

## **ATTENTION: ALL YOUTH AND THOSE WHO WORK WITHOR WANT TO WORK WITH OUR YOUNG ADULTS**

The YOUTH MINISTRY COMMITTEE comprised of youth from all across the state have made an adjustment to what most of us know as Youth Congress. We are now calling it the "**Spring Retreat.**" I know it is original but the concept of the retreat is different. The way Youth Congress was designed was not meeting the needs of the youth that we have currently and we wanted to provide an event that would be beneficial to the youth of today. The event itself is designed like a mini-camp, a 3 day adventure with topics lead by keynoters and discussed with YMC-led small groups. **Because of the nature of the event we have new guidelines for the event for the adults such as: 1. We need 1 adult for every 8 youth 2. We will have small group discussions on how to improve youth ministry in your local congregation. 3. We will need the adults to pay as well** (let me explain). In years past when we have done Youth Congress we have had to pay \$120.00 per person to cover just the cost of renting the facility that we were occupying. Being aware that we are in hard economic times, we wanted to provide something for everyone (youth and adults) and still be successful. So we designed this event at our facility Craig Springs and then we were able to cut the cost down considerably to help churches and individuals. We are fully aware that churches aren't able to help as much financially. Gone are the days when a church could have paid half or all of \$120.00 and sent 10 kids. So the new event only costs \$50.00 per person (youth and adults). We are encouraging churches to still pay the half so that whoever would like to attend would only have to pay \$25.00 per person. We want this to be a success and are really anticipating 100 kids at this event and 50 adults! Please understand that in no way, shape or form will the weekend be designed to write resolutions but if in the small group discussions an issue sparks concern to write one, we will be helping with that process. We want the youth of the Christian Church in Virginia to have a voice and have the ability to make a difference. We want to encourage those that would like to attend to come wanting to change the world we live in.

### **Holiday Lock-In:**

Well, because God had other plans for us we had to cancel Holiday Lock-in. We had 52 people registered to this event and we were really looking forward to it. The YMC has come-up with 3 alternatives for this event's registration fees **(understand that with these options, you must call the Regional office (434) 846-3400)** 1. We can refund your \$10.00 2. You could use the \$10.00 as a donation to Nature Camp 3. You could apply it to your Spring Retreat fees and then in essence your church only has to pay \$20.00 and you only have to pay \$20.00. We really want to see you folks at the Spring Retreat and Nature Camp is something that your youth can help out with.

### **Regional Assembly:**

Again trying to make the events that we offer more relevant we are in the process of designing this event similar to the Spring Retreat. We want 100 youth to come to this event and to prove it any youth that participates only has to pay \$60.00. That will cover all the Regional Assembly meals and lodging on campus. Now we probably won't stay in the dorms but we will be staying on campus. We are encouraging all the youth to bring sleeping bags and stuff that you would bring to camp. The youth at the Assembly are always responsible for the worship on Saturday and we are designing it so that everyone can participate that comes. **The difference is that this event is designed for Junior High and High School youth where the Spring Retreat is focusing in on High School.** *Forms will be available shortly on the webpage.*

### **Camps and Conferences:**

Man I hope you are planning on coming to camp this summer! We have a lot of amazing experiences planned for you! The Camp descriptions should be in the mail to you shortly but pay close attention to the dates. Tell your senior minister or ministers now that we even have events planned for him/her or them. **Camp brochures and Nature Camp forms are available on the webpage: [www.ccinva.org](http://www.ccinva.org).**

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