Children and Youth Committee Report Spring 2020

1. Requested action item: Reviving Teen Retreats.

Robb Yurisko, who led teen retreats in the past, is willing to help revive the events, and some teens do appear to be interested. Friends who feel led to help, or event to take leadership, are encouraged to contact him at rlyurisko@gmail.com

Robb wrote, “I wouldn’t mind getting things started and seeing how things unfold. Perhaps planning a retreat to see what energy there is among the teens.

Where Spirit leads is best. Some time in discernment with committee members about a way forward would be ideal if there is a need for the work.

Perhaps another Friend in the YM would feel called to the position. Then I would be happy to serve on the committee instead.

I hope to be at YM this year!

Robb”

1. Fall Youth Retreat:

Diane Mott sought feedback on whether to reserve space for the fall youth retreat this year. It sounded like the consensus via e-mail was that having children gather in the fall would still be too risky due to public health concerns.

1. Annual sessions Plans
   1. LEYM annual sessions will include Minecraft world building and a Minecraft adventure for all children and teens.  Minecraft is an online game that focuses on exploration and creativity rather than conflict.  Noah Molina has been building some virtual areas to explore, and he and Jonah Brownfain will host a special event during which youth will endeavor to rescue an endangered village together.  Noah will also serve as a friendly young adult presence during scheduled sessions to keep the space safe, and will choose game settings to make this Minecraft realm as creative and positive as possible.  Young participants will need a Java edition Minecraft membership, which costs about $27, to participate.  Memberships are available at Minecraft.net.  If young Friends already play Minecraft and have a java edition of the game, they do not need to purchase another.  Noah Molina will need each child's username so they can be invited to the realm where they can play together.  Noah's e-mail is [ockanoah@gmail.com](mailto:ockanoah@gmail.com) If a child has friends from other yearly meetings, those friends are welcome to send their usernames and join in the fun.  Parents are encouraged to contact Kate Enger at [psychdrkate@gmail.com](mailto:psychdrkate@gmail.com) if financial assistance would help their young person participate in the Minecraft activities.

I suspect youth will want to spend more time in their Minecraft realm. If anyone would like to buy an adult membership and help Noah provide friendly adult supervision, please contact Noah at the e-mail above. I (Kate), plan to help out some, too.

* 1. Annual Sessions will also include Zoom time for age-specific activities.    If a child would like to participate in these activities, parents will need to provide the e-mail to which their invitation to the meeting should be sent on their annual sessions registration form.  Zoom classes are scheduled in between adult activities so parents can help children sign on, and to facilitate the sharing of computers.
  2. Young adults will also have some Zoom time set aside for their own use. Young adults are encouraged to contact Noah or Bill Warters if they’d like to organize an activity together. Bill can help them get their Zoom session organized.

1. T-shirts are available for purchase.  This year's design was created by Passionworks, a studio for artists living with disabilities.  Noah Hogan, an Athens Friend, is a Passionworks artist.  A small portion of the sale of each shirt will go to Passionworks to support their mission.

If you'd like a shirt, please send your size and mailing address, along with $17, to Kate Enger at:

75995 Vandyke Road

New Marshfield, OH, 45766

Orders must be in by July 9.  Your t-shirt will be mailed to you in hopes that it will arrive in time for you to show it proudly via Zoom. The shirt will likely match the lighter lavender color in the design below:

