



AFFIRM 2010!

June 20-25

Staff Training Weekend June 18-20

Dear Partners in Ministry,

As adults who are gifted in Youth Ministry, you are invited to participate in AFFIRM 2010, an over 40 year old summer youth event of the ELCA Southeastern Synod, to be held June 20-25, at the Berry College in Rome, Georgia.

Affirm nurtures faith, equips youth leaders for today and tomorrow, and trains youth in discipleship skills. Affirm is for grades 6th - 12th as well as trains college freshman and sophomores for youth ministry in a unit called YAYMI, Young Adult Youth Ministry Institute. YAYMI gives young adults training in peer ministry, small groups, hands on leadership and much more! Affirm is based on 10 different "units". Each of these units are staffed by small group leaders and a pair of unit directors.

Included with this letter, you will find the AFFIRM 2010 Staff Application. If you are a pastor or congregational leader who is in the position to discern adults who might serve, please feel free to make copies of this application and distribute it or post it in a prominent place in your church. If you have gifts for youth ministry yourself, please prayerfully consider completing the application online at www.sesyouth.org or returning it before January 15, 2010.

You will also note the need for each applicant to include a social security number and permission to secure a criminal background check. This is required by the Synod's Insurance Company that all adults working with youth must have a background check.

Finally, if you are sharing this with a first-time applicant, please mention the need to include or send a letter of reference from someone outside the applicant's immediate family. This letter should speak to the applicant's gifts for youth ministry.

Notification of selection for all staff will happen by March 1, 2010.

If you have any questions please contact me at ralley@elca-ses.org or 404-589-1977 x 230 or 770-235-7339.

Making Disciples!

Rachel C. Alley

Director of Youth Ministries

AFFIRM JUNE 14-20, 2010

ELCA Southeastern Synod

STAFF APPLICATION

If able - please fill out application online at www.sesyouth.org or the application must be in the synod office by January 15, 2010

Please complete this application prayerfully and thoroughly. All five pages must be read and returned before you will be considered for Affirm staff. If you are applying for the first time, please include a letter of reference.

Name: _____ T-Shirt Size _____

E-mail address: _____ Cell Phone _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ Birthday: _____

Summer Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Congregation and City: _____

Pastor's Endorsement signature: _____

What gifts and talents would you bring to the AFFIRM staff? If you know your spiritual gifts please include them. If you've never taken a spiritual gift inventory go to: http://www.elca.org/evangelism/assessments/spiritgifts.html

Describe your youth ministry experience in the past 5 years:

Please Circle: With what age youth do you prefer to work?

Middle School

High School

With what unit do you prefer to work? Please see the attached unit descriptions.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Please check all that apply to you.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Willingness to Share Stories of Personal Experience in a small or large group | <input type="checkbox"/> Have previous experience leading a small group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flexible | <input type="checkbox"/> I play the _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Experience | <input type="checkbox"/> Drama |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technology guru | <input type="checkbox"/> Relates well with Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Like to play games |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Married | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Like to work on a team with 1 or more persons | <input type="checkbox"/> Strong interest in culture and trends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Like working on a schedule | <input type="checkbox"/> Music background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer to lead a small group alone | <input type="checkbox"/> High Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Story Telling | <input type="checkbox"/> Playfulness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relational | <input type="checkbox"/> Experience Teaching Luther's Small Catechism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patience | <input type="checkbox"/> Love order and organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable with change | <input type="checkbox"/> Strong Administrative Skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Active in community ministry | |

If you are interested in serving on our medical team please list your training, ex. Nurse, Paramedic, Trained First Responder, Doctor, Red Cross First aid, Lifeguard, etc.

I understand that I must also attend the entire Staff Training Weekend: YES NO

If you are not selected for a staff position in 2011:
Do you want to keep your name on file for next year? YES NO

NOTE: For the sake of our young people's safety, all applications are subject to criminal background checks. Please read and fill out all other forms and background release attached.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please send your application to:
AFFIRM 2010
 Rachel C. Alley, Director for Youth Ministries
 ELCA Southeastern Synod
 100 Edgewood Ave, NE Suite 1600
 Atlanta, GA 30303
ralley@elca-ses.org or fax # 404-521-1980 or look for it online soon at www.sesyouth.org

You will be contacted about staff selection by March 1, 2010.
Please note your application and evaluation will be kept on file
in the Southeastern Synod Office.

AFFIRM COMMUNITY GUIDELINES for Youth and Staff

As a Christian Community, grounded in Scripture, striving to give and receive affirmation, each member of the community will ...

