

**United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey  
Youth, College Age and Camping Ministries**

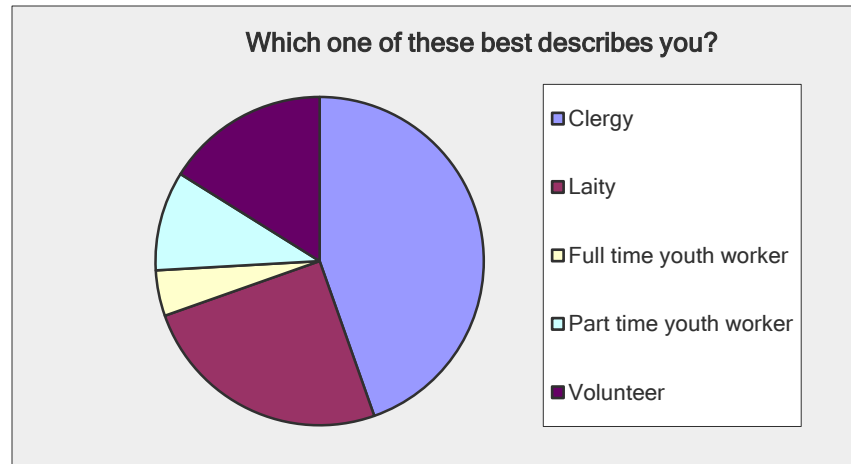
**February 2017 Survey Result**

Survey generated by:



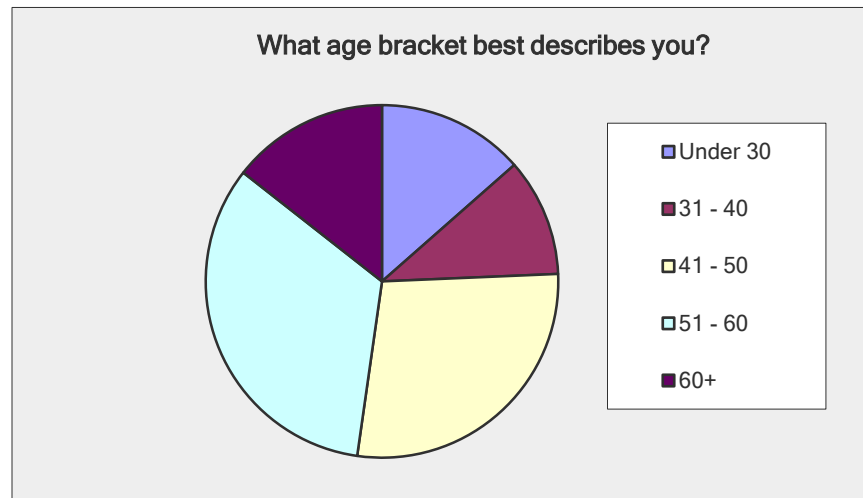
**Question 1:**

Which one of these best describes you?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Clergy	44.6%	50
Laity	25.0%	28
Full time youth worker	4.5%	5
Part time youth worker	9.8%	11
Volunteer	16.1%	18
<i>answered question</i>		<b>112</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>



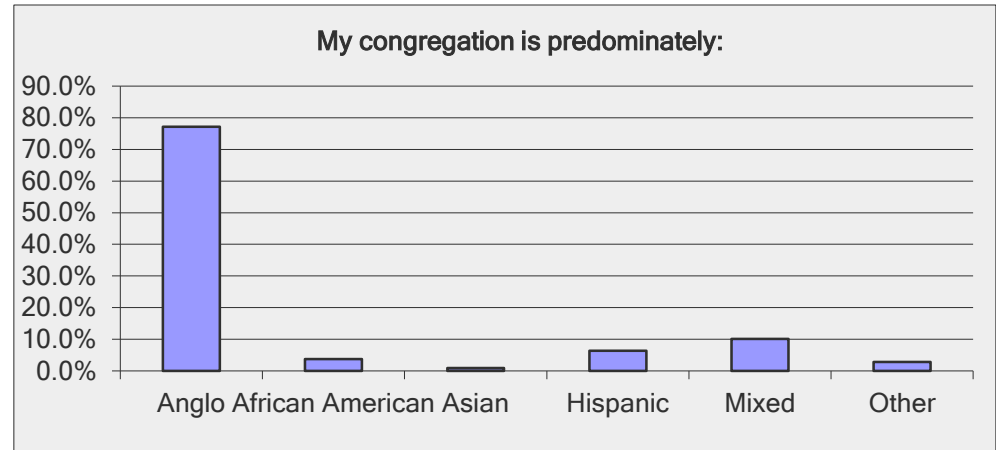
**Question 2:**

What age bracket best describes you?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 30	13.5%	15
31 - 40	10.8%	12
41 - 50	27.9%	31
51 - 60	33.3%	37
60+	14.4%	16
<i>answered question</i>		<b>111</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>



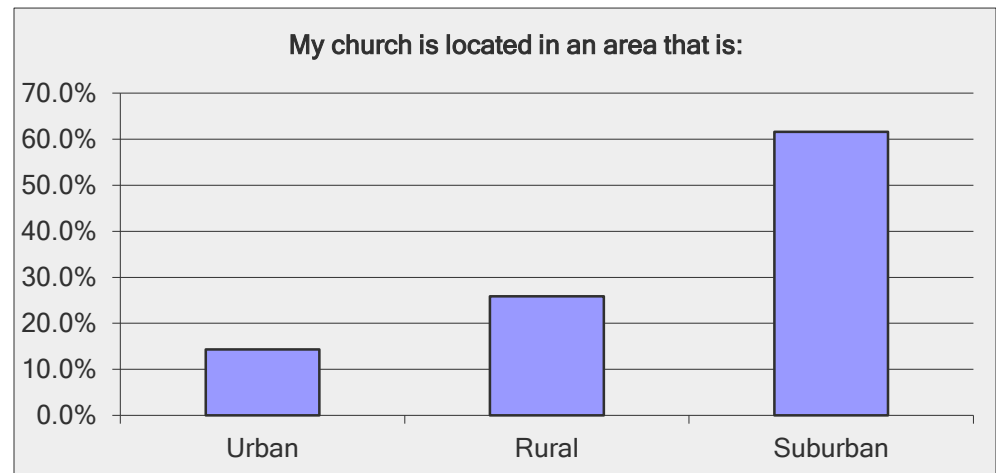
**Question 3:**

My congregation is predominately:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Anglo	77.1%	84
African American	3.7%	4
Asian	0.9%	1
Hispanic	6.4%	7
Mixed	10.1%	11
Other	2.8%	3
<i>answered question</i>		<b>109</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>3</b>



