

Hello Parents, Youth, And Wonderful Friends,

I am so excited to announce that we are headed to Veritas 2026! This is a wonderful trip that we have taken for many years, and we are able to do again. I hope this email answers all the questions you may have in deciding to register your students. I cannot wait to be with students in great worship and discipleship this winter.

Here we go:

**What:** Veritas 2026! Veritas is a high-energy, United Methodist Youth gathering that brings together over 600 6th through 12th graders for an unforgettable experience at the Ft. Smith Convention Center in Ft. Smith, AR. This event goes beyond just being a conference; it's a chance to ignite faith, make lasting memories, and deepen connections. With powerful speakers who inspire and worship that moves your spirit, Veritas is designed to leave you feeling uplifted and recharged.

**When:** Friday February 27<sup>th</sup> through Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>

**Where:** The conference is held at the Fort Smith Convention Center, and we will be staying at a hotel in the area.

**Who:** Any Students in 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

**How Much:** \$75 per student. (Scholarships available)

**Paperwork:** I have a set of paperwork attached for students, I need the first sheet in order to properly register us and the medical form is needed by the conference itself.

**Small Groups vs. Breakouts:** On the paperwork it will ask if your student is interested in taking the small group or breakout route for the conference. Your student must decide which they prefer, or they will automatically be signed up for small groups. **The breakout sessions** provide for learning and personal growth, these are “classes” that allow the students to explore different faith topics and learn from other adults, and **the small groups** open doors to encountering new people of similar ages and begin friendships, while engaging with the weekend's theme through discussions and activities.

**Registration Deadline:** Please have paperwork and payment to Kyra by **Monday December 15<sup>th</sup>!**

### **FAQ's:**

**Payment?:** Payment for the conference is \$75. This can be made to the church via check or online payment. If you are paying by check please make it out to the church with Veritas and your student's name in the memo line. If you choose to give online please do so with the give tab, mark it as a designated fund and then put Veritas and your student's name in the giving

memo/notes online. If you submit your payment online please mark on your informational form that it is how you paid.

**Scholarships?:** Scholarships for the registration cost are available, please just reach out to Kyra Anthony at [kanthony@fumcmh.org](mailto:kanthony@fumcmh.org) and we will figure that out. You can also mark on your information form that you are in need of financial assistance.

**Food?:** Dinner Friday night and meals on Saturday will be provided by the church. Friday we will stop somewhere along our travels for dinner, Saturday and Sunday breakfast will be at the hotel, Saturday lunch will be a fundraiser for the Youth Service Fund (YSF) hosted in order to help provide students and youth groups grant money for different missions and projects that they put on. Sunday lunch on the way home from the conference will need to be paid for by students.

**Money?:** Students will need money for lunch on Sunday on the way home- we typically stop at a fast food restaurant so kids can eat fairly cheaply. They are also invited to bring a little money for the YSF store that will be set up at the conference. In it they will have different ACCYM swag and things for the kids. Items in the store range from \$5-\$35 with multiple forms of payment accepted. Kyra will not be responsible for students' money so they need to make sure that if they bring money they will have enough to purchase lunch on Sunday!

**Schedule?:** I do not have a conference specific schedule but it will be late nights and semi early mornings to fit in as much as possible for the weekend. We will meet right after school to load up and head out for Fort Smith taking a couple of hours to get there where we will stop for dinner along the way, check into the conference for the start of those activities, and eventually check into the hotel. Saturday will be a full day of all of the conference activities. We then will get up Sunday morning to load up and check out of the hotel before attending Sunday mornings worship service. At the close of the conference, we will then load up for home stopping for lunch to get us home midafternoon. More detailed communication will take place during the ride home so families know when to meet their students for pick up at the church.

**Adult Sponsors?:** I am still looking for some adult sponsors to attend this event with us. If you would be interested in joining us please reach out to me. Or if you know of someone that would be interested and good for sponsoring with us let me know. Each adult will need to be safe gatherings certified so we should take care of that soon. Adult sponsors registration cost will be covered by the church.

