

YOUTH MINISTRY IN KANSAS WEST CONFERENCE

I. VISION STATEMENT

The student ministries program of the Kansas West Conference works for and through students. The conference's activities will provide young people with a knowledge of Jesus Christ and what it means to be a disciple. The student ministries program will also provide opportunities for involvement in the mission of the United Methodist Church. More specifically, the Student Ministries program facilitates and supports the ministry of the United Methodist Church in teaching, nurturing, growing and supporting students in ministry. This will be accomplished through district and conference: rallies, newsletters, camps, websites, mentoring, resource development, and strategic planning.

II. MISSION STATEMENT

Connecting youth with God, CCYM will help develop a faith community for young people where they can be involved in all concentric circles of the United Methodist Church. As members of CCYM we strive to strengthen our own faith, develop leadership skills and create unity between the districts as we fulfill our larger purpose.

III. PLAN OF MINISTRY

A. To foster communication, cooperation, and coordination of youth ministries in our conference with local churches and districts, with special emphasis on the empowerment and engagement of racial and ethnic minorities.

1. Build involvement in District Youth Councils for each district. Meet with each district to talk about DCYM and CCYM.
2. Continue to update and use the web site for connecting and informing youth and local churches. Create a space for a youth message board.
3. Reach out to churches with larger racial and ethnic diversity to youth involved in district and conference events.

DATE: Completed by January 2007

B. Develop strategies to increase and integrate the voice and presence of youth at the local church, district and conference level.

1. Implement new DCYM and CCYM Structure included in this document.
2. Provide training for youth in leadership skills and development.
3. Provide training for church leaders in youth ministry.
4. Develop youth as a voice for General Conference 2008.

DATE: Complete by 2008

C. Identify opportunities and develop strategies for post-secondary education and leadership development for youth.

1. Build partnerships with United Methodist-related seminaries, colleges, universities, and campus ministry units, reach out to young people for the purpose of cultivating leadership and involvement.

2. Develop a data base of students who participate in conference events that can be shared with United Methodist Colleges and Universities.
3. Develop strategies for recruiting and retaining United Methodist youth at United Methodist-related colleges, and universities.
4. Continue to develop relationships between churches and state college and university campus ministry programs to inform them of United Methodist students attending those colleges.
5. Develop strategies for equipping clergy and other Kansas West leaders to be responsive to God's call in the lives of youth.

DATE: Complete by 2008

Conference Council on Youth Ministry

New Structure

Executive Committee:

President
Vice President-YSF Chair
Secretary
JYT Representatives
Conference Student Ministry Director
District Coordinator Representative

Membership:

6 Districts - 3 Voting and 2 Non-Voting youth
CCYM President - Voting
At-Large - 4 Non-Voting Members

The Work of the CCYM Is:

- Advocate youth issues
- Initiate & plan activities
- Increase awareness of U.M. connection
- Express that we are the Body of Christ and help youth connect with God and Jesus Christ
- Support the local churches through fellowship, nurture, spiritual growth and service
- Be a powerful voice for youth
- Youth Service Fund emphasis
- Coordinate ministries with the districts and local churches
- Represent minorities
- Provide names to nominations committees
- CCYM members should be active in their district as well as local church activities
- Be an example for Jesus Christ
- Have the kind of fun large numbers of Christians can have together

Job Descriptions for CCYM Executive Committee:

All elected officers are expected to attend every CCYM meeting and to attempt to attend all CCYM activities.

President

- Preside at CCYM meetings
- Relates to district youth presidents and representatives
- Represents Kansas West youth at conference, jurisdictional and general United Methodist Church events
- Communicates with Executive Committee frequently
- Spokesperson for CCYM
- Ex-officio member of all design teams

Vice President/YSF Chair

- Chair for YSF
- Relates to district YSF chairpersons
- Helps with presidential duties
- First substitute for president or representative at conference, jurisdictional or general events

Secretary

- Take minutes at all meetings of CCYM & Executive Committee
- Type and turn in minutes to the Student Ministries Director
- Works closely with conference student ministries director on communications

JYT Representatives

- Represents conference at jurisdictional and general levels
- Reports back to CCYM about the United Methodist Church beyond the conference

District Coordinator Representative

- Relates to district youth coordinators
- Assists the Conference Student Ministries Director if needed to attend events/meetings
- Encourage and motivate CCYM Executive Committee members
- Assist as Ex-officio member of Event task forces

Conference Student Ministries Director

- Relates to district youth coordinators
- Assists the president in developing the agenda for CCYM meetings
- Assists in CCYM leadership with the president
- Works with event registrations
- Represents the conference at conference, jurisdictional, and general United Methodist Church events
- Ex-officio member of all design teams
- Administrative work of CCYM
- Details on events – Budgeting, Reservations, Brochures
- Encourage, motivate CCYM Executive Committee members

EVENT DESIGN TEAM:

Youth Chairperson (Selected by CCYM Body)

Adult Advisor (Selected from CCYM Body)

CCYM Members as needed

Youth Secretary (selected from within the design team)

CCYM President (Ex-officio)

Conference Student Ministries Director (Ex-officio)

At-large team members

Event Design Team Responsibilities:

- The youth chairperson presides and makes sure a secretary is selected.
- The adult advisor will help the youth chairperson.
- At-large team members shall be selected from area local churches to build the leadership team for the event. These members shall include youth and adults.
- Selection of other members should be coordinated with the Conference Student Ministries Director.
- The Conference Student Ministries Director will provide the team with a conference budget.
- The event Design Team shall build an event budget based on the conference budget and registration fees. The budget must be approved by the Conference Student Ministries Director.
- Members of the design team shall divide up responsibilities in planning the event.
- The youth chairperson shall help oversee the plans for the event and report to the Conference Student Ministries Director.
- The design team plans, implements and runs the event, and will make periodical update reports to CCYM.
- Follow the Design Team plan and time line.

Structure of a District Council on Youth Ministry (DCYM):

Recommended:

Youth President
Vice President – YSF Chairperson
District Representatives to CCYM - 3 Voting and 2 Non-voting
District Youth Coordinators
Other members as needed (at least 3 more)

Restrictions, Conditions, and Election Standards:

- Three youth members (voting) and two youth members (non-voting) elected to serve on CCYM.
- At least one CCYM member will be in the 7th through 9th grade in the next school year.
- The DCYM President and Vice President cannot be from the same church.
- District Youth Coordinators will represent the district on CCYM.
- No more than two representatives to CCYM can be from the same church.
- It is recommended that at least the DCYM president and the three voting members of CCYM from the district be elected. The other DCYM and CCYM members can be selected by a committee in order to make the best leadership team. Selection of those who are not elected to DCYM may be done by the District Youth Coordinator, area youth leaders and elected members of the DCYM. The district may choose to elect all members for DCYM and CCYM.
- At least the President and three voting members for CCYM are to be elected by youth.
- Candidates in elections should declare themselves before voting begins by written declaration for all of the positions they are interested in serving. (Avoid nominations from the floor that sometimes end in popularity contests.)
- Voting will be by church caucus. (i.e. a fixed number of votes per church attending no matter how many members from that church are present at elections)
- DCYM membership should reflect racial/cultural/gender equity as much as possible.
- DCYM membership should reflect large church/small church inclusiveness.
- If a person who has been elected or selected as a CCYM representative for the district is elected as CCYM president, another youth member of the DCYM may be selected as a district CCYM representative to replace the newly elected presidential position. The selected member shall serve as a member without vote, and the first alternate shall move into a voting position.
- Elections should be held by April 1. Newly elected officers will be expected to attend Annual Conference that year as observers and will move into office June 1. Newly elected CCYM representatives may serve as voting members in place of previously elected CCYM representatives in their absence.

The DCYM Responsibilities are:

- Selection of officers
- Building a leadership team
- Develop a district program which is appropriate for the district
- Help youth develop a relationship with Jesus Christ and God
- Have activities to supplement programs of small youth groups (twice a year, or more if you choose)
- Focus on fellowship, spiritual growth and service
- District planned/implemented service opportunities
- Leadership training (seek out opportunities within district)
- Know local church youth leaders (both adult and youth)
- Work to include all local churches in the district
- Encourage local church service projects (missions)
- Youth Service Fund emphasis at each district event and encourage local church involvement
- Put youth information in district newsletter
- Communicate with the District Council on Ministries (DCOM)
- Communicate youth issues to/through CCYM for Annual Conference
- Communicate to the Conference Student Ministries Director the slate of newly elected/selected officers

Job Description for District Youth Coordinators:

- Be a part of the DCYM and the CCYM team (peer leader with youth members)
- Network with local churches
- Know the people who are doing youth work in local churches and develop ways to communicate with them
- Submit articles to district newsletters
- Know resources for youth ministry in the district
- Oversee the work of district youth officers and task groups (i.e. encourage, follow up, resource)
- Responsible for functions of DCYM (see other list)
- Help with the selection of district officers if they are not elected
- Encourage attendance of district officers at DCYM, CCYM, DCOM, etc. (i.e. call, arrange transportation, advocate for schedules that are convenient for youth members on committees, etc.)
- Be active in the CCYM and it's programs
- Attend Annual Conference and other CCYM events when possible
- Serve on at least one CCYM Design Team
- Oversee DCYM Budget