

Dear Students and families,

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Conference Connection on Youth Ministries! Our group is made up of students from United Methodist Churches across the Florida Conference. We get together 4 times per year to work on Community, Advocacy, Restoration, and Evangelism issues concerning youth.

We move our meetings around, and because of this some may be closer to you than others. We do provide transportation (to the best of our ability!) by an adult volunteer or a youth workers who will be traveling from your area.

In this packet you will find a membership Covenant, our bylaws, a medical release form, and a conduct covenant. Being a part of the Conference Connection on Youth Ministries is a commitment, but it is also a great time to be in leadership with other students from across our state. I am glad you are taking the time to look at it, and don't hesitate to contact me with any questions!

Blessings,

Kelly R Minter

Network Coordinator

Network of Ministries with Young People

CCYM FAQs

Why should I become a member of the Conference Connection on Youth Ministries? Because it is fun! We work hard, and we play hard. At each meeting we are looking at new (and old) ways to express and meet the needs of Community, Advocacy, Restoration, and Evangelism as they pertain to youth. We are a direct link from the local church ministries to the decision making bodies of our annual conference, a position we are excited to be in!

What do you do at meetings? Our meetings are usually a full weekend (Friday night through Sunday after church) and we stay at different United Methodist Churches across our conference. During that time we have many, many things to do. At every gathering we are exploring new ways to C.A.R.E. about others, and are always looking for new perspectives and fresh ideas!

When do you meet and how often? We meet 4 times per year, once in February, once right before Annual Conference, once in July and once in November. We move our meetings around the conference geographically so we can get an idea of what different areas of our conference are doing in regard to youth ministry.

Who chaperones the meetings? At every meeting we practice an eight to one student to adult rule, and all of our adults are background checked. We take the safety of our students very seriously! In addition to Kelly Minter, the Network Coordinator, there are 2 representative adults from the youth worker table, 2 representative adults from the young adult table, and 4 more adults strategically taken from geographical areas in our state, in order to transport students to and from meetings.

How do I contact someone if I have questions? You can call Kelly Minter at 407/694.2167 or email her at kminter@flumc.org.

CCYM PLUS Membership Covenant

NAME _____ DOB _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP CODE _____

E-MAIL _____

HOME PHONE (_____) _____ CELL PHONE (_____) _____

CHURCH NAME _____

DISTRICT _____ PASTOR _____

PARENT (S) NAMES AND E-MAIL _____

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Why do you feel called to serve on CCYM?

Say a bit about your spiritual walk.

What gifts and talents, leadership abilities/experiences will you bring to CCYM?

What will be your greatest conflict of time to make the commitment required of the CCYM?

Please have your pastor or youth director send a short letter of recommendation by email to kelly.minter@flumc.org or by mail to

United Methodist Building,

ATTN Kelly Minter

1140 McDonald St

Lakeland FL 33801.

CCYM COVENANT

As a member of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM), I am representing my conference, district and local church. I understand that membership is a privilege and I agree to abide by the following covenant. I will set an example of Christian leadership at conference, district and local church events. I understand Christian leadership to a servant style as exemplified by Jesus. As a CCYM member, I am example and not an exception.

As a CCYM member, I agree to participate actively in Conference, District and local church youth ministries. I understand that this group meets 4 times per year (March, May, July, and November) and will do my best to attend every meeting. If a situation arises and I cannot make it, I or my parents will inform the Network Coordinator no less than one week before the meeting.

As a CCYM member, I agree to the following at all conference and district events:

I will not use or possess tobacco, alcohol, or other abusive substances

I will not use or possess firearms, fireworks, and other weapons

I will treat other persons with respect, being positive and encouraging of others.

I will respect the property that we use, churches, camps, vehicles

I will not use profanity and/or participate in non-Christian activities

I will refrain from using or providing inappropriate music, video, and/or other

entertainment

I will observe and help enforce curfew as set by the leadership

I agree to the following boundaries: Girls **never** in boys rooms and boys **never** in girls

rooms

I understand no covenant can cover all offenses. Therefore, the leadership team has the authority to assess situations that arise and set other guidelines and enforce consequences as deemed necessary.

I understand that violation of the above covenant can result in termination of my CCYM membership, either by my local church, District Youth Coordinator, or the Conference Youth Coordinator.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Bylaws of the Florida CCYM

Written and voted on September 2008

These bylaws are meant to help us in ministry, not to bind us to format and tradition. Because of this, these bylaws are recommendations, except in the cases mandated by the Book of Discipline.

