

GCI GIGNITE

Overview by Koa Shima

BACKGROUND

GC Ignite is GCI's annual young adult (ages 18-30) gathering. About 40 young adults from all over the U.S gathered together over MLK weekend. Now if all we did was meet up, hang out, eat, and fellowship It would have been worth it. GC Ignite is more than a gathering; it's a gathering with a specific purpose: to equip each other for active service within our own specific local contexts. It's a time for sharing and learning from one another.

THEME

This year's theme was "Inside & Out." It speaks to a holistic relationship with the Trinity, in which all of us participate. One that impacts us at the deepest level of our being, and yet it never remains insular. We are always being sent out by the power of the Spirit, as the visible expression of Christ's love for the world!

HIGHLIGHTS

The weekend was filled with so many highlights. There were vibrant discussion-based workshops on topics like prayer, self-care, biblical literacy, multiculturalism, conflict resolution, relationships in the workplace and community, gender roles in ministry, and identifying needs in a community, etc. We fellowshiped around meals together. We worshipped together.

COMMUNITY

For me the highlight of all highlights and the common denominator is the people. More specifically, people in relationship on mission. The continued conversations outside of the workshops that I was a part of and heard going on around me was my personal favorite. Sharing stories and experiences, having conversations late in the night, over a meal, while walking to the chapel, or while playing a board game, become something more when viewed in a participatory way. They become the actual places where we experience Christ through each other in the Spirit.

GOING FORWARD

GC Ignite was a testament to the fact that God is acting in and through this young generation of emerging leaders. I'm excited about GC Ignite 2018's impact in the specific lives of all the participants going forward. My prayer and hope is that each participant would be empowered to take what they learned and experienced into their local contexts. I'm already looking forward to our next gathering, and I'd love to see you there!

