

**To: Pastors, Youth Group Leaders, Parents and High School & College Youth**  
**From: Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley Committee on Nurturing Ministries**  
**Date: November 2009**  
**RE: 2010 PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM.**

**About Triennium:** Triennium is a Presbyterian Youth Gathering that takes place every three years at Purdue University located in West Lafayette, Indiana. This gathering is for youth who are fourteen years old, (entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2010), and up to age nineteen. There will be about 4,000 Presbyterian youth at the gathering. While there, you will participate in small group devotionals, interactive worship services, and you will have the opportunity to meet other youth from all over the United States as well as from other countries worldwide.

Susquehanna Valley Presbytery will send a delegation of between 35-55 delegates, including adult advisors. This is an experience that will never be forgotten!

**The Theme:** This year's Triennium theme is *For Such A Time As This* from Esther 4:14. The theme will be developed throughout the week with daily presentations, worship, workshops, recreation & small groups.

**The Age requirements:** Triennium participants must be at least 14 and not older than 19 years old. This event is open to high school and college students, as long as they fall within the age requirements.

**Who May Attend:** Our delegation welcomes participants of ALL ages within our age range of 14-19. We also welcome people who are extremely involved in church activities as well as ones who may not participate as often. We will welcome a limited number of 'repeaters' or people who attended in 2007. This is can be a reward for your high school seniors, or a boost to your younger youth. **Every applicant must be endorsed by the pastor or the clerk of session of the local congregation he/she is part of.**

**The Dates:** The 2010 Triennium will be taking place on July 20<sup>th</sup> – July 24<sup>th</sup>. Our Presbytery will be leaving via charter bus from North Minster Presbyterian Church in Endwell, NY on Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup> and will travel to Ohio where we will be staying at a Presbyterian Church for the night. The next morning, we will continue our journey to Purdue University. On Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, our group will be leaving Purdue University and return to the church that hosted us on July 19<sup>th</sup>. The next morning, July 25<sup>th</sup>, we will leave the church in Ohio and return back to North Minster Presbyterian Church.

All participants must attend the whole conference, and participate in approximately 2-3 pre-Triennium gatherings, including an overnight. Also, after the event, delegates will be expected to participate in approximately 3-4 worship services at various churches around the presbytery to put on a 'Triennium Worship Service' for that congregation. The local events will probably be held in the Binghamton area.

**Roommates for the week:** We will assign roommates from our delegation. Please fill in the space on the application if you have a preference and we will try to accommodate you.

**Application Deadline:** Please submit your application by **Monday, January 18, 2010 for priority consideration.** Additional applications may be accepted between January 18- February 1, 2010, but will only be considered if there is additional space. Please get your applications in early! The Presbytery Christian Nurture Team will choose the applicants, with input from your church youth leaders.

**How to Apply:** Please fill out the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley 2010 Triennium Delegation Application and Parental Consent Form. Mail the forms to the presbytery office (address on application form). Make sure to include your name & address information, your signature, signature of your church official, and parent's signature. Make a copy of all of the pages for your records before you send them in.

**A deposit of \$125 dollars is required with each application**, and will be returned if an applicant is not selected. Please make checks payable to **The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley**. The balance of \$355 will be due immediately upon notification that a delegate is selected, no later than **April 15**. If payment is not received in a timely manner, an alternate delegate may be selected from our waiting list to join our delegation, and you will have lost your opportunity to join our group. The necessary Medical Release forms and Triennium Registration Forms will be available at a later date.

**The Cost:** The cost for each participant is **\$480.00**. This will include: \$409 for all programming for the week at Purdue, accommodations at the dorms of Purdue University, all meals at Purdue, a Triennium t-shirt, plus \$71 to cover other group expenses- our Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley t-shirt, pins to trade with other delegates, meals while traveling, etc. You should plan for some additional spending money as there will be opportunities to purchase Christian books, CD's, Triennium souvenirs, and extras like sodas or other little treats. The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley will pay for the travel cost of the entire delegation by a chartered Motor Coach. For financial assistance, you should contact your home church to see if they will be able to provide you with any scholarship money for the event, or if they are willing to help you or your group with additional fund-raising. While the cost may seem high, the benefits for the youth attending this week certainly cannot be measured in dollars and cents! The Presbytery does suggest that each participant contribute at least ½ of the registration fee. We have found that delegates who have a financial stake in the week often appreciate Triennium more than those who have a 'free trip' provided for them.

**Our Covenants:** At our Pre-Triennium overnight retreat, we will form our own Presbytery Covenant that each member of the delegation will be expected to sign and agree to. Delegates will also be expected to follow the Triennium 'Guidelines for Community Life'. If a delegate breaks the covenants, they risk being sent home immediately from the Triennium at their parent's expense.

**Special Needs:** Delegates with disabilities can be accommodated. Please contact Michelle Howard for info.

**About Purdue University:** Located in central Indiana, Purdue is a large, flat campus. The weather in July is HOT and HUMID, and participants can expect to be walking at least 1mile per day. The Presbyterian Church has had a long-standing relationship with the university: not only is this event held there, many Presbyterian Women's gatherings have been held here as well. We will be housed in dormitories (girls and boys in different buildings or wings), have a nightly curfew, and eat our meals in the university dining halls. We will get up EARLY, stay up LATE and have packed days all week long.

**More about the event:** Your group may be interested in learning more about Triennium before you send in your applications. The web site for Triennium is located at: [www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org) and there is an online video available there. On Sunday, December 13, 2009, the Presbytery will host a youth gathering to inform youth, youth leaders and parents about Triennium 2010. This will take place at Northminster Presbyterian Church at 3:00pm. The address for Northminster is 711 Farm to Market Rd. Endwell, NY.

**Other Opportunities:** Small Group Leaders (minimum age 22) and Work Crew (age: 19-22). Please contact Michelle Howard directly.

**What if a youth is accepted, and ends up not being able to attend:** Unfortunately, once we submit our delegation registration from the presbytery office, we can't change our numbers. **There are no refunds available** BUT we may substitute another delegate (same sex only due to housing.). We may have a waiting list of people who would like to participate to pull from.

Please share this letter and the application form with youth that you think may be interested in attending Triennium. It is a wonderful opportunity that could have an amazing effect on someone's life!

I hope I have covered most of the basic questions that you have about the event and our delegation. Please feel free to contact Michelle Howard- (Home- 607-330-4710 E-mail [mhoward6@stny.rr.com](mailto:mhoward6@stny.rr.com)) if you have additional questions!