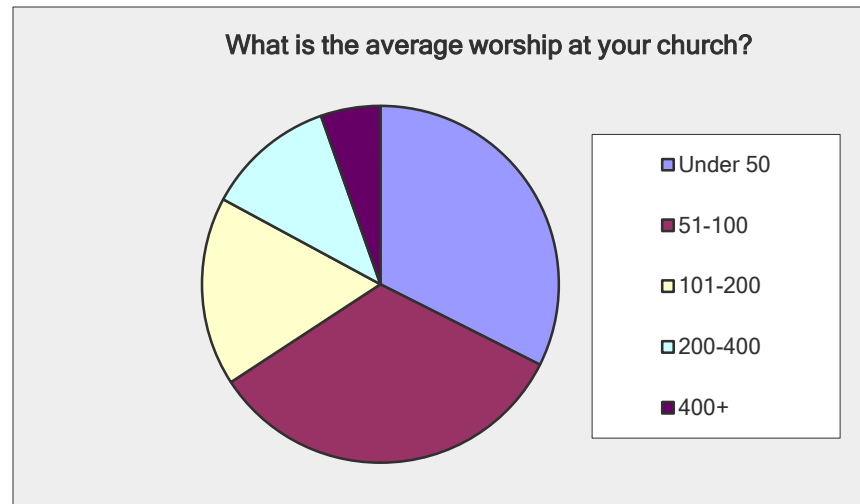
**Question 4:**

My church is located in an area that is:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Urban	14.3%	16
Rural	25.9%	29
Suburban	61.6%	69
<i>answered question</i>		<b>112</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>



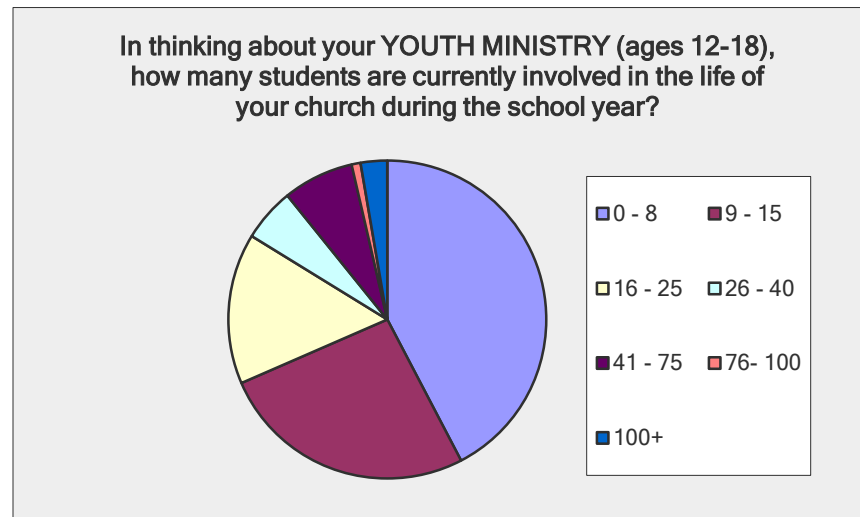
**Question 5:**

What is the average worship at your church?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 50	32.4%	36
51-100	33.3%	37
101-200	17.1%	19
200-400	11.7%	13
400+	5.4%	6
<i>answered question</i>		<b>111</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>



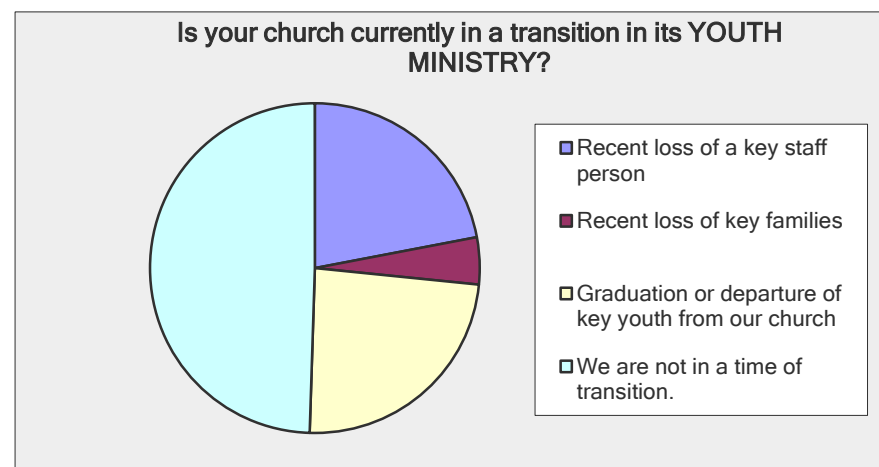
**Question 6:**

In thinking about your YOUTH MINISTRY (ages 12-18), how many students are currently involved in the life of your church during the school year?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0 - 8	42.3%	47
9 - 15	26.1%	29
16 - 25	15.3%	17
26 - 40	5.4%	6
41 - 75	7.2%	8
76- 100	0.9%	1
100+	2.7%	3
<i>answered question</i>		<b>111</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>



**Question 7:**

Is your church currently in a transition in its YOUTH MINISTRY?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Recent loss of a key staff person	22.0%	24
Recent loss of key families	4.6%	5
Graduation or departure of key youth from our church	23.9%	26
We are not in a time of transition.	49.5%	54
<i>answered question</i>		<b>109</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>3</b>

