

# ***'Working' Mission Statement and Framework for the Heartland Presbytery Youth Council***

**Mission Statement:** As youth and adults, we respond to God's call through the Holy Spirit to be connected to each other, the church, and the world so that our lives proclaim with joy that Jesus Christ is Lord! (Presbyterian Youth Connection)

**As the Heartland Presbytery Youth Council, covenant to:**

- ***Plan and implement a Middle School and High School Retreat for the Presbytery, providing an atmosphere of fun and fellowship while sharing the Good News of the gospel,***
- ***Support and nurture one another in life's joys and sorrows, and in our daily lives as disciples of Jesus,***
  - ***Share God's presence in our lives with others,***
- ***Provide an environment of security as well as a place of growth in the faith, both on retreats and at monthly committee meetings,***
- ***Encourage and enable each other to listen prayerfully for God's guidance in a changing world.***

To call young people to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

To respond to the needs and the interests of young people.

To work together, youth and adults, in partnership.

To be connected to the whole church, community, and the world.

To include all young people, reaching out and inviting them to belong to the community of faith. (5 Intentions of the Presbyterian Youth Connection)

## **I. GENERALS OF HPYC**

1. Heartland Presbytery Youth Council (HPYC) will begin each calendar year with a full day training event to be held along with the CMD Training Day, January 24, 2009. During the year the HPYC will meet on Sunday afternoons, Feb 22, March 29, May 31, September 27 and October 25, from 2:00 -4:00 pm at Parkville Presbyterian Church (819 Main Street, Parkville, MO 64152)
2. PYC members will be notified of upcoming meetings 10-12 days in advance by postcard from the Presbytery office.

3. PYC will organize two retreats each year – one Senior School Retreat in the fall and one Middle School Retreat in the spring. Other activities such as youth summits, service projects, mission trips, conferences, or other gatherings can be planned through the year.

## **II. ORGANIZATION OF COUNCIL**

### **1. Application Process**

- a) The youth interested in serving on the HPYC can request an application from the presbytery office. Applicant must be a member of a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Applicant also must be endorsed by their home church session and approved by parents or guardian. Please know that your listed references WILL be contacted regarding your application.
- b) Applications can be received any time during the year; however, they will only be reviewed during the fall Senior High Retreat. Notification of acceptance will be shortly afterwards in order to attend the January Training Day.
- c) Applicants will be reviewed on the following criteria: character, service to church and community, commitment to living a Christ-like life, experience and extracurricular activities, member of PC(USA) church within Heartland Presbytery, special skills and gifts, and ability to work with others.

### **2. Makeup of Council**

- a) The PYC will ordinarily be comprised of 10 youth and 5 adults. A “youth” is considered to be an individual grades 9-12 at the time of service on the council. An “adult” is considered to be at least 21 years of age at the time of service on the council
- b) The HPYC will be led by the representative selected by the Congregational Ministries Division.
- c) Each retreat will have no less than two retreat directors, at least one adult, and one youth. These individuals will be selected by the council. Retreat directors will oversee the planning and implementation of each retreat as outlined in Section 4, “Main Responsibilities of the Council.”
- d) All HPYC members must be members of a PC(USA) congregation within the bounds of Heartland Presbytery.
- e) The HPYC will continually strive to achieve a gender and ethnic balance in its makeup. In addition, HPYC will strive to achieve a balance of church representation from across the presbytery. There shall be no more than 2 youth on the council from a single church.
- f) Current members in good standing will be invited to reapply for the following year. Youth members can serve throughout their high school years including the fall semester of the freshman year in college.
- g) Adult members will be asked to fill out an application as well, and encouraged to serve for 2 years.

## **III. EXPECTATIONS OF YOUTH & ADULTS ON COUNCIL**

1. Members of HPYC are required to attend all council meetings and retreats. Members who have two *unexcused* absences or three excused absences and one unexcused absence during the year (either meetings or retreats) will be removed from the council. The presbytery liaison will take attendance at all meetings.
2. Members who are not able to attend a meeting or retreat must contact the Presbytery Liaison at (816) 924-1730, and state their reason for absence, at least three days before a meeting and two weeks before a retreat, except in emergency circumstances. Emergency circumstances will count as an “*excused* absence.”

- Other excused absences can be one of the following:
- Sickness/death of family member.
  - Required school function.
  - Church youth group conflict or other significant church activity.
  - Other club/community functions with the approval of the Presbytery Liaison.
  - Work/jobs only in rare instances (exception rather than the rule).
3. Members need to continually demonstrate a positive attitude, good character, and a willingness to lead a Christ-like life both in council work and in their personal lives. Respecting others, being inclusive of everyone, and being a team-player are important attributes of council members.
  4. Members need to participate actively in all HPYC discussions, planning, etc., sharing their insight and God-given gifts, as well as valuing the contributions of other members.
  5. Members need to constantly serve as good role-models, particularly on retreats, while in the presence of other youth and adults.
  6. At no time will a council member be under the influence of drugs or alcohol or engage in abusive behavior during a HPYC function. Such behavior will result in immediate dismissal from the council.

## **IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCIL**

### **1. Responsibilities of Congregational Ministries Division Representative:**

- a) Set time and place of meetings, and communicating with Presbytery to notify members,
- b) Create agendas for each meeting as outlined below, providing copies for members at each meeting.
- c) Conduct meetings in a timely fashion.
- d) Secure persons to share a devotion at the beginning of each meeting, and arrange to have refreshments at each meeting.
- e) Appoint someone to take minutes of each meeting, and have Presbytery mail minutes to all members the following week.
- f) See that actions of the HPYC are being reported back to Presbytery.
- g) Help in the creation of a promotional brochure to send to all churches, registration form and deadline, keynoter info, etc.
- h) Work with retreat Leaders in the creation of small group manual
- i) Other pertinent duties as they arise.

### **2. Responsibilities of Presbytery Liaison:**

- a) Contact person for requests for excused absence.
- b) Retreat brochure will be sent throughout the Presbytery
- c) Continued promotion of Heartland Youth Events on the Heartland Connection and or Presbytery Packet (noting that all deadlines for these items are met)
- d) Secured permission for communion for Sunday morning.

### **3. Responsibilities of retreat directors:**

- a) To divide all council members into one of the following retreat committees, and assure that their work is being carried out as planned and any supplies/equipment are attained:
  - "Innies": work on those areas that happen during keynote & worship
    - \***Keynote & Worship & Music** – *Work with leadership to help plan or develop morning devotions and worship experiences*
  - "Outies": work on those areas regarding registration, recreation and small groups
    - \***Registration/Food/Advertising** – *Arranging name tags, and small group*

*numbers for retreat participants; create menus for each meal and refreshments, keeping in mind diverse menus and special diets; and create welcome posters coming in and out of camp, weekend schedule, other signs for the retreat.*  
*\*Recreation – All planned recreation and energizers, including icebreakers opening of retreat and all planned recreation and help coordinate cleanup.*  
*\*Small Groups – Work with the Retreat Leadership to create a cohesive theme through the retreat/event including decorations and small group material..*

- b) Keep in contact with camp staff during retreat, reporting any damage or pertinent situations.

I have received, read, and understand the Heartland Presbytery HPYC Bylaws. I will respect and obey to the best of my ability these bylaws set by the HPYC.

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Signature

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Date