

March 3, 2017

To: Pastors, Clerks of Session, Educators and Youth Ministry contacts
From: Susan Sharp Campbell, Associate for Educational Ministry
Re: Nominations for the Presbytery Youth Council

Attached you will find information on the work of the Presbytery of West Virginia's Youth Council and forms to be used to nominate a youth and/or an adult for membership on Youth Council. In addition, there is a one page flyer/announcement that I hope you will post where the high school youth in your church can see it.

The Youth Council is a very important part of our presbytery's work with youth as it plans and leads two youth retreats each year, and assists with promoting other events for youth in our presbytery. Those nominated to serve on the Presbytery Youth Council should be actively involved in a congregation within the presbytery and place a high priority on their commitment to Jesus Christ. While other events do come up in the lives of youth and adults, it is important that those chosen to serve make Youth Council participation a high priority. The commitment includes being present for the two retreats, one in November, the other in March, as well as a Leadership Development and Planning Retreat in August and a planning meeting in January.

The Youth Council is composed of fourteen youth and 8 adults, representing the different geographical areas of our presbytery and as many churches as possible. Youth must be in grade 10, 11 or 12 in the fall of 2017; it is anticipated that, if selected, they will serve until they graduate from high school. Adults serve a three-year term, with opportunity to serve a second term.

Please share all the information in this packet with interested youth and adults. Note that we are in great need of adults, and we particularly need male adults. If a youth or adult from your congregation is already serving on Youth Council, you may nominate another youth or adult, realizing that their selection will be considered in light of efforts to achieve representation by as many churches as possible on the Youth Council. Churches that have not recently been represented on Youth Council will be given special consideration.

For the year 2017-2018, there are openings for 5 youth and 4 adults on the Youth Council. Completed applications/nominations must be received in the Presbytery Office **no later than Monday, May 1, 2017**, to be considered by the Nurture Committee at its May meeting. Please note that **applications will be considered complete only when all the forms are returned**, including the Session nomination form, the application form, the parent/guardian support form (for youth); and the release authorization and information form and youth endorsement letter (for adults).

Thank you for your careful and prayerful attention to this matter. If you have any questions, or want a **word document of the enclosed forms** emailed to you, you may contact me at 304-645-4568 or susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA YOUTH COUNCIL

ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES

The Youth Council shall conform to the 5 theological intentions for youth ministry in all programming:

1. To call young people to discipleship in Jesus Christ.
2. To respond to the needs and interests of young people.
3. To work together in partnership; young people and adults.
4. To be connected to the whole church, community and world.
5. To be inclusive of all young people.

ORGANIZATION

1. The Presbytery Youth Council (YC) shall be accountable to the Nurture Committee of the Presbytery of West Virginia.
2. One adult member of the YC shall be a member of the Nurture Committee and shall act as a liaison to facilitate communication between the two bodies. In addition, the adult Moderator shall be invited to Nurture Committee meetings.
3. The YC shall be composed of 14 youth and 8 adults from across the presbytery, representing as many churches and geographic areas as possible. These youth and adults shall be members, or active participants (pre-confirmation), or staff of churches within the presbytery, or members of Presbytery.
4. A congregation may ordinarily be represented by one youth and one adult. Occasionally, it may be that two youth or two adults *serve* from the same congregation, though no two youth or two adults shall be *nominated* from the same congregation in the same year.
5. The YC shall be elected by the Nurture Committee.
6. The term of office shall be 3 years for adults, with the opportunity to serve a second three year term, and up to 3 years for youth, who may serve until graduation from high school. YC shall ordinarily be balanced between 10th, 11th, and 12th grades as far as possible. The year will run from July to June.
7. There shall be a youth and an adult Co-Moderator of the YC. The youth shall be elected annually by the YC upon approval of the Nurture Committee. The adult shall be appointed annually by the Nurture Committee.
8. The YC shall elect a Secretary to take minutes of all meetings, and submit them to the Nurture Committee upon approval by the YC.
9. The Presbytery Associate for Educational Ministry will staff the YC.
10. Youth members of YC shall not drive to meetings or events because of Presbytery liability. Adult Youth Council members will ordinarily provide transportation to YC events. It is the parents' responsibility to get their youth to meet the adult YC member at a mutually agreed upon place. If transportation is an issue, parents should contact the adult moderator of the YC.

**Youth Council Nomination Form
For Youth and Adults
Presbytery of West Virginia**

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (h) _____ (c) _____

Church making nomination: _____ Cluster _____

Youth Nominee - school grade of nominee, fall of 2017 _____

Adult Nominee Male Female

In what ways has this person been active in the life of your congregation?

How has this person demonstrated Christian discipleship and leadership?

Has this person participated in Presbytery, Synod or General Assembly events? Which ones? (Applicants will be considered regardless of participation in larger church events.)

On the back of this form, please tell us anything more you wish us to know about your nominee.

The nominee must be endorsed by Session. Date of Session endorsement _____

Signature of Pastor/DCE/Moderator of Session
(this should be someone not related to the nominee, if possible)

Signature of Clerk of Session

Return by May 1, 2017 to: Susan Sharp Campbell
Presbytery of West Virginia
520 Second Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303

(Only one youth and/or one
adult shall be nominated
from a congregation in the
same year)

5. Do you have a job? If so, what is it? How many hours per week do you normally work and how flexible is your employer about time off?

6. In what extra-curricular activities are you involved? (Athletics, clubs, lessons, etc.)

7. What are your goals and dreams for the future?

8. What does your Christian faith mean to you and how do you express it in your day-to-day life?

Return this application by May 1, 2017, along with the parental/guardian consent form (youth); and the Background Check and Information Form (adults) and youth endorsement (adults)to:

Presbytery of West Virginia
Attn: Susan Sharp Campbell
520 Second Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303

**PRESBYTERY YOUTH COUNCIL PARENT/GUARDIAN
SUPPORT FORM**

Presbytery Youth Council offers its members the opportunity to serve the church and their peers as they plan and implement presbytery-wide youth events. It is hard work and makes demands on busy schedules, but the experience is also very rewarding and faith-building. Youth Council members will develop leadership and planning skills, experience many unique events and opportunities, and make lasting friendships with other youth from around the presbytery.

An important component of an effective Youth Council is parents/guardians of the youth who are supportive of their responsibilities and are willing to encourage their active participation on the Council. If your child is selected to serve on the Council, we need to know that it meets with your approval and that you would provide encouragement, support, and occasional help in making transportation arrangements to and from events and meetings.

I am aware that _____ is applying for a position on the Presbytery Youth Council and have read the job description for youth council members. I will support his/her participation on Youth Council if selected.

Signature of parent/guardian

Home phone number

Cell phone number

Email

Date