

## YOUTH COMMISSION

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**Members:** Pastor: Merle Hostetler **Chair:** Michael Eigsti

**Interns:** Phil Schmidt (Goshen College)

**MYF Sponsors:** Roger & Rhonda Yoder, Matt Overman, Mary Schmidt

**JFROG Sponsors:** Kara Schrock, Matt Yoder, Tim & Sarah Koontz, Tim & Jane Yoder

**MYF Support Group:** Jeff & Chris Kauffman, Jeff & Beth Miller, Dave & Sara Chupp, Merlin Graber

**JFROG Support Group:** Tammy Gerber

**Venture Club Sponsors:** Greg & Bethany Shank, Joel & Sarah Holsopple

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◆ **In 2008. . .**

The J.FROGs and MYF in their regular activities have carried a 3-way balance of service involvements, studies on various themes (one common theme this year: *“Articulating our faith”*) and a variety of socials. Significant and stretching undertakings for the youth this summer was the MYF traveling to Toronto to serve for a week with TOOLS, a short-term service opportunity with Mennonite Central Committee – Canada, and the J.FROGs participating at “Know Jesus”, the Junior High Convention at Goshen College.

The Support Groups continue to provide significant assistance to the youth group leaders by coordinating behind-the-scenes details and fundraisers. Their services empower our sponsors. Our youth ministry intern this year doubled as a Goshen College Ministry Inquiry Program participant. He represented both a meaningful presence throughout our congregation and an effective connection between EG and Goshen College.

The Venture Club, in conjunction with our children’s ministry, *Team KID*, provided activities for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades in the summer months when *Team KID* did not meet.

◆ **This ministry connects with our EGMC mission. . .**

**1. Worship:** It remains important to see our youth active in our regular worship gatherings. This is a significantly formative time for them in their faith journeys.

**2. Transformation:** We work at trying to place youth in settings that allow them to better sense the Spirit’s nudges, that stretch their understandings and faith, and that ultimately will deepen their commitment to follow Christ in all of life.

**3. Communicating the Good News:** The primary objective for all of our youth activities is to enable our youth to understand the Good News, to better articulate their faith and this Good News, and then to communicate this Good News to the people around them. This year a primary focus in our youth groups is better understanding and practicing the speaking of our faith, striving to better balance this goal with our works of service and study.

**4. Making disciples:** Integral to youth growing in faith are the many adults who minister among them. East Goshen is good at this. Youth ministry is one way that provides adults with a variety of ways to exercise their ministry gifts, and for youth to be able to observe these ministry models. There are also our mentors/investors who play an important part in the lives of youth.

◆ **The vision for ministry in the coming year. . .**

Youth Ministry at East Goshen continues to envision providing a variety of opportunities for our youth to grow in their understanding of what it means to follow Jesus.

1. Important opportunities are the relationships the youth have and will have with numerous people in our congregation. The MYF Investment Plan is a work in progress, developing settings where adults can invest in the youth relationally.

2. Our desire is to provide for the youth this year a number of involvements that are not in their regular flow of life, opportunities for growth that allow them to sense nudges of God’s Spirit, and that stretch their understandings and faith. The MYF plan to attend Convention 2009 Columbus while the J.FROGs plan to attend Winter Youth Retreat at Camp Friedenswald.

3. Stories, stories, stories!! To hear the faith stories of others and to practice putting their faith into words.