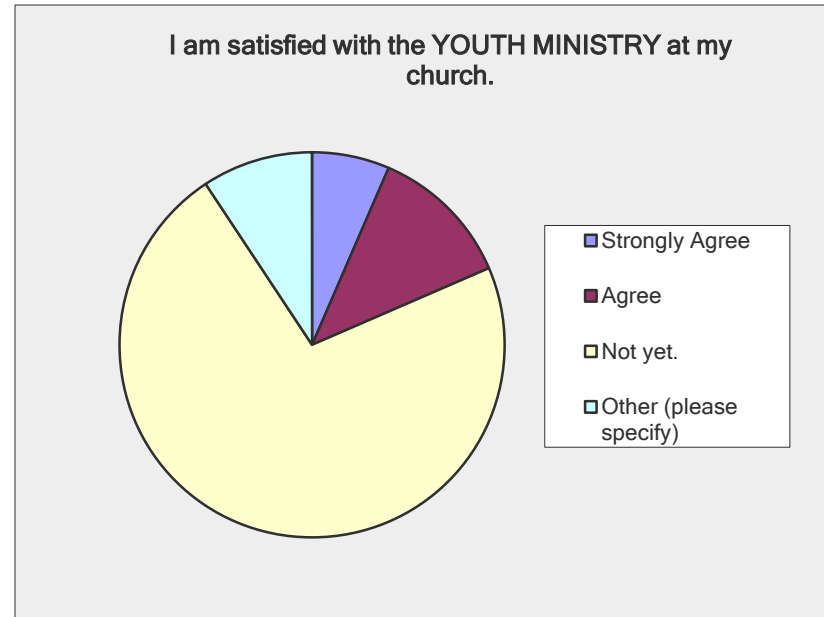


**Question 8: Name three congregations that have thriving Youth Ministries in the conference. (Compiled list)**

First UMC of CMCO	Evangelical UMC	First UMC, Millville	St. Peters UMC, Ocean City
Absecon UMC	First UMC, Ocean City	Moorestown UMC	St. Andrews UMC, Cherry Hill
Aldine UMC	Glassboro UMC	Morristown UMC	St. Andrews UMC, Toms River
Arcola UMC, Paramus	Hackettstown UMC	Morrow Memorial UMC, Maplewood	St. John's UMC
Bethany UMC, Wayne	Haddonfield UMC	Oasis UMC, Pleasantville	St. Paul's UMC, Ocean Grove
Bridgewater UMC	Hamilton UMC	Pearl River UMC	Tabernacle UMC, Erma
Calvary Korean UMC	Hope UMC, Voorhees	Pennington UMC	First UMC, Toms River
Central UMC, Linwood	Jackson UMC	Pitman UMC	Trinity UMC, Hackettstown
Chatham UMC	First UMC /Walnut Valley UMC	Iglesia Metodista Unida Wesley, Trenton	Trinity UMC, Mullica Hill
Clinton UMC	Lacey UMC	Princeton UMC	Tuckerton UMC
Collingswood UMC	Lindwood UMC	Sharptown UMC	Union City UMC
Dover First UMC, Dover , NJ	Manasquan UMC	Sicklerville UMC	West Park UMC, Bridgeton
Elmer UMC	Medford UMC	Simpson UMC, Old Bridge	

**Question 9:**

I am satisfied with the YOUTH MINISTRY at my church.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	6.5%	7
Agree	12.0%	13
Not yet.	72.2%	78
Other (please specify)	9.3%	10
<i>answered question</i>		<b>108</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>4</b>



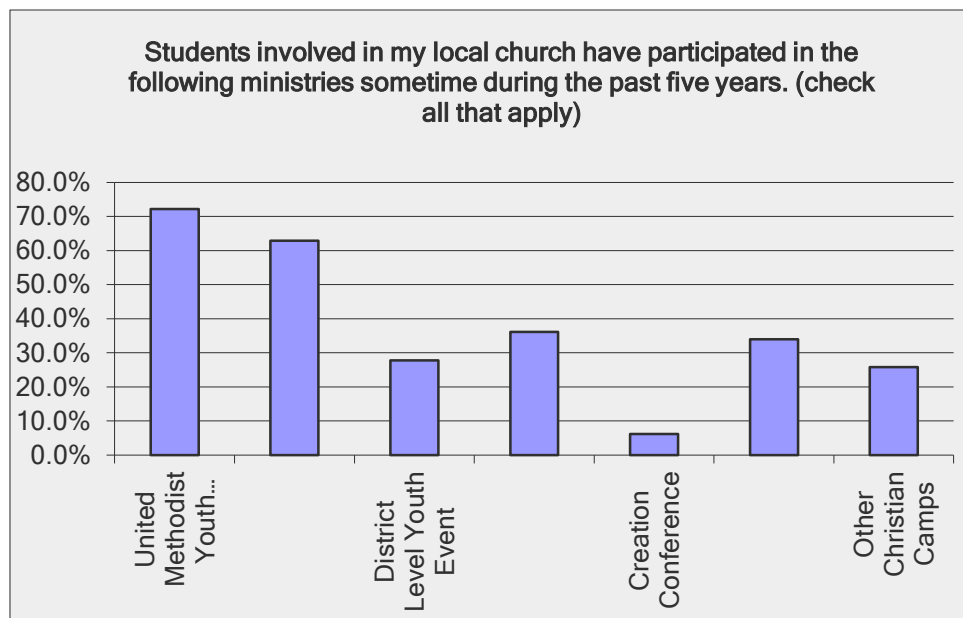
**Feedback from "Other (please specify)":**

- Do not currently have youth ministry.
- We are getting there.
- Growing and active.
- We just don't have many kids in all of the age groups which makes it tough.
- Basically satisfied but it's always good to see more!
- Agree but we can be more formalized.
- No organized youth group.
- It's as good as it can be with the size of our group.
- We are looking to hire a youth pastor
- The Youth Ministries are doing great work, but we always have a sense that there is more we could and would like to be doing.

