

The 2018 Christian Regional Youth Festival planning and leadership team is excited to announce some changes taking place for CRY '18!!

The annual summer Festival, which just celebrated its 40th anniversary, has long-held a tradition of hosting its' annual event at one of the four DOC affiliated colleges in the Mid-America Region. In 2018, the Festival will add the [Marianist Retreat Center](#) to the rotation. The Marianist Center is located on 130 acres southwest of St. Louis in Eureka, MO where it is situated on the banks of the Meramec River. Adding to their already fun and spirit-filled week of learning and activities, the youth leadership team will be able to offer to participants a Beatitudes walk, a Sculpture Garden, several chapels, miles of hiking trails, a meditation walk, an outdoor labyrinth, and time spent enjoying God's creation.

The Christian Regional Youth Festival is a four day event that focuses on youth leadership and development skills. The youth planning team meets four times throughout the year in prayer, worship, planning, preparation and team building. Much of these meetings are focused on leadership and spiritual guidance; the youth receive training on leading groups and individuals, creating a safe space where all are welcome and affirmed, conflict resolution, prayer, speaking skills, problem solving, and much more. The youth also manage to fit in a few hours of mission and service work, as well as a presentation at their host church's worship service during these four meeting weekends.

CRY Festival participants are offered an experience unlike anything else in the Mid-America Region. In addition to fun, free time, and time spent getting to meet and know one another, participants engage in small group discussions, interactive and engaging workshops, mission and service projects, leadership and development opportunities, meditation and prayer, and more. All participants are awarded a certificate of completion, confirming their four days spent engaging in leadership and management development, service and spiritual growth.

The theme for CRY 2018 is 'Be the rEVOLution' based on Proverbs 10:12 "Hate stirs up conflict, but love covers all offenses." The keynote speaker is the Rev. Ayanna Johnson Watkins; Rev. Watkins come to CRY from Memphis, TN where she is currently the Director of the NBA incubate Initiative with the greater Christian Church DOC. The Festival will also offer workshops on relevant topics, such as sacred conversations on race and racism, world religions, sexual integrity, social justice and activism, table talk on hot topics, Biblical interpretation, planning and leading worship, dealing with teen drama, and more.

For more information about the Festival or to register, visit [www.mid-americadisciples.org/summer](http://www.mid-americadisciples.org/summer) or [www.mretreat.org](http://www.mretreat.org) or see us at Facebook: C.R.Y., Instagram: cry-festival. You can also email the CRY Coordinators at [crycoordinators@gmail.com](mailto:crycoordinators@gmail.com)

The 28 member youth and adult planning team invite and welcome you to join them at CRY '18.