Invited college ministries to virtual CCO Jubilee Conference on February 27, 2021.
 - 1) Many EPC Churches served as host sites for the virtual conference this year:
 - a. First Presbyterian Church, Orlando FL.
 - b. Iglesia Presbiteriana Westminster, Bayamón PR (Enid Flores).
 - c. Bellefield Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh PA.
 - d. Hope Church, Memphis TN.
 - e. First Presbyterian Church, Fresno CA.
 - f. Graystone EPC, Indiana PA.
 - g. Gateway EPC, Slippery Rock PA.

- h. Memorial Park EPC, Allison Park PA.
- D. Invited youth workers to RYM Youth Leadership Conference.
 - 1) PA conference was cancelled due to COVID.
 - 2) TN conference was held.
 - a. One EPC worker from New Hope Presbyterian Church (Kent WA) requested a scholarship, but the need was met by the church so the Council did not need to fulfill the request.
- E. Shawn Stewart presented opportunities to collaborate with WO discipleship and mobilization strategy.
 - 1) Collaborate to share missionary prayer guide for children/families' ministries to use in children's ministry.
 - 2) Collaborate with WO Summer Mission trips for youth.

3. Revised plan for Next Gen Leadership Summit that was postponed due to COVID that will now happen in October 2021.

- A. We were not able to host the October 2020 Next Gen Leadership Summit due to COVID restrictions. We communicated with all Next Gen workers who were invited that we were postponing it until COVID restrictions were lifted.
- B. In our April 2021 meeting, we updated the plan for the Leadership Summit:
 - 1) Who?
 - a. Two youth workers from every Presbytery will be invited.
 - b. <u>Invitation List</u> updates made by April 23, 2021.
 - c. Updated Invitation will be sent by May 4.
 - 2) What?
 - a. Next Generation Ministries Summit Purpose.
 - i. A gathering of Next Generation Ministries youth workers, funded by each presbytery. The Summit is designed to cast vision for Next Generation Networks in every presbytery, and encourage, pray, share best practices, and cultivate thriving Next Generation Ministries that disciple and mobilize the next generation to faithfully follow and serve Jesus in the church and the world.
 - 3) Where?
 - a. Orlando, FL.
 - 4) When?
 - a. October 5-8, 2021.
 - i. Arrival late on October 5.
 - ii. Full schedule October 6-7 (leave late on October 7).
 - iii. Council stays for meeting on October 8.

Finally, due to the hybrid format of the 41st General Assembly, Next Generation Ministries Council opportunities for gathering, equipping, and fellowship are limited. Ivan Strong Moore will host a College Ministry Networking Lunch on Friday, June 25.

Recommendations to the 2021 General Assembly:

No recommendation this year.

Committee Members:

Committee Meeting Dates:

October 9, 2020: Video Conference January 11, 2021: Video Conference April 15-16, 2021: Orlando, FL May 14, 2021: Video Conference

Respectfully submitted,

Jernifer Burkholder, Chairman June 2021