**Question 10:**

Students involved in my local church have participated in the following ministries sometime during the past five years. (check all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
United Methodist Youth Fellowship (local church)	72.2%	70
IGNITE	62.9%	61
District Level Youth Event	27.8%	27
Ocean City Youth Weekend	36.1%	35
Creation Conference	6.2%	6
Pinelands Center or Aldersgate UMC Camp	34.0%	33
Other Christian Camps	25.8%	25
Other		31
<i>answered question</i>		<b>97</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>15</b>



**Feedback from "Other (please specify)":**

- Starr 99 family festival at Ocean Grove, concerts
- Joint Youth Fellowship of 2 congregations.
- Mission to Peru and Mexico, local mission and ministry, leadership positions in the local church, local church hiking and biking and camping trips
- Aldersgate every year until it closed; many can't afford Ignite
- Work at Vacation Bible School at local church
- They would go to camp if it were available
- MWA, missions trips
- Mission Trips and Local Mission
- Not a formal MYF unit but active youth group
- RISE summer mission trip
- Mid-Winter Advance @ America's Keswick
- B-1 Fast at our church
- Creation Festival, Youth Mission trips
- Plans are in process for September/2017 event at Pinelands Center
- Mission Trips to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky
- Camp Warwick, Warwick, NY
- Youth works, Mid-Winter Advance, Delanco Camp

**Question 11:**

IGNITE is a strong ministry for youth in the conference.					
Answer Options	Strongly agree	Agree	Not Yet	Rating Average	Response Count
	44	37	20	1.76	101
<i>answered question</i>					<b>101</b>
<i>skipped question</i>					<b>11</b>

**Question 12:**

Please rate these programs according to their effectiveness for youth in your church.					
Answer Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Yet	Rating Average	Response Count
We have a fall ministry launch for students.	20	31	57	2.34	108
We have Bible studies geared for youth.	17	42	50	2.30	109
We have mission trips / outreach opportunities for youth.	32	39	38	2.06	109
We have local service opportunities for youth.	24	61	25	2.01	110
We offer opportunities for youth to assist in worship.	42	57	10	1.71	109
We have partnerships for youth with neighboring churches.	11	23	74	2.58	108
We regularly hold volunteer training for youth leaders.	5	19	83	2.73	107
We hold weekly fellowship youth gatherings (United Methodist Youth Fellowship).	27	23	58	2.29	108
We support intentional, regular, small group ministries with youth.	19	35	54	2.32	108
We have a program to connect with youth who move away to go to college.	4	37	68	2.59	109
We have regular communication through emails with families in our church.	42	35	30	1.89	107
We have regular communication through social media with families in our church.	36	51	23	1.88	110



We regularly update our church website as it pertains to youth and families.	20	30	58	2.35	108
We have ministries that support parent engagement.	8	46	55	2.43	109
We have a culture that youth and families are eager to be a part of.	14	45	49	2.32	108
We have a clear vision for our youth ministry at our church.	12	32	65	2.49	109
We are staffed well to serve our youth.	10	33	66	2.51	109
We engage enough adult volunteer support to serve our youth.	11	40	58	2.43	109
Other (please specify)					6
<i>answered question</i>					<b>110</b>
<i>skipped question</i>					<b>2</b>

**Feedback from “Other (please specify)”:**

- We also have a youth group for elementary school children (under 12)
- There are no youth ages 12-18, no children ages 5-11.
- Our problem is that the youth do not want to participate and when/if they do show up, they are not interested in doing anything. There are opportunities to for service, etc. for them but other activities in their lives take precedence.
- We could use more so our team doesn't burn out!
- Adult leadership is weak for our youth. We have some activities, but they are sporadic rather than intentional.
- Only two 16 girls participate at all.

**Question 13:**

Which of the following would you like to see the conference provide to resource youth ministry in your church?				
Answer Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Yet	Response Count
Provide resources for a fall ministry launch that engages students.	33	53	19	105
Offer Bible study curriculum and content geared for youth.	31	57	18	106

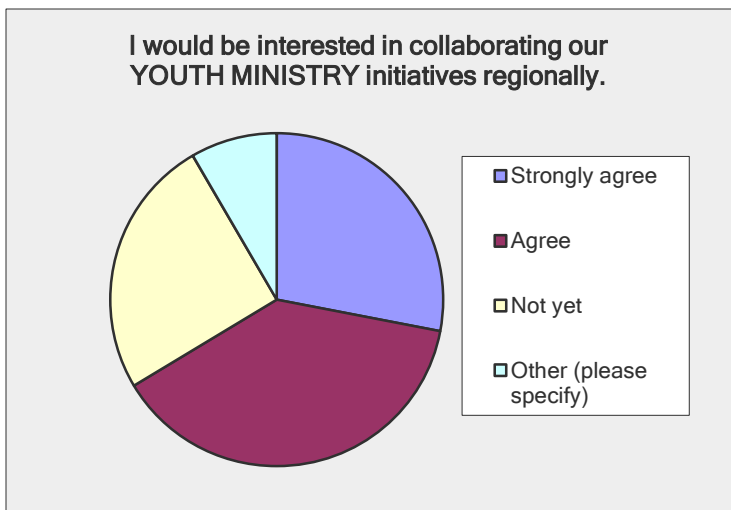
Provide connections and resources for mission trips / outreach opportunities for youth.	50	51	8	109
Provide connections and resources for local service opportunities for youth.	48	47	9	104
Teach and resource ways for youth to assist in worship.	28	50	22	100
Regularly hold volunteer training for youth leaders.	37	53	14	104
Collaborate with nearby churches to explore youth Fellowship Gatherings (United Methodist Youth Fellowship).	45	46	15	106
Provide curriculum and support for intentional, regular, small group ministries with youth.	41	47	14	102
Provide communication and resources through emails for families in our church.	29	47	24	100
Provide communication and resources through social media for families in our church.	29	50	22	101
Provide an empowering and equipping website to engage youth and families.	35	43	22	100
Provide ministries that support parent engagement.	40	55	10	105
Would you be interested in an online diagnostic of your youth ministry to evaluate key areas of success and challenges?	33	36	28	97
Other (please specify)				7
			<i>answered question</i>	<b>110</b>
			<i>skipped question</i>	<b>2</b>

**Feedback from “Other (please specify)”:**

- I would love to see a "year-round" GNJ connectional approach to engage youth in growing spiritually that either kicks off from or culminates to IGNITE. More churches are becoming smaller to sustain a meaningful youth ministry program on their own so getting churches to organically come together to form partnership is "vital" for significant youth ministry and mission work to occur.
- Actually, you've been to our church ...
- Provide an empowering and equipping social media presence to engage youth and families.
- I find that resources are available, but the culture of our church is reluctant to use them
- I don't expect the Conference to provide much if any resourcing for Youth Ministry in the local church. I also don't agree that the youth ministry of the local church should participate in all conference events.
- Some type of conference wide youth retreat
- We are looking for these resources to especially target Native American youth

**Question 14:**

I would be interested in collaborating our YOUTH MINISTRY initiatives regionally.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	28.0%	30
Agree	38.3%	41
Not yet	25.2%	27
Other (please specify)	8.4%	9
<i>answered question</i>		<b>107</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>5</b>



