

## Outdoor Ministry Resource Team

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4 Chairperson/Leader: Rev. Chris Nunley  
5 Information Only  
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7 Who is your Hero? Have you ever had one? They come in all shapes and sizes, all levels of  
8 ability. A Hero doesn't have to possess super powers, yet some of them do. They don't even  
9 have to star in comic books or movies; rather they can be pastors, youth, adults, counselors, kids,  
10 or those who just act like kids. Jesus is one kind of hero, but so is the kid who touched our heart,  
11 the person who led us to Jesus, the one who rescued us from ourselves. We've met some great  
12 Heroes this past year and we will recognize some of them at Annual Conference during the  
13 OMRT Report. And we hope to see new ones step up this summer as counselors, volunteers,  
14 campers. So let me ask you again, Who is your Hero? Or will you be one?  
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16 The OMRT has maneuvered through some significant challenges in this past year. We have  
17 changed leadership as Bob Vale ended his tenure as Chairperson. We have restructured our  
18 organization in order to function more efficiently by establishing an Executive Committee that  
19 will include both members of the OMRT and key clergy and lay leaders from throughout the  
20 conference. This Executive Committee will establish and update the strategic plan of the  
21 camping ministry, provide fiscal oversight and financial integrity, manage the capital campaign  
22 and provide support and accountability for the Executive Director. This is an exciting change  
23 especially as we bring on some great visionary leaders to guide us.  
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25 We've just received the completed the feasibility study report from Cargill Associates for the  
26 Campaign for Camping Ministry at Epworth Forest (the full report can be viewed or downloaded  
27 at [www.rightfuture.org](http://www.rightfuture.org) ) and is summarized in the Capital Fund Committee Report. The positive  
28 findings have led the OMRT and the Executive Committee to contract with Cargill Associates to  
29 conduct the Campaign. The preliminary training sessions have already taken place, the  
30 recruitment of leaders has begun and an adventurous schedule established to get this 24 month  
31 campaign rolling this summer. We are making progress on the way to our goal of a renewed  
32 ministry at Epworth Forest!  
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34 This summer we expect the churches of the North Indiana Conference to send 3300 or more  
35 children and youth to camp. Of those we can expect about 300 to make a first time faith  
36 commitment to Christ, about 1200 who will recommit their lives to Christ, about 500 who are  
37 faithfully continuing their journey with Christ, approximately 200 who are unsure of their level  
38 of faith and the rest somewhere in between (asking questions, learning about Jesus, discovering  
39 what it means to be a Christian). These statistics are consistent with what we saw in 2007 and  
40 2006. But we are not satisfied with that. We are committed to do more; to make a greater  
41 difference; to see more kids and youth come to camp; to make more disciples of Jesus Christ  
42 through outdoor ministries.  
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44 As another Annual Conference Year comes to a close and a new one begins, hopes mount of  
45 another year better than the one before. It's also the time of the season when our camps are  
46 buzzing with activity as new summer staff begins their training, final plans are made for the

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1 dozens of programs that will greet children and youth, and finishing touches on the facilities to  
2 make sure they are *just right* in time for the first campers to arrive. It's an exciting time of the  
3 year. Actually, it's an exciting year and it is the prayer of the North Indiana Conference Outdoor  
4 Ministry Resource Team that you'll not just *send* a kid or two to camp, but that you will *bring* a  
5 couple or a couple of dozen kids and share in the experience; that you might find or be a Hero  
6 this summer!