

March 23, 2023



Greetings People,

P – Y – C, Pretty Young Christians? Not exactly... **PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION** is what used to be in existence throughout the denomination and in our Presbytery. It has been gone...UNTIL NOW, we hope. At least for National Capital Presbytery. NCP – Y – C, ***NCPresbytery Youth Connection!***



This past weekend, NCP youth from ten different congregations in our presbytery gathered at The Claggett Center for a Confirmation Retreat. Rev. John Molina-Moore and leadership from the Reformed Institute taught, supported, and connected a beautiful band of Presbyterians! Thank you to all the volunteer leaders, youth ministry staff and pastors who nurtured an impactful weekend.

I was struck by a running theme I heard from young and older attendees, “it is really important and good for me to be here because I am getting out of my bubble.” I witnessed youth sharing, “I never have met other presbyterian youth from other parts of the DMV (DC, Maryland and Virginia congregations were present). I also heard, “I do not feel comfortable talking to other people outside of my family and my own church, but I am able to trust talking here.” And a youth minister shared, “I started working with this congregation during Covid so I just have not met other leaders from other presbyterian churches” . . .the bubble bursting can go on and on.

A few different reports are coming out that youth and children did lose aspects of emotional and other forms of developmental growth, including faith formation, during the lock-down realities of the pandemic. What we have relied upon for a personal faith development being in person could not happen. As a Presbytery we did lean into ways to stay connected **AND STILL** we must accept what was lost. To repair the breach, close the gap, heal the wound, we are cultivating intentional IN-Person gatherings and Events to nurture our faith formation and development, for us adults. WE also need to cultivate renewal community shared space with our youth across our congregations and with one another. Did you know that some of our largest and growing-est youth programs are at Solo Pastor or Part-Time pastor led churches? They deserve a connected Presbytery, that is us!



Along with leaders from the Spiritual Formation Team, Church Development Committee, and Black Presbyterians United, we are doing a revival of NCP-Y-C! Look for upcoming announcements for regional small group gatherings with our youth, volunteer youth leadership development events, and youth retreats.

Any questions or thoughts, feel free to contact me, tspuhlermccabe@thepresbytery.org. I will connect you to the working group.

Peace and Courage,

Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe