

Council of Christian Communion
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“Creating opportunities for ministry among the people and institutions of Greater Cincinnati.”

Council Notes

News from the Council of Christian Communion
Volume VI, Issue 10 • Spring 2011

Partnering for Youth: Call to Action



The Council of Christian Communion (CCC) achieves its mission through our newest program, Partnering for Youth. Through Call to Action meetings we bring members of the faith community with a passion for serving youth, together with outstanding organizations with excellent youth programs — Cincinnati Public Schools, Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, Hamilton County Juvenile Court Youth Center (2020) and the

YMCA of Greater Cincinnati.

These youth organizations need hundreds of volunteers to serve as tutors and mentors or to assist with enrichment programs. By virtue of the strong relationships CCC has held since 1914, with hundreds of churches, faith communities and organizations, we are uniquely positioned to recruit volunteers for these programs.

In the last year, we hosted three Partnering for Youth: Call-to-Action meetings where representatives from the partner organizations presented their menu of opportunities to interested volunteers. More than 160 attended, resulting in volunteers being trained as tutors and

mentors for our partner organizations. One organization reported the value of volunteer time to be over \$4,500.

Presently, over 150 serve weekly at the Juvenile Youth Center providing over 8,000 hours per year to youth detained there. For over 25 years, Council volunteers have provided classes in anger management/conflict resolution and life-skills at the Youth Center.

We are also part of the STRIVE: Be The Change program, working with other organizations to provide tutors to Cincinnati Public

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Reprint from CPS
Resource Wire 2

Calling the Faith
Community 3

Save the Date ..4

97th Annual
Dinner
May 3, 2011

School students.

For more information about Partnering for Youth, please call the Council, 513-351-6789.



SAVE THE DATE

JOIN COUNCIL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS AT THE

97TH ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2011 AT 5:30 P.M.

DINNER \$ 50.00

AT THE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY (AUDITORIUM)

INVITATION ENCLOSED

MEMBERS

African Methodist Episcopal, AME
 American Baptist Archdiocese of Cincinnati
 Baptist Ministers Conference
 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 Christian Methodist Episcopal, CME
 Church Women United
 Church of Living God, CWFF
 Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
 Ohio River Valley United Methodist District
 Presbytery of Cincinnati
 Religious Society of Friends
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Feb 2011 - Reprint from Cincinnati Public School—*The Resource Wire*

The Council of Christian Communions Enlists Church Members to Support CPS Students

Hundreds of volunteers are needed to serve as tutors and mentors, or to assist with enrichment programs for students in Cincinnati Public Schools. In an effort to help recruit these volunteers, the Council of Christian Communions recently reached out to 350 of their ecumenical partners with a Call-to-Action as part of the CPS *Be the Change* campaign.

The Council, which was incorporated in 1914, is comprised of churches throughout Greater Cincinnati. One of its primary goals is to make a difference in the lives of children, so they work to connect those in the faith community who wish to serve with organizations needing their help. CPS, the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative and the 2020 Champions Program are Council partners.

“We provide the avenue and environment for people to support our youth,” says Joellen Grady, executive director for the Council of Christian Communions. “We noticed that many of our church members are retired teachers and principals or corporate executives. They have the time and the skills to share, but are not currently linked with students because no one has shown them how to get involved. We want our churches to encourage their members to participate. We hope that, at some point, everybody has an opportunity to interact with a child. We are here to provide that link.”

While caring adults are desperately needed to help with students’ academic performance, Grady says that being a tutor or mentor are not the only opportunities. Volunteers might read to young classes, teach children to cook or crochet, or be a pen pal. Commitments vary; for those who don’t have a lot of time, spending a few minutes a month writing a letter to a kindergartener would help them with reading and comprehension skills. Interaction with students takes place either at school, in the Community Learning Centers or at a YMCA location with school resource coordinators present. Grady says the Council makes it as easy as possible to participate.

“The youth are not only our future, they are our present,” says Grady. “If we don’t help them now, we won’t have a future.”

Grady hopes to have 100 churches actively participating within a year. While this appeal is still in early stages, response so far has been positive. The Council’s next Call-to-Action meeting will be held sometime this spring. In the meantime, those who are interested in making a difference in the lives of students at CPS may contact Joellen Grady at 513-351-6789 or joellengrady@zoomtown.com.

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Calling the Faith Community to Provide Successful Outcomes for our Youth

Call to Action meetings are held quarterly to provide an opportunity for individuals who have a passion to help students succeed in life, learn about the vast “menu of opportunities” offered by our Partner Organizations—**Cincinnati Public Schools, Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, Hamilton County Juvenile Court Youth Center (2020) and the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati**. Below are a few examples:



The YMCA’s Crossover Youth Practice Model program are youth that are both within the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Research shows that the majority will spend adult life in prison. The YMCA and CCC have stepped up to be part of the solution by serving Crossover Youth. CCC is partnering with the YMCA to recruit mentors from volunteers who signed up for 2020 Champions. Thus far, two CCC mentors are in the process to mentor Crossover Youth and more will be trained.



CPS Pen Pals...One congregation was pleased to know they could come to their church, fellowship with friends while writing letters to students to help their reading and grammar. The church then sends the letters to Cincinnati Public Schools and CPS staff makes sure they are given to students who respond by writing back. Pen Pals builds relationships with caring adult while improving the students reading, grammar and writing skills.

2020...For the last 25 years CCC has provided volunteers to the Juvenile Youth Center (2020). Most volunteers provide Bible Study, which is not mandatory for youth to attend, however they are usually present. The president of the Council board, Bishop Dwight Wilkins and members of his church are at the Center every Monday night to provide a group discussion called, “Let’s Talk.” The session is mandatory for youth to attend, and they are eager to express their feelings and discover solutions to their problems.

CYC Connects...with churches to find mentors and tutors for the many youth they have waiting. Tried Stone New Beginnings church tutors youth at Roselawn Condon school, but is ready to do more with other schools in the Bond Hill area. Inspirational Baptist tutors at Winton Woods Montessori. CYC collaborates with churches and the Call to Action meetings provide opportunities to present their programs to a greater number of churches.

Congregation in Action...Following a Call To Action meeting, Rev. Rhodes alerted the senior pastor or his church, Revelation Baptist of an opportunity to mentor and help the teenage boys who were always “hanging out” at the park across the street from the church. Members of Revelation Baptist have always been involved in the West End, but wanted deeper involvement with the youth. They met with Jennifer Pugh from the YMCA who provided mentor training at Revelation Baptist for about 10 members of the congregation. Soon Family Fun Night and mentoring of those teens began at the Carl Lindner YMCA in the West End.



“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” We feel they are few because they are not aware of the menu of opportunities available to them. School curriculums have been cut to the point that cooking, sewing, quilting, woodworking, etc. are no longer available. These skills could be taught at the CPS Learning Centers or at your church. Join us at our next Call to Action meeting. Hear about the many opportunities offered to support and help our youth to succeed.