Camping Ministries

Summer 2020 was surely one of the first of its kind at Canonicus. After accepting the position of director in February, I had the full intention of holding a summer camping program. But as COVID-19 rapidly spread I met with our Camping and Youth Ministry Team, and we decided otherwise. This was a very difficult decision, but we did not want to endanger our campers and their families.

During the summer I reached out to our middle-school and high-school youth by developing Camp Canonicus Mission Project. This free program offered our youth a chance to volunteer their time to help with projects on the grounds and to swim and spend time with me and one another. The program was extremely successful—with 24 youth volunteers, as well as six adult volunteers.

The camp theme for the summer was to have been about Jesus' walking on the water (Matthew 14:22-33). That theme still held true during the summer and helped us keep our eyes focused on God as we spent time evaluating our camping program and imagining how it might look in the future.

We will need to modify our programs for the 2021 camping season due to COVID-19. We plan to have a strong day-camp program, as well as a limited overnight program with a focus on our emerging leaders. We will continue to partner with Hasbro Children's Hospital for a modified camp, as well as with Butler Hospital, which plans to double their time at Canonicus during summer 2021.

As we look towards themes and the direction for our camping program this summer, I am inviting our camp pastors to help shape the curriculum for their "week at camp." Working with an overall theme of *Unshakeable Faith*, we hope to develop new curriculum focusing on different scripture passages for each week of camp.

I look forward to what is to come and cannot help but feel blessed, excited, and encouraged by all the God is doing in and around me and our camping staff. Thank you for your continued prayer and support for this ministry.

Warm regards,
Amanda Hosley, Director of Camping