



Youth & Young Adult Delegates: A Guide for Congregations

Introduction

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference delegates overwhelmingly voted in support of adding youth and young adult delegates to our conference bylaws in the Spring of 2024.

This guide will assist congregations in the selection process, provide details for mentor orientation, and outline the expectations and roles for the delegates. Engaging our youth and young adults in such a meaningful way strengthens our community and brings fresh perspectives to our conference.

Selection of Youth/Young Adult Delegates

Criteria for Selection:

- **Age Range:** Delegates should be aged between 16 and 25 years.
- **Engagement:** Candidates should demonstrate an active engagement in church activities and an interest in the work of the church community.
- **Commitment:** Delegates should be willing and able to commit to participating in Spring Summits (either online or in-person) and Summer Fest, as well as to engage in preparatory and follow-up activities.

Process of Selection:

1. **Nomination:** Members of the congregation can nominate potential delegates. Alternatively, interested individuals may nominate themselves.
2. **Review:** A small committee, perhaps comprising youth leaders, pastors, and other church leaders, should review nominations based on the established criteria.
3. **Interview:** Shortlisted candidates may undergo a brief interview process to gauge their interest and commitment.
4. **Selection:** Two delegates should be selected per congregation to foster peer support and collaboration. Mentors
5. **Registration:** youth and young adults can register themselves on the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference website: <https://im.mennonite.net/yyad>

Mentors

Purpose: To prepare, guide and support the youth delegates before, during, and after the conference.

Role of Mentors:

- Supporting and guiding delegates.
- Communication Skills: Training in effective communicationCommunicate with youth and young adult delegates to offer advice, listen, and provide feedback appropriately.
- Help delegates handle any disagreements or challenges that arise.
- Help youth and young adult delegates with travel arrangements, accommodation, schedule of the conference, and other logistical aspects.

Communication of Expectations and Roles for Delegates

Expectations:

- Engagement: Delegates are expected to actively participate in all scheduled sessions and activities during the conference.
- Representation: Delegates should represent their congregation's views and concerns while also bringing their personal insights to discussions.
- Feedback: After the conference, delegates will be provided a form to fill out in order to provide feedback to their congregations about the discussions, decisions, and the overall experience.

Roles:

- Ambassadors: Act as ambassadors for your congregation, portraying a positive and engaged presence.
- Contributors: Actively contribute to discussions and workshops, sharing insights and learning from others.
- Reporters: Report back to the congregation about the outcomes of the conference and any important information shared during the event.

Conclusion

By carefully selecting and preparing youth/young adult delegates, congregations will strengthen their community bonds and enrich the overall church experience. This guide aims to facilitate a smooth and effective process to empower our youth, ensuring they play an active and meaningful role in our faith community.