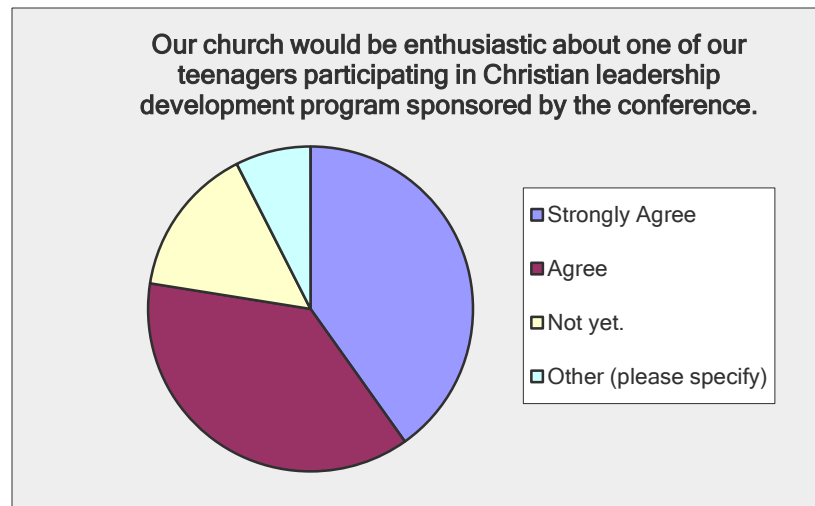
**Feedback from "Other (please specify)":**

- I wonder if regional training and local "cluster" joint youth efforts would be more effective.
- No youth attending presently.
- Not sure.
- I have wanted to do this for so long and it has not worked out when we tried.
- At times, but still want to retain day-to-day control.
- In our small rural church, people are reluctant to travel far. For us, most "regional" events are well over an hour away.
- Depends. Many times in the past it was not done with excellence, or it was completely irrelevant. It is almost hurtful to bring my students to regional gathering events.
- Not sure what your definition of collaboration is here. So I will say maybe.
- What would be the size of the "region"

**Question 15:**

**Our church would be enthusiastic about one of our teenagers participating in Christian leadership development program sponsored by the conference.**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	40.2%	43
Agree	37.4%	40
Not yet.	15.0%	16
Other (please specify)	7.5%	8
<i>answered question</i>		<b>107</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>5</b>



**Feedback from “Other (please specify)”:**

- No youth.
- Cannot speak for whole church.
- No youth attending presently.
- I think the church would be enthusiastic but I don't think the youth would be.
- Our church would be enthusiastic, but it might be a challenge to find a youth who is able to commit to a program -- might depend on time/travel required.
- If they could find the time
- Need more info

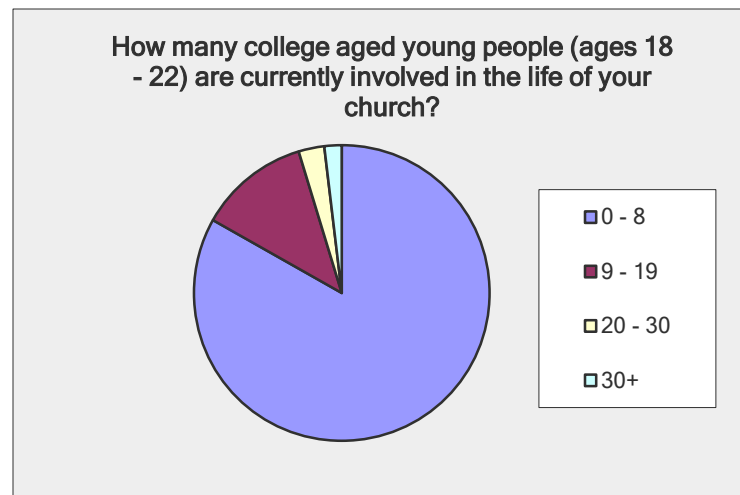
**Question 16:****What are any additional thoughts or hopes for our conference YOUTH MINISTRY?**

- I would welcome: 1) quality and wholistic support from GNJAC to help local congregations host and sustain meaningful youth (ages 0 - 18) ministry and mission work. IGNITE Youth Leader Day was a great beginning that inspire many to see that we can "do" and "be" with God's help and working together; 2) seed money for "lab" work in engaging youth in multi-generational ministry and mission work. For our denomination to survive and thrive in the 21st century, we must be intentional and insistent in connecting ALL generations to NOW (nurture, outreach, and witness) in God's love and grace! 3) A section in GNJ Digest which highlight denominational resources for youth specific ministry and mission ideas & programs, e.g. <https://umcyoungpeople.org/missions>. Frankly, a couple of presentations on mission at IGNITE or conference learning have been less than desirable or helpful; 3) incentives or encouragement in the form of grants for multiple churches to work together in "N.O.W.ing" families through engagement of youth, 0-18.
- It is going in a good direction on the conference level.
- I would like to see churches participating in joint youth activities in western part of Atlantic county
- Individual congregations know best how to run their local youth ministries, since they know the people and their goals. The Conference can provide invaluable support and resources, but top-down curriculum pressure takes local decision making away from volunteers and staff on the ground. I hope the Conference can continue to support its constituent churches. A final note, the Conference should consider dialing down the indoctrination-heavy atmosphere of Ignite, an event that is the antithesis of small groups.
- We have focused on programs not relationships.
- We want the UMC to preach the Word of God without going into politics.
- Youth need to be more involved in outreach to the community. And especially to our church family shut ins!
- IGNITE news has been encouraging and exciting.
- It's long past time to sell Aldersgate and Pinelands.
- I would like to see the conference help to foster small groups of youth ministers/directors so that they would be able to equip and support one another. I would have liked help in my career in youth ministry in not feeling so isolated.
- I'd like to grow in trust that the conference will hold to our United Methodist doctrine and polity
- I'd like to see more regional gatherings/activities, as we did 20+ years ago
- The continued personal and group development our youth leader that currently is not leading.
- Finding a way to make the youth feel church should be more important than other things in their life
- Just need more youth in the church in order to really have a strong youth program or coordinate with other area churches to have a larger youth ministry.
- Recreate the position once staffed by Erica Munoz that is dedicated solely to our youth.