I. Purpose

- a. We C.A.R.E. because Christ does
 - i. C- Community
 - ii. A- Advocacy
 - iii. R- Restoration
 - iv. E- Evangelism

II. Leadership Team... Leadership Team will be expected to meet before each meeting for planning. Elections will take place at the spring meeting, and outgoing officers will rotate out at the Annual Conference meeting. During the time between they will serve side by side, in order to transition smoothly. Outlined below are requirements for CCYM officers. Failure to meet these requirements will result in removal from office.

a. President

- i. 2 year term (8 meetings)
- ii. Attendance at 6 of the 8 meetings per term
- iii. Plans meetings with leadership team
- iv. Convenes and presides over meetings
- v. Contact and information center for group
- vi. At least three meetings of CCYM participation

b. Vice President

- i. 2 year term (8 meetings)
- ii. Attendance at 6 of the 8 meetings per term
- iii. Preside over meeting in absence of President
- iv. At least three meetings of CCYM participation
- v. YSF Chair
 - 1. Convene YSF Committee
 - 2. Oversee Project review
 - 3. Oversee YSF education for the districts and local churches

c. Vice President of Communications

- i. 2 year term (8 meetings)
- ii. Attendance at 6 of the 8 meetings per term
- iii. Takes (or designates someone to take) minutes at meetings
- iv. Distribute minutes within 14 days of the meetings
- v. Oversee website
- vi. Preside over meetings in absence of President and Vice President

vii. At least three meetings of CCYM participation

III. CCYM Participants

- a. CCYM membership is open to all youth (grades 6-12) who are baptized or professing member of the United Methodist Church and have completed the membership covenant
- b. CCYM meetings are open to observers. We strongly recommend attending a meeting before completing the membership covenant. All CCYM members are encourage to invite people to our meetings using their discretion
- c. Minimum of 14 students
- d. In order to have representation that is reflective of our conference, it is the job of the "AIC" to be aware of the makeup of the Council and invite participants accordingly
- e. All participants will have a medical form and covenant on file with the "AIC", and the terms of both are expected to be followed.

IV. Process and meetings

- a. We recommend that, whenever possible, consensus is used to make group decision. However, where it is reasonable, popular vote can be used
- b. Meetings should be held 4 times yearly. We will meet:
 - i. First weekend in March
 - ii. One day before Annual conference
 - iii. End of July at Jurisdictional Convocation
 - iv. Last weekend in September
- c. We strongly advocate for a biblical model in resolving differences. However, when an agreement cannot be reached, it is permissible to use a Rock, Paper, Scissors approach. This should happen as follows:
 - i. The two parties pick the judge
 - ii. On the count of 1,2,3, THEN shoot, the two parties should play.
 - iii. Best 2 out of three wins
 - iv. This decision making process is binding

Network on Ministries with Young People

In 2007, the Cabinet of the Florida Conference decided to make an intentional focus on Youth and Young Adults. For the first time in (fill in number) years, every district made a cooperative effort to form a youth and young adult delegation to Annual Conference. It was at a pizza party that a student addressed the gathering with her concern over the lack of conference level youth ministry. Through the discussion that followed, the concept of the Network on Ministries with Young People was formed. Under this new structure there are three tables; one each for Youth, Young Adults, and Adult Workers with Young People.

Each of these tables operates independently as the goals and the nature of their ministries dictate. In an effort to keep communication lines as open as possible, the leadership teams from each table are included in the plans, minutes, and (when appropriate) meetings of the other two. The leaders from all three tables will gather once yearly to communicate goals and progress. On the final day of Annual Conference 2007, this structure was proposed and approved, and action was taken shortly after to fit this structure into our standing rules.

Tasked at the end of annual conference with focusing on one goal and getting it done, each table went about things in ways unique to their ministry areas. The Youth table met and wrote an operating procedure, chose "C.A.R.E." for their purpose statement (Community, Advocacy, Restoration, Evangelism), and are planning the first annual Student Leadership Summit in Orlando this October (3-5, mark your calendars!). Recognizing that ministry happens at the local church level and not interested in being event planners, the students decided instead to plan a training retreat weekend for the student leadership teams in the conference.

The young adult team has concentrated on conversations and gathering information. Meeting for the first time in May, the leaders of this table have chosen to train the current young adults who are within the church, and find new ways to reach those outside our walls as their goals. The group is currently exploring the possibility of conference wide immersion trips for Young Adults, as early as Summer 2009.

The Adult Workers with Young People team has focused on creating networking groups of youth and young adult workers. The team has crafted a three year focus plan, concentrating on connecting and networking in 2008; training in 2009; and resourcing in 2010. This April three representatives from the table traveled to Washington DC for a General Board of Discipleship hosted youth worker training, in hopes of bringing information and training models back to the youth and young adult workers of the Florida Conference.

In the next year, we will continue to shape this Network to be a group that empowers local church ministries with young people, promoting the connection and ministering to young people across the state of Florida. (May 2008)

Network of ministry with Young People