Assume Full Responsibility for Your Own Behavior by:

- a) Being present for the entire event and participating in ALL activities with unit and AFFIRM community and remaining within the boundaries of the AFFIRM community*
- b) Being inside your dorm, on your hall, at evening devotion time*
- c) Wearing an I.D. at all times*
- d) Not bringing alcoholic beverages, drugs, cigarettes, firearms, fireworks, knives, or other inappropriate items (i.e. skateboards, bikes, roller blades, hair clippers, etc.) There is a 100% no-smoking policy for this event!*
- e) Giving a deposit for your room key and name tag --- this deposit will be refunded when you return your key and meal card*
- f) Keeping your room locked at all times (AFFIRM cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items)*
- g) Wearing shirts and shoes (NO OPEN TOE SHOES) at all times except when at the pool or in your room*
- h) Using pagers, ipods, computers, and cell phones in dorm rooms or during free time only*

Be Respectful TO and OF Others by:

- a) Being in your room, music off, quiet, and lights out at midnight (12:15 on Thursday)*
- b) Boys not going onto the girls' dormitory floors and girls not going onto the boys' dormitory floors*
- c) Taking care of property and equipment not belonging to you and reporting any damaged items to the AFFIRM staff immediately (you will be charged for damages you cause)*
- d) Not inviting outside guests or leaving the campus without permission from the AFFIRM Director*

Be Supportive of All AFFIRM Staff, Participants, and Campus Personnel by:

- a) Modeling our Christian beliefs through your behavior*
- b) Arriving on time*
- c) Not switching rooms - as a matter of safety*
- d) Reporting all sickness or injury to unit leaders or the Director*
- e) Staying for the entire event*

To provide clear boundaries to promote a SUCCESSFUL event, one or more of the following responses will be enacted for violations of the established rules:

- a) Warning to participant - clarification and review of the guidelines (a form will be signed and dated at this meeting)*
- b) Take fair and appropriate steps to rectify the problem*
- c) Participant sent home - to be picked up by parent or sent home at parent's expense*

OBSERVING THESE GUIDELINES will help our time together to be more effective and safe, allowing each of us to receive maximum benefit from the event.

By signing below, we signify that we have read the above and understand the Guidelines of AFFIRM and agree to observe them at AFFIRM.

STAFF SIGNATURE _____

AFFIRM 2010 STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES SHEET

Serving as a staff member is an important and exciting commitment. In order to best serve our Lord and the youth of our Synod, staff members at AFFIRM are expected to respect the following needs.

- You are needed at the **entire** staff-training weekend to meet your co-workers, to learn about the event and campus, move furniture if necessary, and to make final preparations for your unit. Each year is unique, so it is important that everyone participate in the entire staff training weekend. If an emergency arises and you cannot be present at staff training weekend or will arrive late or cannot come at all, please discuss with your unit director. The unit director will pass the information on to the Director.
- You are needed to lead your small group and to follow the design provided by your Unit Directors. When working with a partner, please strive to work as a team during the event. If there is a problem, please speak to your Unit Directors - but remember that the needs of the youth in your small group must come first! Your Unit Directors expect your attendance at staff meetings called.
- You are to be housed in the dorm with the youth of the same sex from your unit. While on the hall, you are responsible for the safety and security of the youth on you hall - even if they aren't in your small group or even in your unit. You are needed to facilitate devotions, to make a final bed check at midnight, and to sleep in you assigned room. If a problem arises at night tell your Unit Director immediately and please do not leave the dorm.
- You are needed to be "on duty" throughout the entire event. During free-time, nighttime, and community time, all staff members are responsible for all youth. This 24-hour responsibility means that **you are needed on campus at all times**. If you need anything from the store, please tell your Unit Directors - they will get it for you. Since the youth need you so much, please don't bring other work or schoolwork from home to get done this week. You won't have time and it will take away from the youth. Likewise, please don't drive around campus during the event unless you have physical needs or are moving equipment. Do not leave the campus unless you are taking kids to a service project like Missionaries or Cruciformity.
- You are needed to support the success of the whole event by studying your unit design in advance of the event. Participating in free-time activities; sitting with the youth, participating in singing and helping with "crowd control" during total community times; helping provide evening free-time security; and filling special need as they arise such as campus tours, registration, games, etc. Your unit may work to schedule designated free time for those staff member who need a break.
- You are needed to model a Christian lifestyle in your service, behavior, attitude, and dress. You are expected to be a Servant Leader. The Youth Covenant (enclosed) is binding for staff as well. Therefore, this event (including staff training) is a smoke-free, alcohol free event **for staff and youth**. Choose clothing that is appropriate (no tank tops, spaghetti straps, etc.). Your actions are a reflection on youth ministry in the ELCA Lutheran Church, the synod, and its congregations.
- You are needed to be an adult staff member - respecting the authority differences between staff members and participants. **Staff members are not available to date or be physically involved with a participant**. You should not relate to the participants at the event in a sexualized manner. If you are dating or married to another staff member please model a Christian relationship. Keeping in mind that kids need to observe a Christian relationship not what they see on TV or in their schools.
- **You are needed as a staff member who is focused on the needs of the youth and the purpose of the event. Yes - it's great to see old friends and make new ones, but that's not why you are here. Please remember that! The youth are your #1 priority.**

As a staff member for AFFIRM 2010, will you strive to meet these needs, trusting in the strength and guidance of GOD?

"I will and I ask GOD to help and guide me

"Almighty GOD, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them."

Signature of staff member

Rachel C. Alley, Director of Youth Ministry - ELCA Southeastern Synod

Volunteer Authorization For Release of Background Information for the ELCA Southeastern Synod

STATEMENT OF PERSONAL CONDUCT

I swear that there have been no complaints filed against me related to unethical conduct (sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, felony offenses, etc.)

