

## Guidelines for the Regional Youth Council of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Northern California – Nevada

The mission of the CCNC-N Regional Youth Council is to foster personal and spiritual growth in both RYC members and the youth of the region. The RYC seeks to encourage developing leadership skills and to promote integrity through ethical decision making. The RYC will serve as role models and leaders to the Chi Rho (6-8 grade) and CYF (9-12 grade) youth of the region by creating and implementing programming for these age groups.

All RYC members will be held accountable to the RYC policies and covenant by the CCNC-N Regional Minister and the Director of Youth and Outdoor Ministries. All RYC members, youth and adults, are representatives of the CCNC-N region and are also asked to abide by all CCNC-N policies. (i.e. adult background checks, boundary trainings, staff training, event covenants)

### RYC Polity

- Youth must be enrolled in grades 9-11 at the time of application.
- Youth and adults should be supported throughout their application process and time on RYC by their home congregation.
- RYC shall consist of 8-12 youth and have at least 2 adult representatives in addition to the Regional Director for Youth and Outdoor Ministries. Diversity in gender, race, nationality, and class will be encouraged and appreciated.
- The term of service for youth will span from acceptance to RYC until their graduation from high school. The adult term of service will be a minimum of two years.
- New RYC members begin serving at the beginning of Leadership Conference each summer. Outgoing RYC members end their service at Leadership Conference each summer.
- RYC selection will begin at FebCamp each year, where the applications will be distributed. Deadline for application will be in mid-March and selection will be done at the end of March. RYC selection will be handled by all current members of RYC.
- Each year, a moderator will be chosen from among the senior members of RYC.
  - The moderator will take on extra responsibilities within RYC by working with the Director for Youth and Outdoor Ministries. They will be in charge of taking minutes for each meeting, keeping conversation on task during meetings, and serving as a role model for all RYC members. The moderator of RYC will also be the representative to the Regional Board by submitting regional reports and attending Regional Board meetings.

When a youth or adult applies to RYC and is accepted, they agree to uphold the RYC Covenant:

- RYC members are representatives to the region from their home congregations. As such, members should be active participants in the life of their church by regularly attending worship, Sunday school and youth programming, if available. Members are also encouraged to expand their leadership experiences within the congregation by serving on the deaconate, as worship leader, or on ministry teams, where such opportunities exist.
- RYC members are asked to demonstrate good character through speech and behavior at all regional events and as representatives of the region. The use of drugs, cigarettes, or alcohol at any regional event is prohibited.

- RYC encourages the growth of personal faith through spiritual practices and personal renewal/ self care.
- RYC members commit to attending all RYC meetings and regionally sponsored youth events. Members agree to participate fully in these activities by lending their creativity, energy, and time to the work of RYC.
- RYC members seek to encourage the growth of youth programming, but more importantly, they seek to encourage personal and spiritual growth in others. RYC members help to foster community at youth events by being inclusive.
- RYC membership does require extra monetary commitments. Members are asked to subsidize much of the outside purchases, like t-shirts, although most costs are covered. (Should an RYC member misplace their cross, they are financially responsible to replace it.)

In the event that an RYC member cannot fulfill the covenantal agreements, then the Regional Minister and Director of Youth and Outdoor Ministries will make the decision about the removal of the individual's membership from the group. The use of alcohol or cigarettes by underage youth, or the use of illegal drugs by any RYC member, is not accepted. Any violation of this aspect of the covenant will result in immediate dismissal from RYC. Attendance at regional events and RYC meetings is also important. If a member accumulates two unexcused absences, then they will be immediately dismissed from RYC. An unexcused absence is one in which the RYC member misses or comes late or leaves early from a meeting without contacting the Director of Youth and Outdoor Ministries one week prior to the meeting date.