

CYPU Director's Report

Submitted by: Aaron Murray

Theological Foundations Weekend (TFW)

The Theological Foundations Weekend was held at Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church from March 28–30. Our speaker, Rev. Adam Kuehner, addressed the doctrine of the church. Counselors for the weekend included Ruth Callender, Thomas Callender, Julianna Erney, and Aaron Murray. We were blessed to host 29 students—more than double the attendance from TFW 2024.

Southfield graciously served as our host congregation, and we hope to return there for TFW 2026. Looking ahead, we would like to provide additional congregations and pastors in the Great Lakes-Gulf (GLG) Presbytery the opportunity to host TFW in 2027 and 2028. Currently, we are exploring the possibility of Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church in Illinois serving as the host site in 2027.

Summer Bash

The 2025 Summer Bash took place on June 7 at a public park in Avon, Indiana. Colin Elliott, an elder from Bloomington RPC, coordinated the event. Ian Wise spoke on the topic of friendship. The counseling team included Ian Tubbs, Mariah Larson, Rafa Perez, and Aaron Murray. A total of 35 students participated.

Team Membership Updates

We express our heartfelt thanks to the seniors who completed their service: Joseph Shipp, K.J. Aladejebie, Sophia Law, and Anne Callender.

New team members for this term include:

- Jane Callender (Marion)
- Elizabeth Cousens (Bloomington)
- Gideon Soma (Belle Center)
- Isaiah Shipp (Bloomington)

Returning members are:

- Sam Faris (Southside): President
- Aaron Archer (Bloomington)
- Calvin Eshelman (Orlando)
- Riley Gardner (Lafayette)

Fall Ministry (November 7–9)

The host congregation for Fall Ministry this year was Marion RPC. While CYPUP is exceedingly thankful to 2RP for hosting this event over the last few years, relocating to Marion has allowed us to expand our ability to serve a wider range of churches. Currently, our reach is limited to churches within a three-hour radius of the host congregation. By moving the event to Marion, we are positioned to send student teams to every Indiana congregation as well as to churches in Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan.

Shawn Anderson was our speaker this year, and he spoke of the topic of “Good Works” using the Westminster Confession of Faith as his outline. The talk was engaging and the students connected well with the content. After spending the night at MPRC (males in the church building and females in an AirB&B across the street), the students were sent out to their host congregations for service.

Our numbers were lower than we would have liked but we were able to send students to Belle Center, Westminster, Elkhart, and Southfield. I received

good reports from all the students and counselors that they received warm and welcoming hospitality from each congregation. The event went well, without any noticeable incidents of drama or injury. The only thing to note was on Sunday (11/9), the Midwest was hit with a significant snowstorm that delayed the arrival of some of the student teams.

Winter Conference (December 29 – January 1)

We are excited to announce that Camp Bedford (<https://www.campbedford.com/about-us>) is expected to become our permanent Winter Conference location. Rev. David Whitla was our speaker, and he gave five talks on “Living as Exiles in the World.”

It is with great joy that I briefly summarize the 2025 CYPW Winter Conference. In the Lord’s goodness, we have found what I hope will be, our standing location moving forward. Camp Bedford provided the necessary facilities to host this event. While it is exciting to have a permanent location, I am more excited to inform you of what took place at this year’s conference.

Dr. Whitla was our speaker, and he spoke on the topic of Living as Exiles in the World. In speaking to the students, it was clear that the Lord used these sermons to convict the students of hidden and unrepentant sin. They spoke to me of a renewed motivation to grow in their affection for Christ and to serve Him and His church.

On New Year's Eve, the YSLT led a Psalm Sing as we ushered in the new year. After the clock struck midnight, the students, of their own accord (not led by me, or the counselors, or our speaker), gathered in a large circle to pray with and for one another. They prayed, without pause, for 45 minutes together. After the prayer ended, they were weeping, smiling, and hugging one another. In my brief years as a pastor, it was one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen.

We all know what it is like to come home from one of these conferences on a “spiritual high.” My prayer is that this conference serves as the spark that lights the fire of their affection for Christ and not the apex of the flame. As they

were sent home, I encouraged them to continue to be involved in their local congregations. I ask two things of you:

1. Please continue to pray for our students. Pray that they would not love the world, or the things of the world. Pray that they would hate sin, and by the power of the Spirit, kill sin. Pray that they would grow in holiness, righteousness, and love. Pray that the Lord would use them to accomplish mighty things in His Kingdom in and through them. Pray that pastors/elders and deacons would be raised up from them. Pray that they would find godly husbands/wives and from that would come godly covenant households. Pray that the cares of the world would not choke out their devotion to Jesus.
2. As their local elders, please continue to invest in them, to disciple them, and to provide opportunities for them to serve. Set the bar high, and by the work of the Spirit, they can meet it.

It is a joy to serve as Director of CYPUP, and I wanted to share this joy I have with you all.

In Christ, Aaron Murray.