



Virginia Synod ELCA

MINISTRY WITH YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

TO: Adults who work with youth in the Virginia Synod ELCA

FROM: Dave Delaney, Virginia Synod Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries

DATE: Sept. 5, 2024

Greetings, siblings in Christ, and a blessed mid-Pentecost season to you all!

I would like to begin with a warm word of thanks to all who helped make our 2023-2024 Youth Ministry Program Year such a joy. The pandemic isn't exactly a distant memory, but being together has pointed more toward the future than the past and given us renewed hope for the work to which we have been called, serving the young saints of our Synod. We've had lots of successes on which to build and I anticipate that 2024-2025 will be wonderfully energetic and spirit-filled.

The links below take you to the various forms that we annually send to adults in our Synod as we prepare for the coming year's synodical youth events. We send these forms to potential Small Group leaders as well as those who provide partnership and support for them. **If you are a potential leader, you will want to look at all of them carefully and respond as soon as you can by mailing back the required forms, even if you cannot help at any of this year's events.** *NOTE: For various reasons, including identity security concerns, plus our preference for a so-called "wet signature" on the Information and Background Check forms, your best option for returning them back to the Virginia Synod Office is still by US Mail.* If you prefer and are comfortable doing so, you can scan them and send them as attachments to my email address. If you or someone you know would prefer to receive a hard copy of the original information rather than this email, please let me know. You can go to the Youth Ministry tab of the Virginia Synod website (www.vasynod.org) to find the same forms. Our Small Group leaders are normally 21 or older at the time of the event, but we do regularly involve young adults under 21 to serve in assistant or staff positions at Lost and Found or Seventh Day. They will receive a separate communication with an invitation to serve in that capacity, but this email or the forms can be forwarded to them as well.

The two forms that are required annually for anyone who leads a Synod event small group or works with a planning group (that is, forms that we need to have on file that have been completed for the current program year - Aug. 1, 2024 - July 31, 2025) are the "[Small Group Leader Information Sheet](#)" and the national criminal and sex offender "[Background Check Permission Form](#)."

Please pay special attention to the "Expectations" portion of the Information Sheet and the additional sheet "[What it Means to Be an Adult at a Synod Youth Event](#)." Please also be aware that the Information Form does not register you for the events. You should still plan to register for any event using the form for that event when the time comes. If you serve as a Small Group leader or Assistant Leader, the Synod covers the cost of your event registration except for a \$50 fee that helps us cover things like processing, t-shirts, and materials. If you are concerned that this fee will prevent you from attending the event, please contact me

directly at the Synod Office and we will be glad to work something out. Please note that for Seventh Day adult leaders pay the full registration fee rather than the \$50 discounted level.

Again, if clicking on the name of each form does not bring it up for you as a pdf, there are links at the bottom of this email to the forms on our Google Drive:

- [2024-2025 Opportunities for Adults at Youth Events in Virginia](#)

ALSO PLEASE NOTE: There are still a number of people on our mailing list for whom our email is incorrect or who have unsubscribed to synod mailings, which means we cannot send them emails at all. If you know of those people, please also get in touch with me.

This mailing is also going to a number of people, including most of our rostered ministers and church offices, who may not necessarily be participants or leaders at our events, but who probably do know adults in their congregation or ministry site who have these gifts. It will help us to know who those adults are, so **please pass the information along to them**. Some of you are temporarily at some considerable physical distance from the Virginia Synod, but we're sending this to you anyway just to keep you in the loop and let you know we haven't forgotten you during your sojourn! Likewise, if you would like to be removed from the list for whatever reason, by all means let me know.

As always, I am here to be of service to the youth, young adults, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, congregations, pastors, and other leaders of our Synod in whatever way I can. Please feel free to contact me any time if I can help you with your work in any way.

Blessings to all -

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave".

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