

*EOA/WRA Xtreme Ministry Team
2018 Annual Report*

The EOA/WRA Xtreme Youth Ministry Team is made up of Youth Leaders and Youth Ministers from both Associations. Below is the report of the events that were held:

First Annual MLK Overnighter – The 2nd Annual MLK Overnighter was held at Federated Church, Chagrin Falls on January 14 & 15. Close to 60 youth and adults attended the overnighter. Rev. Valerie Wimms, Youth Minister from South Euclid UCC was our guest speaker. She gave an awesome presentation to our youth about Martin Luther King, Jr. and they were very receptive to her. The youth participated in ice breakers, games, watching movies and fellowship throughout the night. Next year's event is already being planned at Federated for January 20 & 21, 2019.

Senior High Youth Leadership Retreat – This year's retreat was cancelled due to not enough registrations. The team hopes to host another retreat in 2019.

Great Summer Serve – This year's Summer Serve was held at Christ Church in Orrville on Sunday, August 12. Lisa Yeagley, Youth Director, was the coordinator for the event. There were 48 people total. The youth did many different service projects including painting pavilions in our local park, organizing and cleaning an all-volunteer community library, cleaning up trash from a rails to trails bike path, packed boxes of supplies to be shipped to Honduras for CAMO, helped get a big fundraiser mailing ready for a non-profit organization, and we made 25 school kits for CAMO with supplies brought from all the churches. Groups who returned early also helped fill bottles of laundry detergent, dish soap, and cleaner that will be given to people in need at People to People Ministries. Next year's Great Summer Serve is being planned to be held at Dover Congregational UCC in Westlake on August 14.

Youth/Faith Formation/Christian Educator Leader Retreat – The retreat was held on September 14 & 15 at the Heritage Barn at Temple Hills. Eighteen were in attendance! Karen Jepsen, who is an Ohio Certified

Prevention Consultant and Advanced Certified Trauma Practitioner lead a workshop on Saturday titled, "Mental Health First Aid for Youth". All in attendance enjoyed the workshop and left with many "tools in our toolbox".

Roadmap (A gathering for Youth Leaders) –

In February, Youth Leaders met at Pilgrim Church, Cuyahoga Falls, where Karen Abel Jepsen lead a discussion on teen suicide prevention.

In May, a group of Youth Leaders met at the Winking Lizard in Peninsula. Rev. Nayiri Karjian joined us as we discussed upcoming changes at the Conference and Association level and what our vision for youth ministry will be in the future.

Lori Wick

Youth Director, Congregational UCC, Canton