Signature

Date

**Thank you for applying to help in the ministry at
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA – SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD**

In connection with my application for volunteer service with EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA –Southeastern Synod, I authorize EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA-Southeastern Synod and, or Choicepoint/VolunteerSelectPlus and their agent, to solicit background information relative to my criminal record history. I understand that EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA-Southeastern Synod may conduct inquiries into my background that may include criminal records, personal references and other public record reports pertaining to me.

I authorize without any reservation, any person, agency, or other entity contacted by EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA-Southeastern Synod or Choicepoint/VolunteerSelectPlus and their agent, for purposes of obtaining background report information, to furnish the above mentioned information.

I release EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA-Southeastern Synod, their respective employees or Choicepoint/VolunteerSelectPlus and their agent and employees and all persons, agencies and entities providing information or reports about me from any and all liability arising out of furnishing any such information or reports.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PLEASE PRINT

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Name _____

Other Name/ Maiden Name/Nickname _____ Social Security No. _____

Date of Birth _____ Current Address: _____

State _____ Zip _____ County _____

How long at this address? (Months/Years) _____

If you have moved within the past 5 years. Please include those addresses below as well.

Address _____ City _____ Co. _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Previous Address _____ City _____ Co. _____ St. _____ Zip _____

How long at this address? (Months/Years) _____

Previous Address _____ City _____ Co. _____ St. _____ Zip _____

How long at this address? (Months/Years) _____

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS 2010

GENESIS - for youth who have completed 6th-7th grade

Genesis (a new creation) is a high energy, fun, "feel good" unit, designed to help seventh graders see that they are special and unique children of God who can have fun being Christians. They will be able to see how fellow Christians can work together to share the Good News. They will see themselves as God's work of art, created to live the Good Life through Jesus Christ and the Church. LIMIT-72 youth

MISSIONARIES - for youth who have completed 8th or 9th grade

Missionaries will provide youth the opportunity to explore issues of Christian living as they relate to service and witness. Youth will be invited to see themselves as an integral part of God's family and to see every person as someone whom God loves. We hope youth will grow in their understanding of God's call to be missionaries in their daily lives. Youth will be participating in off-campus service projects in the local Florence community. LIMIT-60 youth

JOURNEYS - for youth who have completed 8th - 10th grade

Journeys will provide youth with the opportunity to be led to the intersections where their lives will meet Christ's in a radical new way. The Gospel story will come alive as youth engage in creative communication and small group activities. Youth will leave with a better knowledge of Jesus' journey and what meaning it has for their lives. LIMIT - 36 youth

SHEPHERDS - for youth who have completed 8th - 10th grades

Shepherds is an introduction to Christian Leadership. The Shepherd is the one who tends to and cares for the group. This unit will help individuals identify leadership styles and skills, enabling them to develop a greater understanding and confidence in their role as leaders. LIMIT - 48 youth

BRIDGES - for youth who have completed 10th - 12th grades

Bridges will provide an opportunity for high school youth to learn and experience the history and culture of all Americans - their music, spirituality, and struggle - as a gift. Bridges explores how barriers separate cultural groups from one another. Drawing on multi-media--MTV, popular movies, and cutting-edge music--participants will also learn creative ways to "build bridges," seeking to discover that which unites, rather than divides. LIMIT - 24 youth

EXODUS - for youth who have completed 10th - 12th grade

Exodus is "A Journey from Sin and Death to Resurrection and Everlasting Life." Through this journey, participants will see and experience the abundance of God's love and grace given to us through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Exodus journey will help the participants grow spiritually and be equipped to daily live the journey of living the faith and the grace God gives to us. LIMIT-48 youth

WORSHIPTIVITY- for youth who have completed 10th - 12th grade

Worshiptivity =Worship and Creativity. This unit is designed to help individuals faithfully combine their gifts of music, drama, and art to create the worship experience for the AFFIRM community. Through planning and leading worship during the week, individuals will grow in their own spirituality and gifts. LIMIT - 20 youth

REVELATIONS - for youth who have completed 11th - 12th grade

Revelations is an experiential lab in daily living. We seek to discover revelations and creative insights to help Senior High youth identify the many forces -- both good and bad-- which influence their lives. The primary objective of this unit is to help the participants experience spiritual and emotional growth in a positive and affirming community of grace. LIMIT- 48 youth

CRUCIFORMITY - for youth who have completed 10th - 11th grade

Cruciformity is designed to enable individuals to gain insight and understanding that ministry embodies and bears witness to the cross of Christ. It is through this cruciform existence that we will explore our call to mission and our Lutheran identity in Disaster Preparedness and Response. LIMIT - 12 youth

YAYMI -for youth who have completed their freshman or sophomore year of college

YAYMI is a small group experience for young adults who are called to be youth leaders. This unit uses an internship model whereby young adults will work with mentors and units at AFFIRM to develop their skills in small group leadership, peer ministry, leading games, Lutheran perspectives, creative bible study and discussion, and much more!

