

Reflection:

I attended the NFAAUM Convocation with a heart seeking to learn and be empowered. In this event, I gained more than what I expected. Indeed, the convocation was a wonderful time to meet new friends, be inspired and to discover new things about our faith and ministries. It was very heartwarming to witness the solidarity and faithful service to God among the Asian caucuses.

I did not expect a 16 year old like me to have so much fun in the NFAAUM convocation. I am very much looking forward to see more young people attend our very own NAFAUM convocation next year. It gave me so much joy to be a part of such a big gathering of our Asian brothers and sisters throughout the US. These national events, along with CI and other gatherings, are wonderful venues to cultivate our gifts and nurture us, the youth, as we venture in this journey of faith and spiritual maturity.

I am truly thankful to be able to represent the young people of the NAFAUM in this event. I did not think I could go at first because of the financial needs. Yet God is gracious; He made a way to help me attend through the generosity of the NFAAUM. No words can ever describe the gratitude of me and my sister's hearts for this kindness. Along with the other youth delegates, we did our best to be of any help to the convocation. We wanted to maximize every time and opportunity of this event. It was undeniably a blessing to us to meet fellow youths who have passion in playing music for Christ.

In one night, we shared our gifts in this field to each other, and we were able to form a praise team of Filipino young people from different churches. Furthermore, we were able to build a friendship we will surely treasure even after the convocation. It was a joy to us to lead praise singings the next day. We felt how much God is working through us as we sang songs of worship. Our joy increased as we received words of encouragement and inspiration from the delegates of the event.

The plenary sessions, Bible studies and workshops are very much informative and insightful even to us, youth delegates. These activities and their speakers were very flexible to also meet our interests and needs.

As we come back to Chicago, we surely have a lot to share in our church and fellow young people. Our experiences in the NFAAUM Convocation kindled a fire in our heart to double our efforts in working harder in knowing God and making Him known.

We hope that more youth can join the next convocation. Beyond the fun experience, the NFAAUM convocation is a gathering to learn more of our responsibilities and opportunities in our local churches, our own caucus and the United Methodist faith.

We thank all our leaders in the NAFAUM and NFAAUM especially Tita Ruby Bago and Ate Laddie Galang for their support and guidance as we attended the NFAAUM Convocation. Our experiences enriched our perspectives in our ministries and strengthened our fellowship with other Asian Methodists.

Sincerely yours,
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