

2008 Council of Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Presidents (CSLYOPs)

November 6-9, 2008

Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Highlights of the 2008 CSLYOPs meeting:

- Was blessed to be hosted by the Arkansas / Oklahoma Synod of the ELCA
- Engaged deeply in the theme of “UNI-DIVERSITY”
- Participated in the “Diversity Circle”
- Brought together 110 people from 38 synods of the ELCA
- Lifted up the spiritual gifts of young people in all aspects of worship
- Heard from a young adult keynote speaker, Mikka McCracken from the Northwest Minnesota Synod about race, ethnicity, culture and the “multi” prefix
- Learned about challenges and celebrations along the road towards being an intentionally diverse church
- Passed a recommendation for increased communication between synod and churchwide LYO leaders
- Shared in the discernment process with the LYO Study Committee on Mission and Structure

What is CSLYOPs?

CSLYOPs -- the Council of Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Presidents (sometimes lovingly pronounced “sy-klops” -- is a ministry of faith formation, leadership development and ministry development for youth who lead -- and adults with whom they lead -- in LYOs and synodical youth ministries across the ELCA. The annual fall gathering is planned and led by a team of the Council’s co-chairs, co-chairs-elect, and ELCA YM staff, with strong contributions from a host synod.

The purpose of the Council is “to discuss matters of interest and concerns from the synod youth ministry organizations, as well as to share youth ministry resources, information, and to provide learning / training experiences for all council members.” (LYO Constitution 7:14).

Each meeting of the Council elects two youth leaders, one male and one female, to serve as co-chairs-elect for a two-year term. The Council also serves as an advisory group to the Board of the LYO. It is a goal of ELCA Youth Ministry and the Vocation and Education Unit to have every synod represented at this event in order to strengthen youth ministries and youth witness across the church.

Announcement of 2009 CSLYOPs dates and location

The 2009 Council of Synod LYO Presidents meeting will take place November 5-8. It will be hosted by the Central/Southern Illinois Synod at the Lake Williamson Christian Conference Center in Carlinville, Illinois.