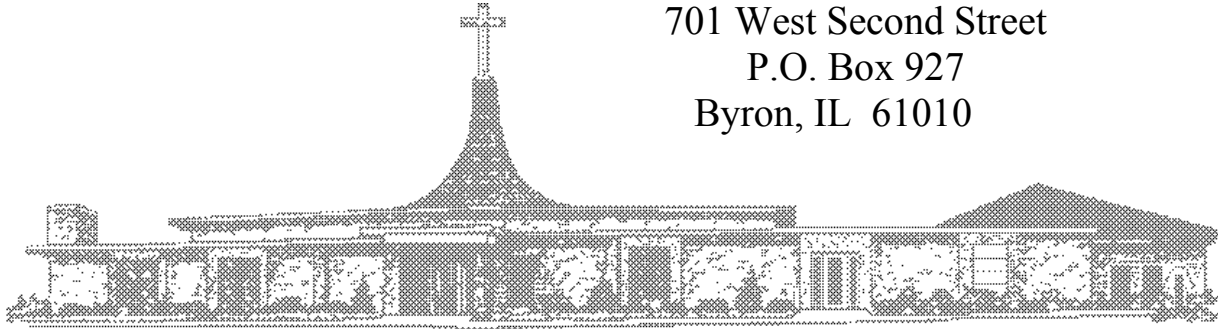


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## THE BYRON 500—A FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In a little more than a year (July 10-14, 2012), National Youth Event (NYE) will be held at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. As someone who has seen the transformative power of this event, I would like to encourage wide participation in the Illinois Conference with NYE so close. National Youth Event is traditionally open to Junior and Senior High Youth in the Illinois Conference.

So I am writing to offer what we hope to be an annual fundraiser at the United Church of Byron to begin preparing our youth groups to make the short jaunt to Indiana. Think of it as annual spiritual practice of celebration for youth and young adult ministries. *I am also writing to gauge interest in a regular overnight experience we might host at this same time. Please let me know if your group might have interest.*

On Saturday, July 9, during Byronfest, we will host **The Byron 500**. This event will highlight youth ministry in our local churches and wider community. We invite you to participate and publicize the event so that this may become a staple fundraising event for youth in all the churches of the Illinois Conference.

We only ask for a \$25 entrance fee so that we may award the winner the sum total of all entrance fees which we hope they will then use as funding for their youth group. Prizes will be given out for “Best Car Design”, “Fastest Pit Crew”, and “Most Original Concept” (car, drivers, and pit crew fashion). The race winner shall also receive a small traveling trophy.

**THE BYRON 500** shall begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. with the singing of the National Anthem. Then a soloist shall sing our state song, “Illinois, Illinois.” The announcement shall be made, “Let’s get ready to rumble” and “Young people, start your engines.” With the waving of the starting flag at three different locations around the church, the race shall begin.

Fundraising shall occur as churches and local communities raise money to help their racing crew win. The race shall be twenty (20) laps around the church, but laps may be taken off for every \$300 (the approximate registration for one person) in pledges raised within your local church. After a racing crew has raised \$1500 (five laps), laps shall be taken off for every \$600 raised. In other words, a youth group must raise \$2100 to take off six laps. We respectfully ask that the fundraising done for this event be the only money counted toward your total.

If you have any interest at all in the fundraiser or overnight, please contact Rev. Mike Mulberry by Sunday, May 15, at (815)-234-8777, [revmikemul@frontier.com](mailto:revmikemul@frontier.com). We have a committee designated to do loads of work in preparation for this event, but one of their fears is doing much work for something that does not materialize. So please contact with me as soon as possible if you have any interest. We know that times are tough for youth ministry, and we want to be great colleagues in supporting it.

Fundraising shall begin on Sunday, May 8, and end on Monday, July 4, at 5:00 p.m. C.S.T. Pledge forms must be e-mailed to Rev. Mike Mulberry at [revmikemul@frontier.com](mailto:revmikemul@frontier.com) by 6:00 p.m. on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

On the next page are the rules for **The Byron 500** and following that please find a sample pledge sheet.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail or call me.

Grace and peace,

*Mike Mulberry*

Rev. Michael S. Mulberry

# The Byron 500

## General Rules and Regulations

- Cars shall consist of a standard wardrobe cardboard box (used in moving) and can either be held by the driver or be carried by the driver with suspenders around their shoulders and attached or clipped to the box. Two sides of the box will need to be stripped away for the driver to stand inside and then ends put together for hood and bumper.
- Each five laps will require one pit stop. Pit stops shall consist of: refueling (drinking a 12 oz. beverage), tire change (untying shoes, changing shoes, and retying shoes—shoes must have laces); and windshield wiping (cleaning off glasses or sunglasses with a towel or rag). Failure to complete a full pit stop will result in a five minute penalty.
- Pit stops shall be run by the pit crew. The driver shall only be allowed to drink the beverage handed to them and step out and into their shoes. The pit crew must remain in their designated area.
- Each four laps will require a different driver. Your team must have at least three separate drivers run the race. None of those drivers shall run more than four laps consecutively. Please only use three drivers out of necessity (lack of numbers) so that you enlist more participation from your youth group. In other words, please try to use at least five drivers if you have the numbers.
- The race winner shall be the first team which has awarded laps (from fundraising) and run laps which total 20 (twenty) plus their penalty time to equal the shortest amount of team time.
- We strongly encourage participation from junior and senior high youth who will not be attending National Youth Event.

