

EMERGING LEADERS

The Emerging Leaders team currently has sixteen participants, including high school and college students, young adults, and ministry leaders from across the state. The team plans to welcome five new leaders during the Annual Conference. The team seeks to provide resources, engagement, and equipping opportunities throughout the Indiana Conference for emerging leaders, supporting leaders, and the local church.

We would like to highlight a few areas of involvement the team has had throughout the last conference year.

1. Collaborating with the University of Indianapolis and the INUMC Camping Ministry at Epworth Forest to provide Student Leadership Academy learning opportunities during the week of senior high camp. Five University Students supported young people throughout the week of camp, serving as counselors, students had the opportunity to participate in the workshop focused on vocational discernment and calling.
2. Growing Young – We are offering multiple learning opportunities for leaders to consider the content developed through the research of Fuller Youth Institute. Fall and Spring Cohorts have engaged in reading the book and discussing its application to their context. In 2023, 20 churches participated in the cohorts and in 2024, 16 churches are currently participating in a cohort. Conversations and training are being provided in various forms. Opportunities will continue for churches and leaders to consider how they can imagine their future with young people involved in valuable ways in their congregations. In 2023, the INUMC was awarded with the Thriving Congregations Grant from the Lilly Foundation. 25 congregations will be chosen to participate in the initiative to create Bridge-Building Congregations in 2024 and will start their work that will last throughout 2025. Five consultants will be trained by Fuller Youth Institute to work with the congregations.
3. Emerging Leaders Meetings – Middle School, High School, and College students gathered multiple times throughout the year to discuss their hopes for what it means to be the church. They provided insights, ideas, and next steps for the future of the Emerging Leaders Team and their participation in the Annual Conference. Emerging Leaders have been invited to engage in Conference, District, and Local teams that align with their passions and gifts.
4. Young Adults and College Students – Emphasis is being given to providing connection, spiritual growth opportunities, and vocational discernment experiences for young adults throughout the INUMC. In 2023 and 2024 students have participated in a faith development retreat hosted by Emily Krach and the National Gathering for Vocational Discernment – Exploration. Conversations with leadership at our UMC Campuses was a focus for 2023 and international connection is a focus for 2024.
5. In 2024, the Emerging Leaders would like to invite adults throughout our churches to get to know more young people by offering an opportunity to ask them questions about culture, church, and their current life experiences. They hope that through providing personal answers to questions that adults are asking about their generation, inter-generational conversations will accelerate. They want to help connect generations by providing open dialogue. They will begin answering questions at Annual Conference and will continue throughout the year through social media and the INUMC website.

The Emerging Leaders team will continue to serve children, youth, young adults, and all those who support them into the future. The team believes that young people are the church of today and the future and seeks to help church leaders understand how they can empower young people to lead now. All young people

1 within the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church are invited to learn more about serving on
2 the Emerging Leaders Team and can learn more here –
3 <https://www.inumc.org/ministries/children-students-and-young-adults/student-opportunities/>

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5 Emerging Leaders - Emerson Cress, Connor Johnson, Charlotte Biggs, Grace Biggs, Emma Erbele, Lydia
6 Jacobson, Gilbert Clear, Andrew Griffin, Abby Clear, Hannah Mekar, Trey Heyward, Griffin Young, Layla
7 Young, Margaret (Peggy) Foster, Stephanie Riebe, Jesse Longworth, Emily Krach

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9 Submitted by
10 Emily Krach