



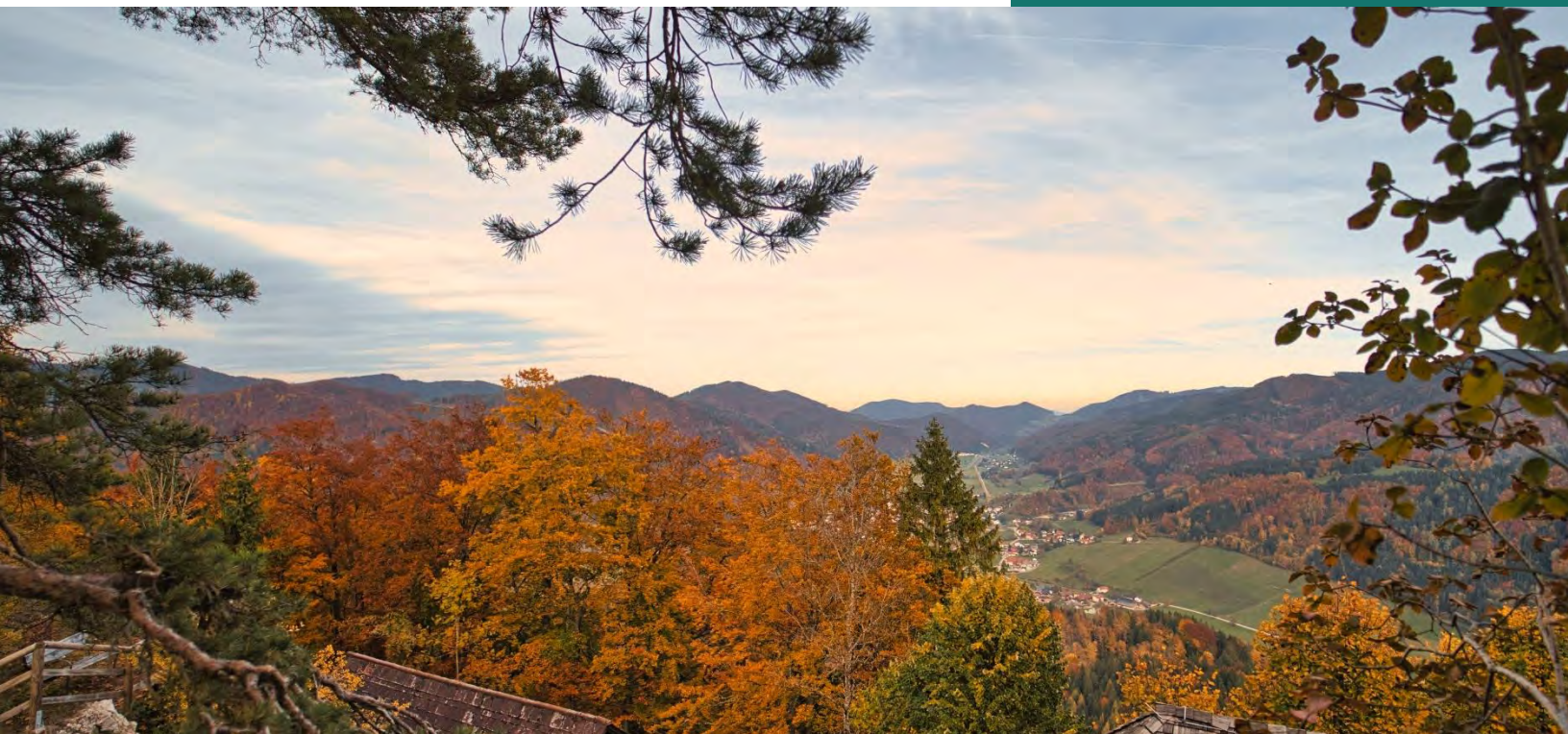
Austrian Youth Leaders Retreat 2021



By Antto Hassinen & David Wurzer

From 23th -26th FFWPU Austria held its second Young Leaders Retreat with the motto “Inspire!”. 26 youth leaders with their spouses and children (ten 3rd gens) met in the newly renovated Gafrenz training centre and created an amazing family atmosphere where the youngest children were passed from shoulder to shoulder as everyone jointly looked after one another a substantial experience of Heavenly Parent’s Holy Community!

The goal of the Retreat was to appreciate the young leaders who are active in their public mission and inspire them. We had the opportunity to create substantial plans that can be used in different areas. We focused on three main Topics (Mission, Community Care, Structure) and together we looked at what is working already and what could be done better.





Mission

We decided that we would like to focus on our Thursday evening inspiration groups that are already in place but need more direction. We will work on a 15-week course that guides guests closer to Heavenly Parent, True Parents and Heavenly Parent's Holy Community.

Community Care

We focused on Sunday Service because it is the main event where we meet in our communities. The group came up with several ideas on how to further improve the Sunday service by e.g., holding joint sermons with both a young and an old speaker talking on the same topic, organising discussion groups (or online breakout rooms) after the service, and arranging effective feedback for services.

Structure

We made plans on how to use Gafrenz, our training centre, so that we can also generate finances from renting it. The team also came up with the next steps needed to make this possible.

A special moment was also the short visit of Inseong Kwon, vice-president of the EUME region, who came all the way to meet us. He shared very joyfully and responded openly to our questions. We felt so touched by his warm heart and dedication to our region that we decided on the spot to offer a unison prayer for him and his mission.

The Retreat was designed to praise God together in song and prayer and spend time together in which we could bond. We went hiking, had a game night and a highlight of many was the last night where we told each other stories from our lives. We got to hear deep, funny and exciting stories.

On the last Day we had a Community Leaders meeting in which our national leader, Elisabeth Cook, gave an overview of the national highlights of the past year and the youth leaders could share their current situations as well as the future plans they developed during the retreat.



