



**July 13-19, 2024**

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

### **Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!**

We are pleased to invite you and your teenagers to the **72<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Youth Conference of the churches of Christ** this summer, July 13-19 at The University of Louisville, in Louisville, Kentucky. The National Youth Conference is one of the most storied traditions among the churches of Christ. With youth attending from as far as California, New York, Michigan, Mississippi, and Texas; it stands alone as a premier event for teenagers.

This year's theme is **A.I.: Being the Real You (1 Peter 2:9-10)**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is taking off to new heights. It is blurring the line between what is real and what's not. As youth face the challenges of trying to look the part and measure up to the unreal, it is taking a toll on their spiritual, mental, and physical well-being. As we challenge our youth to be who God has called them to be, we are empowering them to be Authentic Individuals who are inspired, informed, invested, influential, and involved.

The conference is planned for youth ages 13-20. In order for youth to attend, they must attend with a designated Youth Worker from your congregation or with their own parent/guardian. Adults (non-chaperones) may be included as part of the group registration for a congregation. Adults in good standing with a local congregation wishing to attend individually may do so as capacity allows.

Registration is **\$410 per person through April 30**, which includes housing and meals. Transportation to the conference is not included. Registration from May 1- May 31 will be \$425 per person. You may register by visiting our website [nyc1952.org](http://nyc1952.org). There you will find a link to connect you to the registration page. **REGISTRATION BEGINS ON JANUARY 31.**

It is our hope and prayer that you are just as excited about this year's conference as we are! We look forward to seeing you at this year's conference. How Sweet It Is to be together again!

Sincerely,

***The National Youth Conference Leadership***



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is taking off to new heights. It is blurring the line between what is real and what's not. AI is being used to create pictures of people who have never existed, have famous singers sing songs they never really sang, and help students turn in assignments that they didn't write. In a world of Photoshop and Instagram filters, cosmetic surgeries, fillers and enhancements, we rarely get to see what is truly real. As youth face the challenges of trying to look the part and measure up to the unreal, it is taking a toll on their spiritual, mental, and physical well-being. As we challenge our youth to be who God has called them to be, we are empowering them to be Authentic Individuals who are inspired, informed, invested, influential, and involved.



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LOUISVILLE.**

## ABSOLUTELY INVOLVED

(John 4:23-24; Romans 12:9-21; 1 Peter 4:7-11)

Being active in church is more than just a Sunday thing. It is a commitment to be involved in the things of God every day. We live for God and are dedicated to being more than just casual Christians. We are absolutely involved. This is shown through our love, service, and obedience to God. Don't be satisfied being a Christian in name only. Be absolutely involved.

## AUTHENTICALLY INSPIRED

(Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 5:15-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Life in Christ is a life that is led by the Holy Spirit. While people turn to crystals, the stars, incense, and many other things for guidance and inspiration, Christians walk in the Spirit. Live authentically inspired by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

## ADEQUATELY INFORMED

(Psalm 25:4-10; 2 Timothy 3:10-15; 2 Peter 1:3-4)

Whether we ask Google, Siri, or Alexa, answers are just a search away. But are the answers that we get really going to get us where we want to be. For answers to life's more significant questions, the answer does not lie with Google, but with God. The Word of God equips us to be adequately informed in all areas of life and godliness.

## ACTUALLY INVESTED

(Mark 10:17-31; Luke 9:23-26; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

In a world full of fans, followers, and band-wagoners it is easy to lose sight of what it means to be all in for Christ. Following Christ requires commitment. It is entering into a covenant for life. How can we be actually invested in at a time when no one wants to commit to anything?

## APPROPRIATELY INFLUENCED

(Proverbs 13:20; Proverbs 27:17; 1 Corinthians 15:31-34; Hebrews 10:23-25)

Social media is full of influencers. Many youth have aspirations for being a professional influencer. Have you ever stopped to consider who are these influencers, what makes them credible, and who is actually influencing the influencers? We are all susceptible to influence. The key is for us to be appropriately influenced and become influencers for Christ.



## ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

The National Youth Conference of the churches of Christ has served as connection point between teenagers and the Church through intentional programming and fellowship opportunities. By moving the event around the nation for 70 years, youth and the adults traveling with them gain unique wholesome experiences and meaningful connections to other believers. Founded in 1952 by the late Orum L. Trone Sr. of Michigan and his lovely "Georgia Peach" wife Christine, this event came at a time when opportunities for Christian fellowship among young people were rare and confined to local areas. This event brings youth from across the country to one location for fellowship and spiritual edification under the leadership of dedicated volunteers who work to uphold the tradition of the Trones and the other great leaders who helped to establish and maintain this event since 1952. A complete history of the conference and the current leadership team can be found at [nyc1952.org](http://nyc1952.org).

