

PRESBYTERY YOUTH COUNCIL (PYC) POLICY MANUAL
Committee on Education, Worship, and Nurture (EWN)
Presbytery of St. Andrew

Last approved and updated by EWN in 2022.

MISSION OF YOUTH COUNCIL

- Plan, promote, and lead programs which will meet identified needs of youth, youth leaders, and their churches.
- Promote and coordinate youth programs sponsored by the Presbytery of St Andrew, Synod of Living Waters, and General Assembly.
- Provide a forum through which youth can express their faith concerns and needs to the Presbytery.
- Empower youth for faithful Christian witness to their peers and others.
- Provide a network of youth and youth leaders through whom information for and about youth can be distributed.
- Provide leadership development for youth council members and advisors.

COMPOSITION OF YOUTH COUNCIL

- Whenever possible, PYC will be made up of at least 12 youth, with at least three each from the four areas of Presbytery.
- Youth shall be active members of a Presbyterian Church (USA) in The Presbytery of St. Andrew and in the tenth through twelfth grades.
- Normally, selected youth will serve on the PYC until they graduate from high school, upon annual evaluation.
- Ideally, four or more adult advisors will serve — at least one from EWN and one Camp Hopewell staff person.
- If any PYC member (Youth or Adult) misses more than one meeting/retreat within their term, the PYC advisors with consultation of EWN can vote to dismiss this member.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF PYC

- Develop leadership skills in self and others.
- Set example of a wholesome Christian life.
- Work cooperatively with other youth and youth leaders, including consistent communication and presence at planning retreats.
- Plan event(s) for youth to teach and promote Christian faith, values and actions. (Normally one joint retreat for Junior and Senior Highs, to take place at Camp Hopewell in the Spring.)
- Serve as leaders in their home churches, as well as promote PYC events in their churches and other churches in the presbytery.

PYC SELECTION PROCESS

1. Youth members shall be nominated by their church's youth advisor or pastor (or other adult when necessary), and approved by their church's Session.
2. The PYC Advisors will review all nominations and select PYC members. Three youth from each district may be selected.
3. Selections will take place by April or May with selected youth being received and commissioned at the October meeting of Presbytery. Work of PYC members will begin with a late summer training and planning retreat, typically at the end of August.

PYC OFFICERS

The officers shall include two Co-Moderators and a Recorder, to be elected by the Youth Council during its first planning retreat.

Term of Office

The term of office for all PYC Officers is one year, from their election until new elections are held the next year.

Officers' Responsibilities

Co-Moderators (2) Seniors or Juniors in High School

- Attend all meetings of Youth Council
- Work in cooperation with PYC Advisors to:
 - Plan and prepare agenda for Youth Council Meetings
 - Lead the business meetings of the Youth Council
 - Check up on assignments made to PYC members
 - Assist with evaluation of meetings, events, and the PYC
 - Create an oral or written report to Presbytery at the Oct. meeting.

Recorder

- Attend all meetings of the Youth Council.
- Keep accurate records of the actions and decisions of the PYC.
- Prepare minutes for distribution to PYC, and EWN if requested.
- Create and assist with evaluation of meetings, events, and the PYC.

Nomination and Election of Officers

The Youth Advisors and younger PYC members serve as the Nominating Committee. One or two names may be nominated for each office. Only the youth members vote. A simple majority of the votes cast for each position shall elect the new officers.

YOUTH COUNCIL ADVISORS

The adult advisors shall be approved by the CEWN to serve as the Youth Ministry Sub-Committee. The Youth Council Advisors shall coordinate plans with Camp Hopewell staff and oversee all Presbytery-sponsored youth ministries programs not sponsored through Hopewell. This Sub Committee shall serve as the CEWN representatives on the youth council. Youth Council Advisors serve for a three year term and are eligible to serve a second consecutive term. After two consecutive terms, advisors must rotate off for at least one year before being reelected for service.

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Event leaders may be selected by the the Youth Council and Advisors, subject to review by CEWN. As a general rule, any minister member of St. Andrew Presbytery is already approved and names need not be submitted to CEWN for approval. However, all leadership for youth events shall be listed in the PYC reports and entered in the minutes of CEWN as a matter of record.

EVALUATIONS

All Presbytery sponsored events shall be evaluated with input from youth participants, and the event leaders and staff. The structure and mission of the youth council shall also be evaluated annually and needed changes recommended to EWN.

BUDGET

- An annual budget will be presented and approved by the EWN at the Fall meeting.
- *All program costs, other than those covered above and those already being subsidized through Hopewell's budget, are to be paid for through event fees.* Normally these costs are only for program, room and board, but supplies to be used and/or given to participants should also be covered by fees. Occasionally, there will be expenses not provided for in the budget, such as hiring a band for a dance — these costs will also normally be reflected in the event fee.
- Expenses must be monitored so as not to exceed the budget.

EVENT PLANNING

Basic Guidelines

- Everything included in the PYC events should be Christian: affirm Christian beliefs and values, affirm the inherent value of all human life, demonstrate compassion toward others, demonstrate care for the environment, etc.
- Should seek to meet identified needs of participants.
- Adults and youth will share leadership as assigned in advance.
- Leaders, speakers, singers, bands, or others who are not members of St. Andrew Presbytery must be approved by CEWN Committee.
- Event dates should be reported to CEWN as early as possible.
- Events shall be priced so that all direct costs, not otherwise budgeted, are covered by participant fees.