

Christian Formation Ministry

Report to Presbytery

Fall 2018

In response to needs and opportunities, the Christian Formation Ministry, while gathering regularly, has been bringing members in from a distance via video-conferencing technology. Reaction to these partially virtual meetings has been largely positive and we are hopeful that this technology may allow us to more easily expand our geographical representation. The members are grateful to the staff and administration of the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky, especially at their Georgetown College campus, for the use of this equipment. If other Ministries or Commissions are interested in finding out more about our experience or the opportunities and limitations of this technology, please contact our current chair, Ryan Shrauner (ryanshrauner@gmail.com).

We are gearing up for upcoming events. Leadership has been identified and the groundwork is being laid for Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2019. If your church has youth that may be interested, please contact the registrar, Hannah McIntyre (hannah@presbydan.org). The formative nature of this even for youth (and adult leadership) ought not be underestimated. Find out more by asking around or go to presbyterianyouthtriennium.org.

The Presbytery's Annual Calvin Retreat for clergy and ministry professionals is coming up February 1st and 2nd, 2019 and will be held at Boone Tavern in Berea. This year we will be considering the theology of (ministry) space. This grant funded event is a great opportunity to connect with colleagues and to consider aspects of ministry in community. An engaging speaker has been identified and will hopefully be confirmed by the time of the November Presbytery meeting for a formal announcement.

We are working with the Coordinating Commission and other Presbytery Ministries on the vexing problem of grant funding. We have been put in the position of making decisions on behalf of the Presbytery regarding the distribution of Campus Ministry funds which is awkward, given the ad hoc nature of the composition of Ministries in our Presbytery structure. We look forward to finding a solution involving greater transparency and fiscal responsibility.

If you are interested in finding out about Christian Formation resources, please contact our Presbytery's POINT representative, Ginny Baker (ghbaker60@gmail.com). There is a wealth of material available and it is entirely likely that is something that will address your curriculum needs.

The Christian Formation Ministry is invested in making connections, both connections between churches in the Presbytery and connections between churches and other entities involved in Christian Formation. Increasingly, these connections are going to be ecumenical and regional. What are the opportunities at your church to which you would like to welcome people? What churches in your area are you partnering to further discipleship? Oftentimes we labor under the assumption that we have to "do it ourselves". What is God already doing that we can participate in?