### **The purpose of the National Youth Conference has remained the same through the years:**

- To motivate youth to be faithful, loyal, and true to the work of the Church.
- To guide youth in the right direction that will lead to strong leadership for the cause of Christ.
- To associate with young people from other geographical areas who share the same interests.
- To give youth the privilege of self-expression.
- To give youth an opportunity to work together, exhibiting their personal worth, abilities, and God given talents.

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

Each National Youth Conference includes grade-level workshops, daily devotions, and worship services. Opportunities for prayer, repentance, baptism, and restoration are always available. Other activities are also available for youth to express their individual talents and interests in one of the following ways: Talent Show, All Conference Chorus, All Conference Drama, or Athletics. Friendly competition between the states is showcased during the Roll Call of States, and the Scrapbook Competition. There is a planned community service activity for youth as well. Information about these activities is on the website or can be sent by request.

## WHAT TO BRING

- √ Medical Insurance Card
- √ Prescription/Over the Counter Medicine
- √ Bible, Notepad, Pen
- √ Toiletries, Shower Shoes
- √ Light Jacket, Umbrella, Hat
- √ Linen (sheets, blanket & towels)
- √ Appropriate clothing for each day
- √ Athletic Shoes, Casual Shoes, and Dress Shoes



## PAGEANT INFORMATION

This year's conference will include the annual pageant for Mr. and Miss National Youth Conference (16-20) and Mr. & Miss National Congeniality (13-15). Contestants for these titles must be the winners of their respective state pageants in these categories. There is a separate registration packet for the pageant. It is available on the website and will be emailed directly upon request. If one of your youth is representing their state at this year's competition, please contact the Director Phillip Wade I at [phillip.wade@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phillip.wade@sbcglobal.net) and Pageant Coordinator Barbara Davis at [barbara.davis@baxter.com](mailto:barbara.davis@baxter.com).

## MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Although we will have an NYC Medical Team on-hand, in case of emergency situations, Youth Workers are asked to take care of any minor issues with your group. To equip Youth Workers with doing so, each group is asked to bring a small or travel sized first aid kit with them. Youth Workers are asked to check with parents prior to the conference, to ensure you have a grasp on any medications your young people may be taking on a regular basis.

## DRESS CODE

The Dress Code for the National Youth Conference is as follows:

- Modest attire is required at all times. Modest is defined as appropriately fitting, not too tight or revealing, covering the midriff and cleavage. No undergarments should be exposed. If it questionable, please leave it at home.
- No shorts except for the off-site activity and Wednesday during the athletic/free time. Shorts should be at or below the fingers when hands are placed to one's side.
- Those leading worship and devotions are encouraged to wear either (a) a collared shirt, whether full button or polo-style - or (b) a jacket with an appropriate shirt.
- Attire for Sunday worship and evening services: polo shirts, button-up shirts or blouses with skirts or pants, dresses, no t-shirts. Skirts and dresses should extend to at or below the fingers when hands are placed to one's side.
- While dressy attire is not required during the day sessions, we encourage our youth to dress in a business casual manner. Jeans are permitted. Please refrain from wearing jeans with holes that reveal your skin. No shorts or short sets.
- Attire for pageant: Dressy attire. Skirts and dresses should extend to at or below the fingers when hands are placed to one's side.
- All-Conference Chorus: Those planning to sing in the All-Conference Chorus should bring concert attire. This means solid black dresses or suits for ladies and black slacks with white dress-shirts or black dress-shirts for men.





## DIRECTORS

At the core of our service is our common love for nurturing Christian teenagers. The Conference leadership is comprised of dedicated volunteers. The faces have changed since 1952 but the commitment of those planning the event has never wavered.



**VICTOR  
CATHEY**  
DALLAS, TX

**FATE  
HAGOOD III**  
LOS ANGELES, CA

**GARY  
JONES JR.**  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

**LAMONT  
ROSS**  
DALLAS, TX

**PHILLIP  
WADE I**  
DALLAS, TX

"Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."  
- 1 Timothy 4:12

The leadership team is comprised of Directors, Coordinators, and Administration who meet year-round to protect the legacy of the Conference and ensure its perpetuity. Other adults provide valuable assistance to the Conference by serving as Teachers, Choral Directors, and Speakers during the event. Many of our current leaders attended the Conference as youth themselves and have accepted the challenge to fulfill the ongoing purpose of the organization.

Lee Bryant (Texas); Shay Wyrick Cathey (Texas); Barbara Davis (Mississippi); Joseph Edwards (Michigan); Vince Ford (Ohio); Mira Hagood (California); Earnest Hodridge (Texas); Ramon Hodridge (Texas); Terri Mays (Texas); Audria McClure (Texas); Carlina Payne (California); Stacy Ross (Texas); Patricia Teamer (Texas); Pamela Williams (Michigan) and LaShonda Worthey (Texas).

