REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN

Dear Regional Youth Council Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Regional Youth Council (RYC) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW). RYC plays a crucial role in shaping our region's youth ministries and it would not be possible without the commitment of young folks and adults in our Disciples churches throughout Illinois and Wisconsin. In the following pages you will find important information about RYC and the application process. If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Pastor Eli

Pastor Eli Rolón Jeong

Guidelines for the Regional Youth Council of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in IL & WI

Description of the Regional Youth Council

The Regional Youth Council of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin plans, implements, evaluates, and resources the Regional Youth Ministry program including events such as Summit, Regional Assembly, Midwinter Retreat, Mission Trips, and Lock-ins. Programs may also include additional events or resources intended to nurture and develop young disciples in the region.

The Regional Youth Council is called to exemplify several areas of Christian Leadership, including:

- ***Education*** through Bible study and through other areas of study such as school.
- ***Worship*** through active participation in a local congregation and youth group.
- ***Service*** through local and global mission trips, outreach initiatives, and other projects or programs.
- ***Community*** through fellowship, presence, and team-building initiatives.
- ***Evangelism*** by sharing the good news of Jesus with others through word, presence, and action.
- ***Pro-Reconciliation & Anti-Racism*** by faithfully recognizing racism, developing strategies to eradicate it, and to work towards racial reconciliation. Visit Reconciliation Ministries for info.
- ***Anti-Bullying*** by faithfully recognizing, denouncing, and purposefully striving to end bullying in its many forms. Read the Opposition to Bullying Sense of the Assembly for info.

RYC is an integral part of the ministry of the entire CCIW region. Thus, RYC youth representatives are invited to participate in Regional Board meetings held twice a year. RYC is also tasked with maintaining contact and involvement with local congregations and youth within all CCIW geographic areas in order to encourage and ensure a positive relationship with the entire youth ministry program in the region.

Composition of the Regional Youth Council

RYC is comprised of twelve to fifteen persons (up to 12 youth and 2 or 3 adults) selected to represent youth of all CCIW areas. RYC strives to embody the diversity within our region in terms of gender, geography, ethnicity, gifts, perspectives, and more. The RYC works closely with the regional staff person for youth ministry.

Eligibility

Youth and adults who are members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois & Wisconsin may apply or be nominated to serve on the Regional Youth Council. Youth and adult nominees or applicants must be active in a local congregation, local youth group, or regional youth ministry associated with CCIW. Youth are eligible to serve RCY during their years in high school.

Selection Process

Selection to the Regional Youth Council will be determined by current RYC members in consultation with the CCIW staff person for youth ministry; positions will be affirmed by the CCIW Regional Board. Applications and nominations will be accepted and reviewed in an on-going basis. Applications and nominations may be completed online or in paper by visiting http://www.cciwdisciples.org/ryc or by contacting the regional office. A background check and successful completion of a Mandated Reporter Training will be required for all adult applicants. Youth and adults might be required to complete additional training or continuing education opportunities.

Service in the Regional Youth Council

Selected youth and adult members serve a two-year term with the possibility of serving for a third year. RYC meets regularly, either in person or virtually, throughout the year to plan, implement, and evaluate programs. Leadership roles and tasks will be shared by youth and adult council members alike.

Application Instructions for the Regional Youth Council

The preferred method to complete an application is to submit an online application form. However, a paper application is also available if necessary.

Please note that the online application must be completed and submitted in one session. We strongly encourage you to gather all necessary information before starting the online application.

For ***YOUTH*** Applicants

What you'll need to complete your RYC Application:

- ☐ Your information (name, address, email, phone, etc.)
- ☐ Your parent(s) or guardian(s)'s information (name, address, email, phone, etc.)
- ☐ Your church information (Name & Address, name of pastor(s), contact information)
- ☐ List of church participation (Local, Regional, and General Levels) and other leadership roles (extracurricular activities, paid or volunteer work, etc.)
- ☐ A brief essay of 500 words or less answering the following questions. Answers can be submitted as a Word or PDF Document or they can be typed directly into the online application form.
  - ***Why would you like to serve on the Regional Youth Council?***
  - ***What gifts, skills, and/or talents would you like to share?***
  - ***Tell us about where have you seen God in your life?***
- ☐ Name and contact of ***Two References.*** We encourage that you provide each person who you have named as a reference with the reference form below.
  - A reference from your pastor (in the case that your pastor is your parent or another family member, please ask another congregational leader instead).
  - A reference from a teacher, work or volunteering supervisor, or a church leader (someone different than your pastoral reference above).

For ***ADULT*** Applicants

What you'll need to complete your RYC Application:

- ☐ Your information (name, address, email, phone, etc.)
- ☐ Your church information (Name & Address, name of pastor(s), contact information).
- ☐ A brief description of your service to the church (local, regional or general levels).
- ☐ A brief response as to why you would like to serve in the Regional Youth Council.