

Dear Valued Leader,

Exciting times are here as we step into a brand new year filled with opportunities and adventures. Despite continued change in our church groups and dreams for tomorrow, our commitment to building strong connections remains unchanged. We saw many churches, old and new, join us in this endeavor of Partnerships last year, and we can't wait to continue to see these relationships flourish.

Attached is what's available to you – our Partnerships plan. Opening it reveals a door to new friendships and growth. The heart of this plan is our goal of supporting impactful youth programs.

Imagine churches coming together, both old and new. Partnerships mean more than just teamwork; they're about sharing goals. We're dedicated to inspiring young people as we move ahead together.

Partnerships strengthen old bonds and create new ones. We're exploring new ideas in our ministry journey, and your support keeps us grounded. Excitement is our guide. This year is like a blank canvas, and together, we'll fill it with fresh ideas and hard work. Let's embrace the new year with open arms, ready for exciting connections and partnerships.

We are asking that Partner churches return their pledge forms and payments by December 15 so we are ready for registrations to open for our 2024 events. For churches still connected to the Synod of the Heartland, nothing changes and we are excited to continue to serve you.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me at ryan@synodyouth.org or 605.759.0365.

With sincere gratitude,

Ryan Feltman
Director of Youth Ministries

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HEARTLAND
Synod Youth Ministries

PRESENTS



PARTNERSHIPS

**DESIGNED TO NOURISH AND
GROW YOUTH MINISTRIES**

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PARTNERSHIPS WITH SYNOD YOUTH MINISTRIES

Partnerships will welcome both RCA and non-RCA congregations to walk with us in growing young people and youth leaders as vibrant followers of Jesus.

As your congregation considers pathways for your young people and youth leaders, Synod Youth Ministries (SYM) offers two partnership options:

1

The first option allows your church to partner at a percentage of your congregation's annual giving: .4%. (For congregations who have recently left the RCA, this is similar to what has taken place with your assessments to the regional synod.) This option allows your church to register at the earliest date, with a 15% registration discount.

Partnering with SYM at this level gives access to all events, where in the past we've had to limit events like HIS Workcamp, Power Connection Workcamp, and Middle School Retreat to RCA churches only. Partnerships also encourage the use of support services from the Office of Youth Ministry through, for example:

- Coaching volunteer youth leaders,
- Networking with paid youth ministry staff persons,
- Resourcing small and large congregations with fresh ideas and up-to-date information in the exciting and eternally important area of youth ministry.



2

The second option is for your church to participate through HIS Workcamp, Power Connection, Middle School Retreat and Rocky Mountain High at an increased registration cost. Non-partner registrations are at standard rates as space allows.



If you have questions or concerns in regards to partnerships, or want to discuss possible further options, please feel free to contact Ryan Feltman at ryan@synodyouth.org or 605.759.0365.

SYM Priorities

✝ Jesus is first and foremost.

- ✝ Relationships among congregations, youth leaders and SYM staff are valued and will be maintained and grown.
- ✝ The clear and consistent message of Jesus will come from our stage and through our events, all in line with our statement of faith.

What's included in being a SYM Partner?

You get opening day registration for major events (Rocky Mountain High, Power Connection, Power Connection Workcamp, Middle School Retreat, HIS Workcamp) AND... **the absolute lowest event registration costs** for your group!

Nine monthly gatherings of youth ministry staff persons for fellowship, encouragement, sharing ideas, and great food (okay, maybe just pizza sometimes).

Individual consulting, coaching and conversation with our Youth Ministry Director and our Event Coordinator. When you have a youth ministry "How to..." question, you can call Ryan or Zoe and they'll be eager to help you and your ministry.

Partnership Program *at a glance*

	Partner	NON-Partner
Guaranteed Event Registrations	YES	NO
Monthly Gatherings for Staff	YES	NO
Individual Consulting	YES	NO
Individual Coaching	YES	NO
Resources	YES	NO
Connection with other Partners	YES	NO
15% Registration Discount	YES	NO

Where does your partnership money go?

All partnership funds stay entirely within the Synod Youth Ministry budget. No funds go toward the expenses of other Synod of the Heartland staff and no funds go to the denominational budget of the RCA. You can be confident that partnership monies stay local and remain completely within Synod Youth Ministries.

Registration monies do not cover all the expenses of our events. Our new post-high event, ReCon, will be open to everyone. Our SYM staff and dedicated volunteers plan Rocky Mountain High over three years and also plan and implement other events and gatherings. Everyday office expenses and other parts of our employees' compensation package also add up. Making life-changing events happen takes prayer, people, time and financial support. Your Partnership is needed to keep SYM ministering to youth and youth leaders all across the Upper Midwest and beyond.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. About God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1,26-27,31; 3:22 ; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14

2. About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. and is co-equal with the Father and the Spirit. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return to earth again someday to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13

3. About The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son. He is present in the world to make us aware of our need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives to every believer a spiritual gift. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; 5:18; Galatians 5:25

4. About The Bible

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105,160; 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

5. About Human Beings

Men and women are made in the image of God, to be like Him in character, and are the supreme object of God's creation. All humans, though marred by sin, bear God's image and are therefore worthy of dignity and honor. In regards to human sexuality, please see attached link which defines in more depth our belief on marriage, gender and sexuality. <https://www.centerforfaith.com/about/statement-of-faith>

Genesis 1:27,31; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1,2

6. About Salvation

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into their life by faith.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12 ; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

7. About Eternal Security

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been saved, you cannot lose your salvation. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and the sustaining power of God that gives us this security.

John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10,14; 1 Peter 1:3-5, Romans 8:35-39; John 5:24

8. About Eternity

People were created to exist forever and will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell - to be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; Romans 6:23; 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9