

MIDDLE AND SR. HIGH YOUTH CONSTITUTION

*This Constitution is a working document,
and not final.*

*Original Constitution Written:
October 12, 2001
Date accepted by the Board of Elders:
December 4, 2001*

CONGREGATIONAL MISSION STATEMENT

New Philadelphia Moravian Church seeks to be a caring fellowship, worshipping God, and encouraging one another to seek a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, as we follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in service and mission.

WORK OF THE YOUTH PROGRAM

Discipleship: We define as the building up or strengthening of believers in their quest to be like Christ.

Ministry: We define as meeting the needs of others with love.

Worship: We define as celebrating God's presence and honoring him with our lifestyle.

Fellowship: We define as time spent with other believers, identified as the body of Christ: to make sure they are known, cared for, held accountable, and encouraged in their spiritual journey.

Evangelism: We define as the sharing of Christ.

GOVERNMENT OF THE YOUTH PROGRAM

The total work of the Youth Program shall be subject to the guidance and approval of the Board of Elders.

Youth weekly events, Sunday school, mission trips, and special events shall be under the direction of the Director of Youth Ministry and Lay Youth Leaders who shall be guided in the performance of their duties by this document and by a properly constituted committee on Youth Ministry.

COMPOSITION OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE

The committee shall be made up of the following individuals: (an Elder or Trustee may fill two capacities)

- A Pastor
- Director of Youth Ministries
- Trustee Representative
- Elder Representative
- 3-5 Lay Middle School Youth Leaders (minimum 2 year commitment)
- 3-5 Lay Sr. High School Youth Leaders (minimum 2 year commitment)
- 1-2 Members at large representing Middle School Concerns
- 1-2 Members at large representing Sr. High School Concerns

The committee shall consist of at least 10 and no more than 16 persons covering the appointed positions and shall be approved by the Board of Elders.

Church members who would like to address concerns to the committee are welcome to do so personally. Requests to attend and a brief account of matters for discussion should be given to the Director of Youth Ministry or Board Representative at least two days prior to a scheduled meeting.

COMMITTEE RECORDS

The Director of Youth Ministry or an ordained pastor shall conduct all the training meetings of the committee. The Director of Youth Ministry or a Lay Youth Leader shall conduct all the business and planning meetings of the committee.

All members present at any meeting shall keep notes of the discussions and action taken by the committee.

The Director of Youth Ministry or Elder Representative will report to the Board of Elders each month. The Trustee Representative will report to the board of Trustees each month.

MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

Meetings may be scheduled at the suggestion of Board Representatives, the Director of Youth Ministry, or the committee members acting in majority.

The committee shall have at least ten meetings a year that cover: training, planning, and business.

The committee shall have 1-2 planning and/or training retreats per year.

Committee meeting dates will be decided upon at the first meeting following the start of the new public school year. (Usually: August or September)

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE

- To secure, train, and in extreme cases, to discipline and recommend dismissal of persons on the Middle School and Sr. High ministerial team.
- To stay abreast of the messages offered and curriculum used during youth programs, bible studies, weekly activities, Sunday school, and special programs. Special attention shall be given to its quality and to the suitability to the various age levels.
- To plan the content and leadership of weekly youth activities.
- To plan special activities related to the spiritual, social and emotional development of youth, and to develop other activities including Mission Trips as deemed necessary.
- To guide and assist the Director of Youth Ministry and Lay Youth Leaders in the performance of their duties.
- To continually evaluate the success of the Youth Program in living up to its purpose and work as set forth in this document.
- To encourage participation in provincial events including, but not limited to, camp, youth rallies, and other special events.

Sunday School is a discipleship offering of the overall youth program. It is a place where persons should find support, bible study, spiritual guidance, and denominational beliefs.

Bible Study is a discipleship offering of the overall youth program. It is a place where persons should find support, intensive biblical training, spiritual guidance and Christian training.

A Mission Trip is a ministry offering of the overall youth program. It is a place where persons should reach out to others in Christian love, service and humility. It should not be approached lightly, and training both pre and post trip should be given. Mission Trips should only be scheduled in accordance with the spiritual development of the students, the overall desire of the students, and the support of the Lay Youth Leaders working

directly with the students. Therefore, Mission Trips should not be limited to or be required to happen in any given calendar year.

Weekly Youth Activities should be planned and carried out in accordance with the fulfillment of a specific purpose of the youth program. These events should offer a place where persons can find support, acceptance, fellowship, spiritual guidance, worship, evangelistic opportunities, ministry opportunities, and variety of program.

Youth Focused: Special Programs, Seminars, Trips, and Workshops shall be planned and guided by the Youth Committee. These programs should include spiritual nurture for all youth despite appearance, family background, or church affiliation.

Parenting Focused: Special Programs, Seminars, and Workshops shall be planned and guided by the Youth Committee. These programs should include spiritual nurture for parents of Middle and Sr. High Students.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE YOUTH PROGRAM MINISTERIAL TEAM

Sr. Pastor, Associate Pastor(s): To support and guide the youth and to participate or lead youth activities when possible.

Director of Youth Ministry: To support and guide the youth and to direct the overall program of Christian development for students between 6th and 12th grade.

Designated Lay Youth Leaders: To support and guide the youth and to participate in leader training, participate in the majority of youth events offered during the year and to lead such events as needed. To interact with students in a positive and loving manner, and to serve as a mentor to youth.

Designated Sr. High Student Leaders: To support and guide their fellow youth and to participate in student leader training, attend the majority of youth events, make all students feel welcome, communicate group concerns or need to an adult representative, and to model appropriate program behavior.

Chaperones: To support and guide the youth and to supplement adult leadership at programs.

RULES GOVERNING THE USE OF CHURCH PROPERTY BY THE YOUTH

Youth events will take place in the youth building and pavilion whenever possible.

If another area of the church is required, a request will be given to the church secretary.

THE NEED FOR AN ANNUAL BUDGET

The Youth Committee shall operate under the unified budget of New Philadelphia Moravian Church, and it shall be responsible for submitting a proposed budget for the next calendar year to the Board of Trustees no later than September of the present calendar year.

The Youth Committee shall be responsible for the compilation of the proposed budget.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION

This constitution shall be reviewed and amended annually by the Youth Committee. This review should take place no later than December of each new public school calendar year.

Should there be any amendments necessary, this constitution and the suggested changes shall be brought before the Board of Elders.

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