## GROUP WORKCAMP (5)

**To be held July 11 - 15, 2016**

**FAQ Sheet**

**Who is sponsoring the camp, for that matter what is a workcamp?** Group Publishing, based in Colorado, has been coordinating these workcamps for over 30 years. High school (junior/senior/both) youth groups register with Group months in advance of the camp week. These 400 or so youth group members then gather at a local school to work for 5 days on homes of those in need in the community. Simple repairs, wheelchair porches and ramps, and painting are some of the work the campers can perform. Group staff provide guidance and programs for the campers. Local volunteers and school staff provide meals, information, and financial support for this community event. The York Association of the United Church of Christ has agreed to be the co-sponsor of this event.

**What do we have to do to get ready for this week of camp?** Our steering committee made up of leaders from a variety of York Association UCC congregations has begun setting plans in motion. We will be seeking applicants who need to have work done. We also will be recruiting individuals to help double check the applications and later to do site-writing of the potential sites. We’ll need to gather funds (approx. $20,000), ladders, and other volunteers to help.

**Is there anyone else helping us?** Our steering committee is in contact with other agencies in the York County area. One particularly helpful association over the years has been the York Area Agency on Aging. We are hopeful that the local senior centers will help coordinate our search for worksites as they did in 2005, 2008, 2010, and 2014.

**What criteria is there for a worksite?** Workcamps target homes of the low income, disabled, and/or elderly. Rental properties are typically excluded, but in some instances may be included. These homeowners will make application to be part of the camp week. Repairs must be within the capabilities of the campers, and fit within the week of work. Applications may be rejected if the work is too complex or in some cases, too limited.**How many campers will be at each worksite?** Participating youth groups will be broken into teams of 6 matched to the worksite by skill levels, age, and gender. This unique blending provides the opportunity for the campers to make new friends during the week of work.

**Where do the campers sleep, eat, shower?** The campers will arrive at Spring Grove Area High School on Sunday afternoon with their youth group. They are assigned to a room in the school (separating boys from girls), move their sleeping bags and clothing to that room, and spend a bit of time getting acquainted to the school. They’ll find showers are in the locker rooms. Later the gym or auditorium will be used to gather everyone for programs, and the cafeteria will be used for the serving of meals.

**How do the campers get to their worksites?** The vans and busses used to get to Spring Grove are used throughout the week to travel to and from the worksites located usually within 30 minutes of the high school.

**What time frame are we in?** Beginning in November of 2015 applications will be distributed to senior centers, local congregations, and other places where applicants might find them. Early in the winter we will begin reviewing the applications to select the necessary sites for the workcamp. We will make visits to these sites to identify the work to be completed and to have the homeowners become acquainted with what will take place in July of 2016.

**Visit the First Capital Website:**

**http://tinyurl.com/SGGROUP2014**

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