**Any other questions:** There may be something that I have missed and for that I apologize, please do not hesitate to reach out and ask me about anything that you need to know. Just shoot me an email or call up to the church office and I will be happy to answer any other questions you may have.

VERITAS 2026

February 27- March 1, 2025

Please return this form, the waiver, and payment to Kyra by **December 15<sup>th</sup>**!

**Payment is \$75.00**

Please make checks out to First United Methodist Church with Veritas in the Memo line.

☐ Please check this box if your student could use financial assistance for registration.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

Break Out Sessions    or    Small Groups    **(Circle One)**

**T-Shirt Size:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Anything else I need to know:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Roommate Preferences:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Waiver of Liability, Medical Release & Code of Conduct

Event Name: Veritas Event Location: Fort Smith Convention Ctr. Event Dates: February 27-March 1, 2026

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Waiver of Liability**

I am the legal parent or guardian of the child or youth listed above. I hereby give my permission and full consent for my child or youth to participate in the above listed event. In consideration for my child or youth's participation in the event, I hereby release, acquit and hold harmless the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Arkansas Conference Council of Youth Ministries, and all of their staff, agents, servants, employees and volunteers from any and all liability for any damages of whatsoever kind, seen or unforeseen, which may at any time result to me, my child or youth, or my family on account of or in any way related to my child's or youth's participation in this event.

Signature of Parent/ Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Medical Information and Release**

Name of Physician \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number of Physician \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of last tetanus shot \_\_\_\_\_ List any Allergies \_\_\_\_\_  
List of medications \_\_\_\_\_  
Relevant Medical History (diabetes, epilepsy, heart murmur, etc) \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Health Insurer: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Group Number \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

I am the legal parent or guardian of the child or youth listed above. I hereby give my permission and full consent, should the necessity of medical care arise, for medical treatment or hospital services as ordered or recommended by a qualified physician or other medical care provider. Should medical help be needed, I agree to pay either directly or through my own personal health and accident insurance policy all related medical or hospital costs.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Media Consent and Code of Conduct:**

I consent to the collection and use of my personal images by photography or video recording at ACCYM events. I acknowledge these images may be used on the ACCYM and/or ARUMC websites, newsletters, publications and social media accounts. I understand that no personal information, such as names, will be used in any publications unless express consent is given.

As representatives of Christ and of The United Methodist Church, we, the participants of CCYM events, take seriously our responsibility to care for one another. This code represents affirmation of our concern for the well-being of the total community. We covenant with each other to ensure the safety of all, to make our time together most meaningful, and to care for the facility which we share.

1) Anything considered illegal under civil and criminal law in Arkansas is illegal for participants of any CCYM event. This includes drug possession and use, alcohol consumption and possession by a minor and alcohol consumption on state property, possession of firearms, weapons or fireworks, etc. Tobacco use is disallowed as well. Those 18 or older are expected to refrain from tobacco and alcohol use during the entire event.

2) Dress should be appropriate for a Christian environment.

3) All participants are expected to participate in the event in full and be at the designated places for each activity in its entirety.

4) We will respect the person, equipment and property of others as well as the public and private properties (living areas, meeting rooms, etc) in use during the event. Any accidental damage to the event facilities or property will be billed to the local church and will be the responsibility of the persons who caused the damage. Intentional damage is subject to additional penalties.

5) All social media posts, pictures, interactions regarding the event should reflect the spirit of the event and a Christ-like attitude.

6) All youth attendees who drive themselves to the event are subject to have their vehicle keys collected until the event is over.

7) Cell phones, music players, and other audio devices may be used during free time at levels that do not disturb others and cannot be heard outside the room in which it is being played.

I understand that violations of this covenant and/or other inappropriate behavior could require disciplinary action for youth and adults. Decisions about appropriate disciplinary action will be made by adult group leaders and CCYM. CCYM reserves the right to call parents or to dismiss any person who breaks this code of conduct and send them home at their own expense. I understand that neither the Arkansas United Methodist Church nor Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries will be held responsible for any costs incurred due to medical treatment that is necessary nor from any damages to any property while at the event.

Participant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(If Under 18 or If 18 and Still Living With Parent or Guardian) Parent/Guardian Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_