

Presbytery of the Highlands  
Stated Meeting  
Youth Leader Formation Team Report  
September 9, 2025



Triennium 2025:

A group of 12 youth and 3 chaperones from the Highlands Presbytery joined with delegations from the Presbytery of North East NJ and the Hudson River Presbytery to attend Triennium 2025! Many thanks to Mae Martella, Steve Gaden and Craig Barth for serving as chaperones.

The group gathered at Morris Plains Presbyterian Church on Sunday, July 27 and returned on Friday morning, August 1<sup>st</sup>. Despite initial challenges with the bus company, the chaperones and youth stayed positive and had a wonderful time! Mae Martella, Triennium Registrar for the Presbytery of the Highlands, has shared that almost all of the youth expressed a desire to go again in 3 years, either a second time as a high school participant or as a college volunteer. We hope you will begin encouraging the youth of your church to join the Triennium delegation in 2028.

The chaperones felt that most of the changes made for the Triennium event this year were positive: all events and activities were in a more centralized location, they provided time for delegations to meet and strengthen their own connections and they provided options for the youth to choose what activities/groups were of interest to them to attend. The worship experiences were impactful and engaging.

Triennium resources including complete videos of the worship services are available at:

<https://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/>

On 8/24 the YLF team hosted a workshop for those involved in children and youth ministry. The event drew 21 participants and was held at Flemington Presbyterian Church. Dr. Clarence Wright, Pastor and Inaugural Fellow in Theology and Ministry at the Fred Rogers Institute engaged us around the theme of: "Be My Neighbor: Community Building as Faith Practice."

Through a series of thought and heart provoking questions, Dr. Wright modeled how to support youth and adults in connecting around questions about where we are from and how the neighborhoods we have lived in helped to form and continue to form who we are. He invited us to consider "Communion" as a verb and to broaden our understanding and practice of communing with one another as we center the act of gathering, eating together while remembering who Jesus is and sharing our own stories together. More information about the workshop and the questions that Dr. Wright opened up to the group will be available soon on the YLF webpage: <https://highlandspresbytery.org/young-leader-formation-team/>.

Next YLF meeting will be Friday, October 3rd at 9 am.

If you are interested in joining the YLF team, please contact Steve Shussett. We would be happy to welcome you!