

2025 Children's Leader Retreat Information

The 2025 Children's Leader Retreat (CLR) is for all Children's Pastors and Children's Ministry Leaders from across the state. Whether you are a full-time or bi-vocational Children's Pastor, or a volunteer leading your church's children's ministry, **YOU & YOUR TEAM ARE INVITED!** This event will take place on January 22-25, 2025, at **The Edgewater Hotel and Convention Center** in Gatlinburg, TN.

The main goal for CLR is to equip, empower, and encourage you, as well as provide opportunities to connect and build relationships with fellow children's pastors throughout the Alabama Ministry Network. I believe you will not only come away from this retreat refreshed, but also you will make new friends, receive new innovative ideas, and gain information that will assist you in your current children's ministry. Our guest speakers for the retreat are **A/G General Superintendent, Doug Clay** and **A/G Peninsular Florida District Council's Kids Director, Sydney Morrow**.

Doug Clay A/G General Superintendent: Doug Clay was elected chief executive officer of the General Council of the Assemblies of God at the 57th General Council in August 2017. As General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, USA, part of the largest Pentecostal denomination in the world, he is a member of the denomination's Executive Leadership Team and Executive Presbytery.

Prior to his present position, Clay served the church as its general treasurer for nine years. He was superintendent of the Ohio District from 2004-2008, and pastored Calvary Assembly of God in Toledo, Ohio, from 1997-2004. Clay has also served as the Assemblies of God national youth director (1995-1997), Ohio District youth director (1989-1995) and as a youth pastor in Ohio and Iowa. He is a 1985 graduate of Central Bible College in Springfield, Missouri. Clay has a passionate love for the local church; he is a church health enthusiast, and he effectively equips leaders to grow in their calling. Clay is the author of ***Ordered Steps*** and ***Dreaming in 3D***. He and his wife, Gail, have two grown daughters and eight grandchildren.

Sydney Morrow, Kids Ministries Director of the A/G Peninsular Florida District Council: Sydney is a native of Long Island, NY but currently lives in South Florida with her husband and 5 kids. She and her husband Robbie are the Lead Pastors at LifePoint Church in Sunrise, FL. Sydney serves on staff as the Associate Pastor as well. Before coming to Sunrise, she served on staff at Harvest Church as their Kids Pastor for 13 years along with her husband who was the Associate Pastor. Sydney has served as the Peninsular Florida District Council's Kids Director, since 2012. Sydney has received her Master of Arts in Ministerial Leadership from Southeastern University and is an Ordained Minister with the Assemblies of God. She is married to Robbie Morrow, and they are proud parents to five amazing kids; Jude, 17 Liam, 16; Taylor, 16; Bayleigh, 13 and Joseph, 11. She loves to cook Italian food and finds spending time in her kitchen very therapeutic. Her favorite thing to do is to snuggle up on the couch with her hubby and kids watching the Hallmark Channel. Sydney loves kids and leaders and loves to invest her time impacting and making a difference in the lives of the next generation. She is a passionate lover of God's Word, and her goal is to see people fall in love with God's word and allow it to transform their lives."

Breakout Sessions – We will also be offering several different breakout sessions that you can take part during the retreat.

RETREAT SCHEDULE – Attached you will find a schedule of events for the retreat.

CHILDCARE:

For all that would like to bring their children, we will have a small meeting room reserved as a children's activity room for your kids. We will provide childcare for children ages 10 and under, (during the sessions only) on a **first come, first serve basis**. There is a one-time fee of \$40 per child due at registration. If you are using the childcare option, we ask that you please bring toys and snacks for your own children. Some in the past have brought their own babysitter for their children during the sessions. Whichever works best for you is great with us. We find it works best for everyone if your children are taken care of during all sessions. **Again, childcare is on a first come, first serve basis, and space is limited.** Miranda Sasser will be taking care of the children.

HOTEL:

Our hotel accommodations are at **The Edgewater Hotel & Convention Center** (edgewater-hotel.com). You can go to their website and see the facilities and all the amenities that they offer. The hotel is located at 402 River Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. It is in downtown Gatlinburg, walking distance to most of Gatlinburg's attractions, restaurants, and stores. All services and sessions are on site. As a guest, you can enjoy the hotel's **complimentary continental breakfast**, indoor pool, as well as other amenities. We feel this hotel will provide a safe, friendly, and clean environment for all our guests. **The AMN office will make your hotel reservation. You will need to register at the registration site, and we will reserve your room. The deadline to register and reserve your hotel room is December 21, 2024.** After that date, you may still register for the event, however, we cannot guarantee hotel room availability. **Note:** If are arriving early for the event, or staying afterward, you will need to make your own hotel accommodations for the nights that are not included in the event.

MEALS:

As stated above, the hotel offers **complimentary continental breakfast each day**. Both Wednesday and Thursday following the evening sessions, we will provide some refreshments for you. If you are able, **we ask that each person bring some refreshments to share with the group. These can be homemade, or store bought.** You will be on your own for lunch and dinner on Thursday and lunch on Friday. A nacho bar will be provided on Friday night at Downtown Flavortown.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Casual clothing (come prepared for cold and snow)
- Swimsuit & Towel (the hotel pool is heated)
- Snacks/Desserts to share for the evening refreshments. We will provide some main dishes, and **we ask that you bring something homemade, or store bought to add to the table.**
- Board Games, Cards, Etc.

EVENT FEES:

- **Hotel Accommodations \$340.00** per room for all three nights
- **Adults - \$120 Registration Fee per person** (includes all sessions, and activities at Downtown Flavortown.
- **Kids 5-17 - \$50 Registration Fee** (includes activities at Downtown Flavortown.
Kids under 5 are free
- **A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit** is due at registration. If you pay the deposit by credit card, your card will automatically be charged in January 15, 2025. If you have paid by check, please bring the balance due with you to the retreat.

ADDITIONAL FEES

Child Care: \$40 per child (three or more children a total of \$100)

Friday Activity Package Fee: \$50 per person (for those ONLY attending the activities at Downtown Flavortown).

REGISTRATION:

All registration is online, and it opens September 30, 2024. Simply go to the AMN website, amnag.org, under events, then Children's Leaders Retreat for the link to register. **Everyone attending must register** including all children, and anyone you are bringing with you (i.e., spouses, childcare workers, etc.). The deadline to register is **December 20, 2024**. After that date, you may still register for the event, however, we cannot guarantee hotel room availability.

I hope you are able join us for this event. I believe you will be encouraged, refreshed, and empowered from this get a way. If you would like to attend, and the only reason that would prevent you from coming to this retreat is financial, please contact my office and we will do everything we can to assist you. Come ready for fun, games, informal meetings, refreshing fellowship, worship, teaching, resource previews, idea exchange, and networking. Dress is casual. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please contact Kristi or me at 334.279.7172 Ext. 201, or knorris@amnag.org, if you have any questions about this event.

Serving Christ...Serving Kids

Vint A. Norris
AMN CE Director