

Presbytery Youth Event **16 - 18 February at the Scots Kirk Lausanne.**

A group of 18 young people ages ranging from 18 to 28 years old attended this year's Youth Presbytery hosted by the Scots Kirk Lausanne. They gathered from Amsterdam, Bochum, Brussels, Budapest, Lausanne, Paris, Rotterdam and Sri Lanka.

We played, laughed and of course, we ate well together! A Swiss Raclette provided a "Welcome Supper" on the Friday evening. Catering for expressed dietary requirements, the dinner choices for Saturday night included Lasagnes, Shepherds Pie and a very pleasing Vegan Cheesecake!

Throughout the programme we spent time thinking and talking, worshipping and praying.

In developing the proposed theme of "Happiness" we asked ourselves the questions:

- *What difference does believing in God make to how we live and respond to the highs and lows, the joys and the sadnesses in life?*
- *Does having faith help us address the challenging and complex questions facing us today?*

"**Celebration**" (Philippians 4.4-9) , "**Resilience**" (2 Corinthians 4) and "**Trust**" (Psalm 62:1-8) emerged as keywords for us over the weekend.

The programme closed with the Youth Presbyters participating in the worship service on Sunday morning.

After a farewell potluck lunch which was time shared with many members of the congregation, the youth participants began their journeys home.

A follow-up email to all participants invited feedback and comment on the experience of the Lausanne Youth Presbytery 2018.

The following feedback and comments have been received:

"Thanks again for the warm welcome I got in Lausanne..... I enjoyed my time in Lausanne, despite the weather not working along."

"It's hard for me to give comments on the sessions themselves, knowing that the one who came up with the program wasn't around...."

“The idea to start the sessions with short movies was great, though the movies themselves were a bit outdated and full of clichés, which again helps to start a discussion.....”

“I enjoyed the discussions we had... though perhaps smaller groups for discussion sometimes achieve more because it seemed that the same people were talking all the time, just as the same people remained silent, though this might always be the case in any group. The topics we discussed were certainly very interesting.”

“I really liked coming to Lausanne, especially to learn that there are more people my own age that still go to church.... I really enjoyed this weekend in Lausanne.

“I particularly liked that we had time to debate and that each one could bring their own experience. The themes chosen for our discussions were interesting and worth pondering, and I am glad to bring back questions which I know I will have to reformulate over and over again rather than answers that would have soon become irrelevant. Thank you also for your warm welcome.”

