

Youth and Young Adult Leadership Team

Report for 2022 – 2023 EOORC Annual Report

The EOORC YAYA Leadership Team met four times over the past year, in October, 2022, and January, March and May, 2023. Our work focussed on supporting Dana Ducette in her work as our Youth and Young Adult Minister, and Kristy Drost as the Director of Camp Awesome.

This was the first summer in three years that we were able to offer in-person programming at our summer camps, including Golden Lake, Lau-Ren, Rideau Hills, Kagama, and Kalalla overnight camps, and Camp Awesome (day camp). All of the camps struggled to a greater or lesser extent to find staff and campers in the summer of 2022. The loss of momentum and the break in continuity meant that many families chose other summer activities for their children and many potential staff members either ‘aged out’ or moved on to other summer employment. None the less, all of our camps were able to offer summer programs, thanks to the dedication of their volunteer leadership and committed core staff and campers. We are not back to pre-pandemic recruitment and registration yet, but the summer of 2023 is looking considerably better than 2022.

Kirsty Drost accepted a full-time teaching position in September, 2022, so the Leadership Team reconstituted our Search Committee to find a new Director for Camp Awesome. We were delighted to welcome Nikki Nel to the position at the beginning of 2023. Nikki is a life-long camper, staff member and volunteer at Camp Lau-Ren, and is currently working part-time in children’s and family ministry at First United Church in Ottawa. The Camp Awesome position is a good fit for her, and we are very happy with her work over the winter and spring months.

We continue to support Dana and the work of Youth and Young Adult Ministry through existing programs such as:

- The Open Table (a campus ministry at U of O and Carleton that is undergoing a major reassessment this year. New campus ministry initiatives may emerge in the fall term.)
- Spiritual Care in Secondary Schools program.
- Worshiplude
- Canada Summer Job Grants for communities of faith.
- And more.

The current members of the EOORC Youth and Young Adult Ministry Leadership Team are:

1. Steve Clifton
2. Tiina Cote
3. Janet Currie-Kelk
4. Dana Ducette (**YAYA Minister, Staff**)
5. Cathy Ryan
6. David Sherwin (**Chair**)
7. Hazel Ward-Moreau

During the past year Marg Eddy left the Leadership Team for personal reasons. Marg was a strong support of YAYA ministry and she is missed, but we wish her well in her new endeavours.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. David Sherwin
Chair