

The Indiana Youth Council Constitution

Preamble

The Christian Youth Fellowship in Indiana exists to help youth discover the love and grace of God, to nurture the inner presence of the Holy Spirit, to reveal and to glorify a Christian lifestyle, and to provide a community of faith for young people based upon the five components of youth ministry:

Community Mission Recreation Study Worship

All members of youth groups in local congregations are considered Youth in the Christian Church in Indiana.

I. The Indiana Youth Council

A. Purpose

The Indiana Youth Council will be established in order to facilitate and coordinate all regional youth activities, except summer camps.

B. Structure

The Council will consist of the following members:

Moderator (One year term, nonrenewable)

Vice Moderator (One year term, nonrenewable)

Secretary (One year term, renewable)

No more than fifteen Youth Delegates (One year term, renewable)

No more than four Adult Delegates (Two year term, renewable once)

The Associate Regional Minister of Faith Formation (ex-officio without voting power)

C. IYC Officers and Delegates

i. Applications

Applications are available from the Regional Office and www.indianadisciples.org and must be completed and submitted to the Regional Office by the designated date each year.

ii. Elections of Officers and Returning Delegates

At the January meeting of the IYC, an elections committee consisting of all seniors on the IYC, adult delegates not up for renewal, and the

Minister of Faith Formation will elect the IYC officers and returning delegates for the following year.

iii. **Elections of New Delegates**

At Spring Youth Assembly and/or the January IYC meeting, the sitting IYC will interview applicants and elect new delegates for the following year. Allowances may be made due to extenuating circumstances, such as death or illness, approved by the IYC.

iv. **Affirmation of IYC by CYF**

At Annual Youth Assembly, the youth body will affirm the elections of the next year's IYC.

v. **Vacancies**

Vacancies on the Indiana Youth Council may be filled by the Council upon recommendation of the Executive Committee and 2/3 majority vote of entire IYC.

vi. **Provisional Operation**

In years when there are no appropriate applicants for offices, the Minister of Faith Formation and other Adult Advisors will meet to put together a provisional one year plan of operation for that year only.

D. **Qualifications for Youth and Adult IYC**

Persons applying for IYC positions should be active in their local church, attend regional camps and other regional youth activities, show an interest in being part of the youth ministry of the region, exhibit leadership qualities, be able to work together with others as a team, and have good references from their minister, local youth advisor, and other adults.

Previous service on IYC will be considered as well, but does not guarantee a position.

Anyone serving as a member of the General Youth Council of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will automatically be on the IYC, but may not serve on the Executive Committee.

All members of the IYC must have transportation. Travel is extensive, especially for the Executive Committee.

E. **Removal from IYC**

i. **Grounds for Removal**

A member of the IYC may be removed from their position for the following reasons:

- a) Missing more than two (2) required events per year.
- b) Behavior that regularly results in disorder, sexual harassment, or angry, violent, or disrespectful behavior.
- c) Failure to continue actively as a member of his/her local youth group.
- d) Any violation of the Code of Ethics of the IYC.

ii. **Process of Removal**

- a) Recommendation for removal by any member of IYC to any member of the Executive Committee.
- b) Discussion of recommendation by the members of the Executive Committee and the adult IYC members.
- c) Meeting between the individual in question, Moderator, Minister of Faith Formation, and one or more IYC adults to discuss the possibility of removal.
- d) Meeting group reports back to Executive Committee and IYC adults about the results of the meeting.
- e) If appropriate, a resignation of the individual is required.

II. **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

A. **Members**

The Executive Committee will consist of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, Minister of Faith Formation, and two IYC Adult Delegates.

B. **Duties and Responsibilities**

i. **The Moderator**

The Moderator is responsible for presiding at all meetings, regional youth functions, is a member of the Commission on Faith Formation, Outdoor Ministry Team, presides over all IYC and Executive Committee meetings, and leads the process of affirming the IYC at Spring Youth Assembly.

ii. **The Vice-Moderator**

The Vice Moderator functions as Moderator when the Moderator is absent. The Vice Moderator is also the Moderator-elect. The Vice Moderator must be a sophomore at the time of election and must have served on the Council for at least one year. All of these conditions must

be followed unless extenuating circumstances arise, in which case the Vice-Moderator position will be open and subject to Section I, Subsection C, part v regarding vacancies on the Council.

iii. **The Secretary**

The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes at all Regional youth Functions, Council meetings, and Executive Committee meetings, and for distributing these minutes to IYC members in a timely manner after the meetings. The Secretary keeps these records and passes them to the next Secretary.

iv. **Adult Delegates**

The IYC adults are responsible for providing leadership and supporting the executive committee.

III. **Annual Youth Assembly**

Spring Youth Assembly is an annual gathering of the youth in Indiana. Its purposes are fellowship, the conducting of business, and helping the participants grow in their Christian living. The Indiana Youth Council shall be affirmed and installed at Spring Youth Assembly.

IV. **Required Events**

- A. Regional Assembly (every other year)
- B. IYC Leadership Training – Jul/Aug
- C. Two 1 in person- IYC official meetings – January
- D. Two 2 IYC Zoom calls – Apr/May, Oct/Nov
- E. Annual Youth Assembly – February or March

V. **Recommended Events**

- A. Camps – June/July (Bedford or Geneva)
- B. Youth Ministry Events
- C. General Assembly (every other year)

IYC Code of Ethics

Believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God and proclaiming Him Lord and Savior of the World, I reaffirm my commitment to IYC. Through dedication and discipline, I will lead and serve with integrity. Relying on the Grace of God, I commit myself to the following:

Personal Conduct

1. Witnessing to the ministry of Jesus Christ
2. Dedicating time, strength, vitality, and energy to the Youth of Indiana
3. Growing in faith, knowledge, and service
4. Living a life that honors my commitments to my family, including the need for privacy and time together
5. Taking time for physical and spiritual renewal and recreation
6. Being a faithful steward of God's gifts by managing talents, financial resources, and my time responsibly
7. Accepting responsibility for my actions and refraining from gossip
8. Striving to maintain a physically and emotionally balanced life and refraining from substance abuse and other abusive behaviors
9. Using my position, power, and authority in non-exploitive ways
10. Maintaining high moral standards in my sexual behavior
11. Regarding all persons with equal respect and concern

Relationship to the Youth in Indiana

1. Nurturing and offering my gifts for service
2. Encouraging and nurturing the gifts of others in the Youth and joining their gifts with mine for the enrichment of the Youth
3. Living the gospel without fear or favor and speaking the truth in love
4. Working cooperatively and collegially with those whom I serve in the Youth in Indiana
5. Protecting confidences, with the exception of reporting known or suspected cases of substance, physical, or sexual abuse and neglect
6. Seeking the counsel of the Minister of Faith Formation should divisive tensions threaten my relationship with those I serve

Relationships to IYC Colleagues

1. Engaging in covenantal relationships with colleagues, which involves nurture, discipline, family support, mutual teaching/learning, and spiritual formation
2. Supporting colleagues in ministry and their families while not exploiting their problems or crises
3. Executing the duties of my office with integrity

Relationships to the Community and the Wider Church

1. Participating responsibly in the life and work of my community, bearing witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, working toward a just and morally responsible society
2. Participating faithfully in the life and work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
3. Seeking to know, understand, and respect the diversity of opinions and people within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
4. Being a responsible representative of the one church of Jesus Christ and participating in activities that strengthen its unity, witness, and mission