- I would like to have conference-level Youth events - volleyball tournaments, band nights, movie night, etc. I also would like to have time in God's creation to shut off the outside world and look within ourselves, and to recognize that being a Christian is revitalizing and fun, too.
- Many youth would like to meet youth involved in other churches at big events. If the conference could organize events, it takes the pressure off of under-staffed, or time-crunched local youth staff.
- I really miss the conference confirmation retreat. It had been excellent.
- I hope there would be more opportunities for youth worker leadership development as well as various regional gatherings that are more organized from the conference level. Often we don't hear about opportunities until it is too late. More retreats rather than just BIG events like Ignite.
- Doing more events with all youth interact with one another.
- More collaboration in events offered, we used to district youth coordinator but that is not the case any longer
- Involvement
- Taize retreat
- We need more affordable retreat options and we need more training for adult volunteers.
- Support the local church. Support the local church youth ministry.
- I don't mean to sound cynical, but I haven't seen how the conference has been able to support and assist local thriving youth ministries. I have always had to look elsewhere for additional help, training, service, etc. I feel like the conference has been decades behind the curve when it pertains to youth ministry.
- With all the types of digital opportunities we should be able to resource leaders, empower leaders and youth, engage a diverse group of young folks and connect through online communication, and all without traveling to additional meetings. Young people are involved with so many activities it's hard to get everyone together. Something like Chuck knows Church is easy to use and conversation stems from it. Very important note- most of the successful programs don't attend conference, district, and regional events.
- Confirmation Retreats.
- I took our StudentServe Leadership Team to the annual conference last year--was disappointed the dates were changed to Sun, Mon, Tues. We only got to go on Sunday--not too much to do. I would like to see our youth be able to participate in some capacity at the conference. They need to take ownership of the church when they are young so they stay engaged with the church as they become young adults.

**Question 17:**

How many college aged young people (ages 18 - 22) are currently involved in the life of your church?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0 - 8	83.2%	89
9 - 19	12.1%	13
20 - 30	2.8%	3
30+	1.9%	2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>107</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>5</b>



**Question 18:**

Name three congregations that have thriving CAMPUS or COLLEGE-AGED ministries in the conference. (Compiled list)

- Absecon UMC
- Aldersgate UMC
- American University
- Calvary Korean UMC East Brunswick
- Eastern University
- Glassboro UMC/Rowan
- Greenhouse church
- Kingston UMC
- Korean UMC of south jersey/ Stockton
- Lycoming College
- Stockton University
- New Brunswick UMC
- New Brunswick/Rutgers Campus
- Princeton UMC
- Trinity Church through Centenary College
- Trinity UMC Hackettstown
- University of Delaware

**Question 19:**

Please rate these programs according to their effectiveness in your church or campus.					
Answer Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Yet	Rating Average	Response Count
We have a program to connect students who move away to college in our church.	4	30	72	2.64	106
We offer small groups or Bible studies geared for college aged young people in our church.	3	15	88	2.80	106
We have mission trips and service opportunities for college aged young people in our church.	11	28	66	2.52	105
We support a campus ministry nearby.	3	10	92	2.85	105
We have regular communication through emails or social media with college aged young people in our church.	11	35	59	2.46	105
We promote scholarship opportunities provided by the conference and the United Methodist Church.	24	46	33	2.09	103
Other (please specify)					6
<i>answered question</i>					<b>106</b>
<i>skipped question</i>					<b>6</b>

**Feedback from “Other (please specify)”:**

- We seem to not offer quality relationships. Yes we have FB pages but the dialogue is not regular or intentional.
- Not sure if it has happened in the past.
- College students attend, lead worship, sing and teach regularly.
- Our college students are largely home only during holidays so our communication and gatherings are sporadic.
- We have a generous Church Scholarship program.
- We do not have a viable social media presence.



**Question 20:**

<b>Which of the following would you like to see the conference provide to resource your church?</b>				
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Not Yet</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Provide training and resources to connect with young people who move away to college.	27	61	13	101
Offer Bible study curriculum and content geared for 18 - 22 year olds.	26	48	24	98
Provide connections and resources for mission and service opportunities for young people (ages 18-22).	30	59	11	100
Provide connections and resources to support a campus ministry nearby.	28	42	30	100
Offer training and resources on how to launch a campus ministry.	25	37	37	99
Provide communication tools for communicating effectively with college age young people.	30	58	12	100
Offer ideas on how to effectively promote scholarship opportunities provided by the conference and the United Methodist Church.	25	52	20	97
Other (please specify)				4
<i>answered question</i>				<b>103</b>
<i>skipped question</i>				<b>9</b>

**Feedback from “Other (please specify)”:**

- Having a list on GNJUMC.org available to query various Wesleyan Foundations or UMC ministries to college students might be helpful.
- Although most of this would be tough for college kids that don't live close to home.
- We have not considered a campus ministry
- We are looking for ways to motivate our college age Native American youth to pursue an education as well as come back to church. A culturally competent approach would be our preference.

**Question 21:****What are any additional thoughts or hopes for our conference college age and/or campus ministry?**

- College is a time to explore new things. If students living away want to be part of a church, they'll find one, or a group on campus. Maybe I'm mis-understanding campus ministries, but I don't think it's a great use of resources to try staying in touch with former youth group kids off at school and away from the institutions of their childhood for the first time. Local 18-22 year old's should be the focus.
- We are attempting to start a young adult group at St Andrew. But I feel out of touch. Any curriculum or ideas of what these kids actually want or need would be helpful.
- Rowan University - Rowan @ GCCC nearby to our congregation
- Our particular church is close to Stockton University. Stockton has a Christian Fellowship, however, it is not meeting the needs of our college aged students in the congregation. I'd love to be resourced to help found a UMC College Ministry there.
- We first must create and initiate a college-aged ministry. We are looking to do that before Fall 2017 for the Spring 2017 High School Graduates (and prior years) to be contacted and supported.
- That college students don't stray from the church.
- We have 8 college age students who stay connected but yearn to be with others there age who love Jesus.
- Provide an environment that our college students will want to return to.
- I am hopeful, but we really need to take a step forward with campus ministry in our conference. There are other conferences that are doing this well, let's learn from them. We have virtually little or no strong presence on the major universities in our state. (Rutgers, TCNJ) Princeton is getting there, but even then, there can be some steps forward.
- Again, not to sound cynical, but the majority of churches in the GNJUMC do not effectively connect with the needs of college age students. Don't see how the conference can help when they haven't done anything yet.
- Recruitment for ministry; Ignite like conference (or adapt Ignite to include them);
- Each community college could be a site near the local churches and we could partner

