

Camping and Retreats Ministries Board

Request for Proposal

In light of recent financial and recruitment challenges within the camping ministry and in an effort to understand God's calling for future ministry, the GNJAC's Camping and Retreats Ministries Board of Directors, has decided to contract with a firm or individual to guide the board and GNJ through a process of visioning and strategic planning. The purpose of the process is to gather the input of young people, congregations and conference leadership to identify a strategic direction for ministry with students and the role and purpose of camping ministry and all other GNJ student ministries. Students referred to in this document include students between the ages of 5 and 21 with a focus on older elementary through college.

Consultant Charge/Outcome

To lead GNJ through a process to produce a design for a holistic experience that engages students in *a life transforming and faith deepening* United Methodist ministry in GNJ. The designed experience is to foster a *relationship with God through Jesus Christ* and is to be built around the things that are most important to students: *meaning, purpose, belonging, challenge, fun and a meaningful relationship with an adult.*

The final design will assess and make a recommendation for how best to use our current resources for student ministry that includes but is not limited to two camps, IGNITE, 560 congregations, 3,325 student leaders and teachers in our congregations, college campus ministries, two major metropolitan areas (Philadelphia and New York), beach resort communities and most importantly 19,365 students in our congregations and the 2,011,089 students in our neighborhoods. The designed experience will reach new generations of disciples, be regenerative and sustaining and look out as far as 50 years. It will be multicultural and take into consideration the incomes of a diverse GNJ population.

The final plan shall include:

1. A vision statement in keeping with the GNJ mission – *We make disciples of Jesus Christ and grow vital congregations for the transformation of the world.*
2. An assessment of student trends and interests in the GNJ region.
3. An assessment of current assets and proposal of how best to use them.
4. A recommendation of needed future assets.
5. Proposed strategies and programs that are innovative and will connect with students in the GNJ region.
6. A 10 year program and operational budget including income and expenses.
7. A 10 year capital budget including income and expenses.

The outcome of a sustained GNJ student ministry will be new generations of enthusiastic student disciples of Jesus Christ who are connecting, engaging in and leading ministry in congregations and participating as healthy young people in a global society. We also anticipate congregations connecting more often and better with students, conference-wide resourcing and support of congregations and their leaders for student ministry, an increase in collaborative student ministries and GNJ organized ministries to supplement and support congregational ministries with students.

The ideal consultant will have:

- A proven track record in student consulting and programming.
- A proven track record for engaging and leading leaders through a process of learning, assessment, discovery and visioning.
- Capacity to do the program, operation and budget analysis outlined above.
- Demonstrated ability to envision and forecast future hopes of students and strategies to meet the holistic faith needs of students.