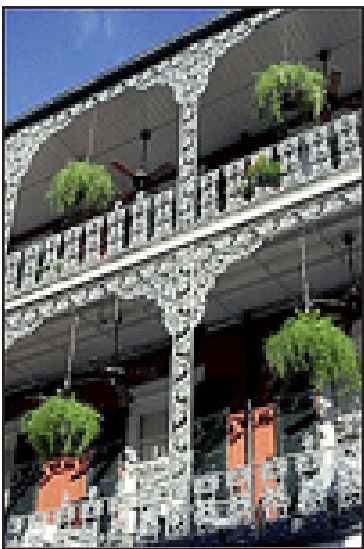


2010 National Gathering "We Believe!" Set for New Orleans

The theme for the 2007 National LCMS Youth Gathering — "We Believe!" — is based on John 20:31, "But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (ESV)

About this theme, Rev. Terry Dittmer, Director for Youth Ministry, noted, "Gathering participants always share how much it means to encounter other students who 'believe like I do' as part of the National Gathering. 'We Believe!' is a



wonderful, corporate expression of our faith in Jesus Christ, especially as we focus on the creed and our confession as we take that faith to the New Orleans community in Word, celebration, service, witness and fellowship."

Staff of the DCS Youth Ministry Office, the 2007 Gathering Executive Team, Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations and other "creative experts" from across the Church and the LCMS Southern District participated in developing the theme.

"We Believe!" is the 11th triennial National LCMS Youth Gathering and will be held July 17-21, 2010 in New Orleans; 2010 marks the event's third visit to New Orleans. Previous Gatherings in that city included "A Time for Joy" (1992) and "Higher Ground" (2001). The Gathering had planned to hold its 2007 event in New Orleans, but moved to Orlando in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

"New Orleans is once more a vibrant city for meeting the mission of the National LCMS Youth Gathering," said Gretchen

Jameson, Associate Director for LCMS Youth Ministry - Communications.

Changes have been made to Gathering participant guidelines. For the first time in Gathering history, 14-year old participants will be encouraged to attend. "Our goal is to provide opportunities for incoming freshman to experience the Gathering," reported Mark Kiessling, Gathering Program Director. "Planners will give special consideration when developing workshops and program content to meet the unique needs of these younger students."

To register for 2010 National LCMS Youth Gathering, youth participants must be at least 14 years old at the time of the Gathering; or entering their freshman year in high school at the time of the Gathering; or be a 2010 high school graduate; and may not have turned 21 by the time of the Gathering.

Congregations will be allowed to bring more adult leaders with their groups to the 2010 Gathering. "We recognize that some congregations may have concerns about the Gathering in New Orleans,"

said Kiessling. "By increasing our adult-to-youth ratio, congregations can bring more adults, and we hope to encourage groups to feel more confident in attending."

The Gathering Web site — www.lcmsgathering.com — provides parents and adult leaders the opportunity to interact with New Orleans, members of the LCMS Southern

District and the information that "helped LCMS decide that New Orleans is the best home for the 2010 Gathering," added Jameson.

Registration for We Believe, the 2010 National LCMS Youth Gathering will open in the fall of 2009. For more information, contact the DCS Youth Ministry Office at 800.248.1930 Ext. 1155. □



THE NATIONAL LCMS YOUTH GATHERING NEW ORLEANS, LA

Concordia-Chicago Announces New Grad Program

Concordia University Chicago will begin a new graduate certificate program in Not-for-Profit/Church Management. Classes will begin this summer.

This program is intended to increase the proficiency of not-for-profit and church administrators/professionals, leading to more effective management in finance and human resources to help better accomplish their mission and ministry.

"This program will benefit anyone working in the not-for-profit or church world, those who wish to switch careers and successful business professionals

who may be looking for a way to give back to the community, to name a few," said Marnee Fieldman, administrator for the College of Business.

The certificate program was developed in partnership with the University's Not-for-Profit Advisory Board whose members include Fieldman; Rev. Dan Gilbert, president, Northern Illinois District; Jack Giles, DCE, Northern Illinois District; Rick Herman, president, Wheat Ridge Ministries; Dr. John Johnson, president, Concordia University Chicago; Jessica Kollman, Concordia business student; Ruth McLaren, senior vice president, Community Bank of Oak Park River Forest; Scott Schuth, adjunct professor, Concordia University College of Business; John Walz, treasurer, Wheat Ridge Ministries; and Deaconess Jennie Waters, Concordia University.

Funding for the certificate program was provided in part by a grant from the Rupert Dunklau Foundation, which was established in 1968 and concentrates its efforts towards charities and educational institutions of the Lutheran Church. □



Concordia River Forest Pillars

CFP Program Approved at Concordia-NY

After considerable hard work and with support from Thrivent Financial, Concordia College-New York is now one of only 16 schools in New York State to be registered to provide CFP® education by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards.

Certified Financial Planners are qualified financial professionals who

help individuals plan their financial affairs, including personal finances, investments, insurance, retirement, taxes and their estate.

Dr. William Bodine, Director of Concordia's Financial Planning Concentration, said, "Our business students are now able to concentrate in Financial Planning through special CFP® courses, which are a preparation

for taking the CFP® Certification Exam upon graduation.

"After passing the exam and being designated as a CFP® Certificant by the Standards Board, our students will have many career options."

Founded in 1881, Concordia College-New York is a part of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod's Concordia University System. □

Concordia-Irvine Honored

The Corporation for National and Community Service named Concordia University Irvine to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to disadvantaged youth.

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Honoree selection factors include scope and innovativeness of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Concordia Irvine was selected for the its commitment

to integrating service into the educational curriculum. Several university courses include a service learning component requiring several hours of service related to the course.

In 2007, Concordia opened the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Involvement. In addition, Concordia's campus ministry, abbey west, coordinates and supports local and world mission efforts for the campus community. Funding for many of these initiatives was provided in major part through a "Youth Leadership Initiative" grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

In 2007, the University partnered with Campus Compact, a national association dedicated to advancing campus-based civic and

community engagement by offering resources to help campuses form effective community partnerships, support integration of service in academics, and nurture student leaders. □

