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# north alabama conference CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

## RESOURCE OPPORTUNITIES

### Children's Ministries

**Contagious** January 31-February 2, 2014  
*Contagious is an event designed for children's leaders and volunteers in churches of any size and any denomination. Bring your children's ministry team to join in team building, networking, worship, breakout sessions of your choice, VBS curriculum preview from at least two different companies, and much more. The schedule begins on Friday evening and ends early enough Saturday to get you home before bedtime. Held at Clearbranch UMC in Trussville, Alabama. \$59/first member of your team + \$15/additional person.*

**Exit456** March 7-8, 2014  
*This retreat is designed to aid the local church. It can serve as a precursor/follow-up to confirmation classes or it can serve as a tween retreat. The worship and teaching times are designed for 4th-6th graders. The retreat is designed so that your students can attend for three straight years and enjoy a new, exciting experience each year. Held at Camp Sumatanga. \$60/person.*

### Other Children's Ministries Opportunities

*Safe Sanctuaries Training*

*Children's Ministry Consultations*

### Church Revitalization & Transformation

**Abide**  
*The program ABIDE exists to engender the renewal of smaller churches that are: abiding in Christ, advancing God's mission and alive in God's glory. ABIDE creates leadership teams that bear "fruit that will last" (John 15:16). This model for church revitalization will be replicated by our Conference in the other districts at a later time.*

### NCD

*Natural Church Development (NCD) has quietly become a worldwide movement that is helping churches improve their health and is drawing people closer to God. This process of evaluating church health as a priority serves as a cornerstone of measuring the vitality and effectiveness of the churches in the North Alabama Conference.*

### Ethnic Ministries

**Harambee** June 26-30, 2013  
*Harambee! is an annual spiritual retreat for youth and their counselors, sponsored by the SEJ Black Methodist Church Renewal, Inc. and is designed to help youth develop spiritual, leadership and interpersonal skills while learning how to bridge the gap between generations, all while working together in Christian love. Held at Claflin University in Orangeburg, S.C.*

**SBC21** January 24-25, 2014  
*SBC21: Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century is a program designed to assist United Methodist churches with predominantly black congregations become effective in mission and ministry. It does this by linking successful congregational resource centers with congregations that are in search of new ideas and revitalization. The event offers breakout sessions and keynotes from effective leaders in the United Methodist Church. Held at St. Paul UMC in Birmingham, Alabama.*

### Other Ethnic Ministries Opportunities

*Ethnic Local Church Concerns Grants*

*Immigration Concerns*

## Missions & Advocacy

Children's Missions Camp

July 25-28, 2013

North Alabama Conference Cooperative School of Christian Mission Children's Mission Camp welcomes first through ninth graders to Camp Sumatanga to participate in the United Methodist Women's nationally endorsed children's curriculum. In addition to theme-related activities, the children enjoy all that Camp Sumatanga has to offer: swimming, hiking, canoeing, archery, and singing camp songs. There were also special events such as campfires, s'mores and games.

Other Missions Opportunities

*Volunteers in Mission Trips*

*Servants Like Jesus Grants*

## Youth Ministries

Battle of the Bands

June 3, 2013 & June 2, 2014

*Battle of the Bands is open to 10 bands across the conference to compete for prizes: a contract to lead worship at conference events, Guitar Center gift certificates and more! Held at Birmingham-Southern College's Munger Auditorium in Birmingham, Alabama. \$50/band entry.*

Bread & Butter Youth Ministry Training

August 24, 2013

*Bread & Butter is a one-day YM training blitz for all full-time, part-time, no-time and volunteer youth workers focusing on the day-to-day practical side of Youth Ministry. Speaker: Laurie Polich. Held at Gardendale-Mt. Vernon UMC in Gardendale, Alabama. \$25/person or \$120/group of five.*

Academy for Student Ministry II

Fall 2013 - Spring 2014

*ASM is an ongoing YM training program bringing an intimate group of youth workers together for 5-6 weekends over the course of the school year to study the full scope of YM and in the process build a support network of Youth Workers across North Alabama. Held at Camp Sumatanga. \$550/person. Scholarships available.*

Encounter Winter Retreat

February 21-23, 2014

*Encounter is a jam-packed winter retreat for the youth and youth leaders of the Conference offering cutting-edge speakers and musicians to create a unique worship experience amongst the hills of the Smoky Mountains. This retreat is full of fun, faith and fellowship, and offers any youth group the opportunity to connect with other Methodist Youth and bonding time with their own youth. Held at the Gatlinburg Convention Center in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. \$60/person + lodging/food.*

Method Youth Ministry Training

Spring 2014

*Method is a one-day YM training event also for all Youth Workers, volunteers to lifers, focusing on the theological foundations of Youth Ministry. Where B&B answers: What? Method will answer: Why? Held at Canterbury UMC in Mountain Brook, Alabama. \$40/person.*

Other Youth Ministries Opportunities

*Safe Sanctuaries Training*

*Youth Ministry Consultations*

## Connectional Ministries Office

*Safe Sanctuaries Training*

*Background Checks*

*Communications Consultations*

*Ministry Consultations*

*Event Planning Consultations*

*Annual Conference Planning*

The goal for the Office of Connectional Ministries is to provide equipping ministry resources to the local church. If there is anything that any of us can do to help, please contact us! If you're not sure which ministry something may assist, contact Linda or Emily in the Conference Office at (205) 226-7933.



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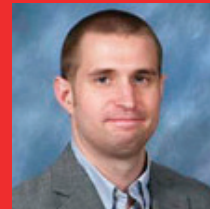
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