**Question 22:**

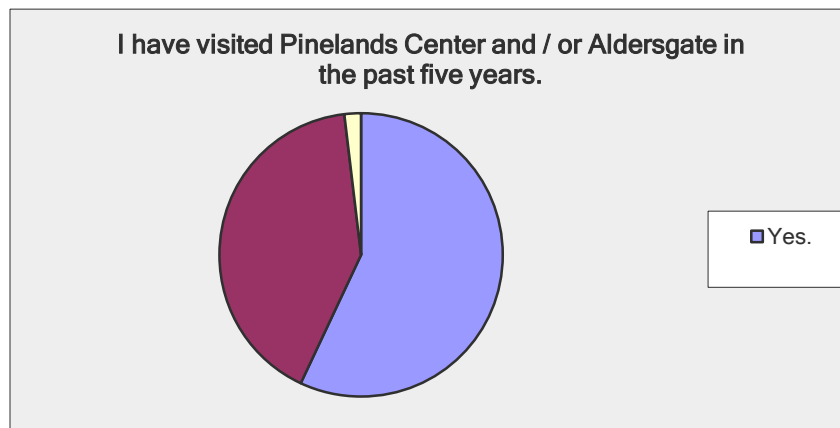
Please answer the following questions regarding retreats in your congregation.					
Answer Options	0	1	2-4	5+	Response Count
How many overnight retreats did your congregation take last year?	58	14	28	4	104
How many overnight retreats did youth (ages 12-18) from your church attend last year?	37	33	32	3	105
How many overnight retreats did adults from your church attend last year?	59	23	20	1	103
How many times a year would you estimate that your congregation utilizes space outside your church for its programs?	42	11	34	17	104
Other (please specify)					4
<i>answered question</i>					<b>105</b>
<i>skipped question</i>					<b>7</b>

**Feedback from “Other (please specify)”:**

- In 2016, we brought a group of women to a multi-day conference for one day but enough interests were generated from this experience that we will be exploring either our own retreat program or attempt participation of one overnight participation of other organized conference. As big as GNJAC is, we must recognize and address the need for retreat space that is more accessible throughout the conference, not just those in South Jersey.
- I'm afraid I don't know.
- Would use space if available.
- There could be retreats in our church but I am not aware of any other then Keswick that the youth go on.

**Question 23:**

I have visited Pinelands Center and / or Aldersgate in the past five years.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes.	57.0%	61
No.	41.1%	44
I'm not sure.	1.9%	2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>107</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>5</b>



**Question 24: Name three thriving retreat centers or camps that you know of in the Greater New Jersey area. (Compiled list)**

Aldersgate	Fellowship Deaconry	Minos para Cristo	Sisters of Christian Charity
AMC Harriman Center	Haluwasa, Hammonton	Mt. Misery	South Seaville Camp Meeting
AMC Mohican Center	Harvey cedars	Ocean Grove Camp Meeting	St Mary's Abbey
America's Keswick	Hispanic Summer Retreat	Ocean Resort - Long Branch, NJ	St. Mark UMC
Baptist Camp, Lebanon NJ	Hope	Parvin's Mill State Park	Stella Maris - Catholic
Camp Arrowhead	Ignite Conference	Pinelands Retreat Center	Stokes State Forest
Camp Delanco	Johnsonburg Presbyterian Camp	Poconos Plateau	Stony Point Retreat Center
Camp Haluwasa	Kirkridge Quiet Ways	Quaill Hill	UMC Camp Pocono Plateau
Camp Johnsonberg	Lake Champion - Eldred,NY	Roosevelt Boy Scout Camp	Warwick
Camp Mason	Lebanon Baptist	Sacred Heart, Newton	
Crossroads Camp and Retreat Center	Liebenzell Mission	Sheppard's Mill Girl Scout Camp	
Delanco Camp Meeting Association	Malaga Camp Meeting	Shiloh	

**Question 25:**

When your church looks for a retreat or conference space, which of these are most important:				
Answer Options	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Something we consider when choosing a space	Response Count
Food quality	38	43	10	91
Comfortable, updated accommodations	54	30	7	91
Private sleeping quarters	27	47	18	92
Outdoor program options	45	39	5	89
Welcoming and hospitable staff	63	21	5	89
A rustic “camping” feel	16	34	41	91
Programs provided by the camp or conference center	30	42	16	88
Summer camps for children and youth	48	22	20	90
Easy-to-use technology	41	31	18	90
Hotel and conference center quality	18	39	32	89
Space for worship, prayer and meditation	68	20	4	92
<i>answered question</i>				<b>96</b>
<i>skipped question</i>				<b>16</b>

**Question 26:**

<b>Please rate the following statements in regards to the camping ministry.</b>					
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Not Yet</b>	<b>Rating Average</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Youth in my local church have a strong interest in camping.	21	35	47	2.25	103
My church believes that Christian camping provides an opportunity for deep faith development formation in youth.	31	32	40	2.09	103
Youth from my church have attended summer camp at Pinelands or Aldersgate in the last 10 years.	29	24	50	2.20	103
Youth from my church regularly attend Christian summer camps other than Pinelands and Aldersgate.	18	20	63	2.45	101
Costs are a significant barrier to my congregation in considering camping and retreat opportunities for youth.	26	40	35	2.09	101
Programming that includes structured faith formation is important to my congregation in considering engaging with camping and retreat ministries.	43	40	17	1.74	100
Organized outdoor experiences are important to my congregation in considering engaging with camping and retreat ministries.	37	42	21	1.84	100
I have a good understanding of retreat opportunities offered at the Pinelands in the last three years.	14	29	59	2.44	102
The camping ministry is important for maintaining a healthy, robust culture in the conference.	37	42	22	1.85	101
The camping ministry is a place for outreach in a larger mission field.	45	46	11	1.67	102
Adults in my congregation would be interested in camping and retreats.	23	45	31	2.08	99
<i>answered question</i>					<b>106</b>
<i>skipped question</i>					<b>6</b>

