

# **Presbytery of the Peaks Presbyterian Youth Council**

## **BY-LAWS**

### **I. Purpose**

- The Peaks Presbytery Youth Council (PPYC) exists to foster in the youth of the Presbytery a deepening love for and relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Encourage the youth in ways of discipleship.
- Equip and empower youth for mission and service.
- Develop Christian leadership skills.
- Help youth understand and articulate a sense of call.
- Create fellowship opportunities for youth to formulate and cultivate Christian friendships across the Presbytery.
- Prepare our youth for the transition into college and beyond.

### **II. Council Membership**

- The council will be composed of 27 members
- 18 of the members will be youth (2 classes of 9)
- 9 of the members will be adults (1 class of 4, 1 class of 5)
- Each council member will serve a term of 2 years
- All youth will be eligible for a second term
- 9th, 10th, and 11th graders shall be eligible for election to the council
- No college students shall serve as youth members of the council

### **III. Selection Process**

- Applicants are to apply in writing to their sessions using an approved application form.
- Every applicant must receive an endorsement from his/her session. Then the session will forward the application to the presbytery's selection committee.
- The New Council members will be chosen by a selection committee.

#### **The committee will include**

- Members of the Youth and Young Adult workgroup
- 3 youth members of the Council
- 3 adult members of the Council

#### **The members from the Council will be selected by the Council by a majority vote.**

- In order to decide which youth will be interviewed, all applications will be evaluated anonymously.
- The Church which the applicant attends will be known. Applicants will normally be interviewed by the selection committee.
- Those interviews will be conducted when possible.
- Applications will be made available in the November Presbytery packet and will be mailed to every clerk of session in January.
- Application forms must be received by the Selection Committee by April 1st.
- The selection committee will meet in May to select the newest class for the Youth Council from the applications received.
- Those accepted onto the Youth Council will be notified the 1st of June

#### **IV. Application Requirements for Youth**

- Prove to be active leaders in their congregations
- Active participants in the life of their congregations
- Maintain membership in the Church from which they are appointed

#### **V. Application Requirements for Adults**

- Must be at least 25 years old
- Be an advocate for youth ministry and the place of youth in the Church
- Be an active participant in the life of their congregation
- Maintain membership in the Church from which they are appointed (if, clergy maintain membership in Peaks Presbytery).
- Willing to sign a sexual misconduct form

#### **VI. Accountability and Oversight**

- The Youth and Young Adult Workgroup of the Division of Christian Education and Leadership Development shall have oversight over the Council
- A staff person of the Presbytery of the Peaks shall serve as resource person to the Workgroup and the Council.

#### **VII. Work of the Youth Council**

- Attend Meetings (one excused absence per semester)
- Plan Fall Event
- Plan Spring Event
- Attend Presbytery Meetings as YADS
- Participate in Presbytery Meetings and Presbytery Worship

#### **VIII. Duties and Responsibilities of Council Members**

- Maintain an official relationship to the Church that they represent.
- Be committed to the work of the council
- Be willing to complete assigned responsibilities as a member of the Council
- Participate fully in all Council meetings
- Serve as liaisons between the local congregation and the Presbytery of the Peaks
- Initiate, strengthen, and support the relationship between the youth and the adults who work with them and the presbytery's youth ministry.

#### **IX. Meetings of the Youth Council**

- There will be 6 meetings of the Youth Council each academic year
- **August**
- Overnight meeting and planning session
- Kick-off the new year
- New members are welcome, introduced, oriented
- Planning for the Fall Presbytery-wide event
- Activities consistent with accomplishing the goals and purposes of the Youth Council

- **October**
- Planning of the Fall Presbytery-wide event
- Activities consistent with accomplishing the goals and purposes of the Youth Council
  
- **November**
- Presbytery-wide Fall High School Event only on the 3rd weekend in November at the Presbytery facilities at Camp Hat Creek
  
- **January**
- Planning of the Spring Presbytery-wide event
- Activities consistent with accomplishing the goals and purposes of the Youth Council
  
- **February**
- Planning of the Spring Presbytery-wide event with activities consistent with accomplishing the goals and purposes of the Youth Council.
  
- **March/April**
- Presbytery-wide Spring Event to be held the weekend before Holy Week. This event shall be open to High School and Middle School youth.