

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 promote personal and spiritual growth in both RYC members and the region's youth. The RYC aims to foster the development of leadership skills and 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 Regional Youth Director. All RYC members, both youth and adults, are representatives of the CCNC-N region and are expected to abide by all CCNC-N policies. (i.e., adult background checks, boundary trainings, staff training, event covenants, **cyber policy**)

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 at least two adult representatives in addition to the Regional Director for Youth. 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 two years. If the adult member seeks a second term, that person must reapply and be accepted by the RYC. After serving two terms of two years, the adult must take a one-year break before reapplying.**
- RYC **applications will be distributed during summer camp.** The deadline for applications will be in mid-August, and selection will be done by the end of September. RYC selection will be handled by all current members of RYC, **including the adult members.**
- New RYC members begin serving at the beginning of Fall Fest. Outgoing RYC members end their service at camp after their senior year of high school.
- Each year, a moderator **and vice moderator** will be chosen from among the older members of RYC. **The vice moderator will become the moderator the following year with RYC approval. The vice moderator will take the place of the moderator in that person's absence.**
 - The moderator will take on extra responsibilities within RYC by working with the Regional Youth Director. They will be in charge of **making sure** minutes for each meeting **are taken**, keeping conversation on task during meetings, and serving as a role model for all RYC members. **The RYC moderator will submit a report of RYC activities for each Regional Board Meeting.**
 - **The moderator will find RYC members to represent the RYC in the following committees: Outdoor Ministries, Annual Meeting, and any other committee required.**

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 as a deacon, as a 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, **weapons of any kind**, 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 still have to pay to attend events as usual.
- **RYC members are required to follow the CCNC-N Cyber Policy.**

In the event that an RYC member cannot fulfill the covenantal agreements, then the Regional Minister and Director of Youth 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 Regional Youth Director one week prior to the meeting date. **Termination of an RYC member (youth or adult) will be a majority vote of the RYC youth, RYC adults, and the Regional Minister. A letter of resignation should be written if you can no longer serve on RYC. This letter should be addressed to the Regional Youth Director for CCNC-N and should be written no later than one month before resignation.**