**Question 27:**

**Please write any additional hopes or thoughts about the camping ministry below.**

- I pray and hope that we at GNJAC can together reimagine and renew a future for the Aldersgate Camp & Retreat Center which can do different amazing mission and ministry work that Pinelands Center @ Mt Misery can't! Engaging past Aldersgate participants to help fund the "makeover" of the camp would both make the "revitalization" possible and regenerate camp and retreat mission work for generations to come! My prayers for the GNJAC fruitfulness in the camping and retreat mission & ministry field will continue.
- I personally love camping/church camps but I am not representative of my congregation. It is difficult to promote these types of events in current overall culture. I see similar problems in other traditional youth organizations.
- I tried to get my daughter involved for 2 years in a row and each time camp was cancelled. It was so disheartening because both my mother and I participated in UMC camping while growing up and I wanted the same for my child. I would be thrilled to volunteer or work for the camping program as I have experience and passion for child and youth camping, activities and crafts. I feel that nature is the perfect "sanctuary" in which to grow young faith.
- I am not part of the church, but I am staff at a UMC camp. We would benefit from an active congregation least of all because of financial reasons, but first and foremost because of the beauty and solitude of the grounds. There is no better place to get in touch with a higher power than in nature. I am truly blessed to be able to work on the grounds. It is a profound spiritual experience to see groups (clerical or secular) enjoy the experience my camp has to offer. Moreover, I find great benefit in ecological education. Without camps like ours, generations will be bereft of enjoying wilderness such as have to share.
- I would like to see our camps being promoted at every conference event not just youth events. Our churches need to know that we have a thriving camping ministry. In the few years prior to the discontinuation of the summer camping program, many of our churches didn't even know that the camp was still open. Could a representative of the camp or a volunteer on behalf of the camp speak at our churches about the camp? While I understand that not all of the camp's user groups are Christian, the camps should not have to "de-Christianize" the facility to accommodate them.
- I hope the Conference can re-open the Aldersgate and Pinelands centers for summer camp. There's a lot of hand-wringing about the state of camps, religious or not, all over. The way to stay relevant is to listen to what youth need, not give them what we think they want. Camp programs that retain traditional activities but also incorporate STEM, biotech, extreme outdoor sports, a philanthropic focus or whatever's good for padding college resumes will combine the best of classic camp experience with modern concerns. Retreat opportunities for youth (and adults) at the camps may be a good pilot program or soft launch ahead of any grand re-opening.
- As my children age into 4, 14, 16, I am concerned that opportunities of them to explore faith and strength are not sufficiently drawing them closer to God but just something to do.
- More promotions and funding aid for Pinelands center and Aldersgate.
- I hope it can be revived Our kids loved it, 20 years ago! I don't know what happened.
- I am a product of youth camping ministry and support it through volunteer work at Delanco Camp. I also work as a Health Director for a week of summer youth camp at Delanco.
- I hope that we find a way to leverage these properties to serve the needs of young people and congregations for the 21st century.
- Re-open Aldersgate

- Having served on the board of a non-denominational Christian youth camp in NJ, I've done some research and many youth programs are turning to short-term mission trips instead of weeks of camping ministry. I think both have merit, and that the conference should offer both.
- I have no way of knowing the answers to #24,25,26.
- My daughter was very sad when she was signed up for Pinelands summer camp in 2015 and they cancelled two weeks before she was to leave. Luckily, we found a camp out in PA that she could attend that week. It has been sad about Pinelands closing. My daughter has the fondest memories of summer church camp and she is now a freshman in college and plans to be a camp counselor at a Methodist camp this summer out in Colorado or Idaho so I would love to see Pinelands open back up for future kids that would have the same experience my daughter had!!
- I would have liked to have additional time to distribute the survey. I received late on a Friday afternoon to my work email and so did not open the email until AFTER our Sunday Service on 2/12, and now must rely on email to efficiently send the survey to our congregation. I truly hope that summer camping returns to offer that opportunity to our youth. An option would be to have a Day Camp. I currently bus my child over 40mins to a day camp so that he is OUTSIDE all day, every day. Having programs/resources ready & available to incoming groups - removes that "What will we do there?" question from leaders' minds.
- This survey provides scant response time (less than a week). Also, some of the available answers are not responsive to the questions, such as 26(d and e). I left such questions unanswered
- I think it would be important to add the issues around environmental care in the camping field and actually throughout any children/youth ministries.
- Before changes made within last 7-10 years I was very active in camping ministry at both Pinelands & Aldersgate. Many changes seemed intended to rid former supporters
- I have been involved with Aldersgate Center for many years and have seen so many people who attended grow up to be united Methodist pastors and hear their call to ministry. Camp truly gives kids a world of good, and it is a crucial ministry of our conference. It is devastating that we don't have programs anymore.
- I don't think that resources are lacking. Just that the ordinary member of our urban church is not as connected to these resources as this is somewhat foreign to them. A team should be created to travel to individual churches to give a presentation on the various offerings so that the ordinary individual can make a judgement.
- Strong worship experience.
- I only know that the camps have been closed. If there have been opportunities other than summer we have no idea. I think the camp could have summer camp and also have retreats for NON School groups during the year.
- This survey was too long to finish.
- I grew up going to Mt Misery and have always advocated for how important the outdoors are in the Methodist ministry however I feel churches do not impress their importance, especially amongst youth, as they once did and it's very disheartening!
- Comment around Camping Ministry - I grew up going to a Christian Camp. It was very valuable to me. I would like for the next generations to have something like I did, but let's be honest- this is not what they need. There is value in camping - I just don't believe it is the best path forward for our conference. We need to move on.
- For us, we generally are looking for a facility that we can utilize for our needs. A place to stay (clean, comfortable, temperature controlled), a place to eat, and a place to allow us to execute the program we have planned for the weekend.
- Camping ministry is not something the families in my church are interested in. You cannot choose from the choices in #25.



- I think you mean Camping Ministry. We are investigating the Pinelands Center for a fall youth gathering. We looked at it a few years ago but there is a new Director now who seems to be a little more welcoming and flexible.
- It's difficult to attract young people to our traditional worship service when parents do not encourage them to come. Help in teaching older members the benefits of making and paying for changes that will attract younger people.