Covenant for the Regional Youth Council of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Northern California – Nevada

The Mission

The mission of the CCNC-N Regional Youth Council is to foster personal and spiritual growth in both RYC members and the youth of the region. The RYC seeks to encourage developing leadership skills and to promote integrity through ethical decision making. The RYC will serve as role models and leaders to the Chi Rho (6-8 grade) and CYF (9-12 grade) youth of the region by creating and implementing programming for these age groups.

All RYC members will be held accountable to the RYC policies and covenant by each other, the CCNC-N Regional Minister and the Director of Youth Ministries. All RYC members, youth and adults are representatives of the CCNC-N region and are also asked to abide by all CCNC-N policies. (i.e. adult background checks, boundary trainings, staff training, event covenants)

The Covenant

I, as a youth or adult of RYC, agree to uphold the RYC Covenant by initialing the following statements:

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RYC members are representatives to the region from their home congregations. As such, members should be active participants in the life of their church by regularly attending worship, Sunday school and youth programming, if available. Members are also encouraged to expand their leadership experiences within the congregation by serving on the deaconate, as worship leader, or on ministry teams, where such opportunities exist.

I commit to being an active church participant and leader, especially where opportunities for youth exist. I will explore with my minister ways in which I can further serve the congregation.

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RYC members are asked to demonstrate good character through speech and behavior at all regional events and as representatives of the region. The use of drugs, cigarettes, or alcohol at any regional event is prohibited.

I promise to be a good role model and example to the region. I will respect my body, myself, and others. I know that my role on RYC includes additional responsibilities, which I promise to follow through. I will register for youth events on time and be proactive should an issue arise.
RYC encourages the growth of personal faith through spiritual practices and personal renewal/self care.

I will explore ways of deepening faith both independently and within RYC and my congregation. I am willing to ask for help and to ask for what I need.

RYC members commit to attending all RYC meetings and regionally sponsored youth events. Members agree to participate fully in these activities by lending their creativity, energy, and time to the work of RYC.

I will be present in the work of RYC. I will bring my own thoughts and ideas, and encourage others to share their thoughts and ideas. If I cannot attend a meeting or event, I will let the Director of Youth Ministries know in a timely fashion, two weeks before the meeting.

RYC members seek to encourage the growth of youth programming, but more importantly, they seek to encourage personal and spiritual growth in others. RYC members help to foster community at youth events by being inclusive.

I will extend hospitality to every youth attending any regional event. I will invite conversation and include others into the group. I understand this may mean sacrificing some time with my own friends.

RYC membership does require extra monetary commitments. Members are asked to subsidize much of the outside purchases, like t-shirts, although most costs are covered.

I will let the Director of Youth Ministries know if I am unable to fulfill a financial commitment. I also understand I am responsible for any additional costs during my RYC commitment.

**Additional Covenant Agreements**

In the event that an RYC member cannot fulfill the covenantal agreements, then the Regional Minister and Director of Youth Ministries, along with the other RYC members, will make the decision about the removal of the individual’s membership from the group.
The use of alcohol or cigarettes by underage youth, or the use of illegal drugs by any RYC member, is not accepted. Any violation of this aspect of the covenant will result in immediate dismissal from RYC.

Attendance at regional events and RYC meetings is also important. If a member accumulates two unexcused absences, then they will be immediately dismissed from RYC. An unexcused absence is one in which the RYC member misses or comes late or leaves early from a meeting without contacting the Director of Youth Ministries two weeks prior to the meeting date.

Termination of an RYC member (youth and adult) will be an majority vote of the RYC youth, RYC adults, Director of Youth Ministries and the Regional Minister. A letter of resignation should be written if you can no longer serve on RYC. This letter should be addressed to the Director of Youth Ministries for CCNC-N and should be written no later than one month before resignation.

I have read the above additional Covenant Agreements and understand what they mean.

**How Changes to the RYC Covenant are made**

Changes to the RYC Covenant may be initiated at any time by any member of RYC, the Director for Youth Ministries or the Regional Minister. Procedure for changes are as follows:

A conversation about the proposed change is held among RYC first, since they are most directly affected. Should RYC decide by consensus to make the change, then they will create a draft revision including the change proposed.

The Director of Youth Ministries and Regional Minister will review the change in light of the fact that RYC has the ability to make changes to their own covenant. This group does not have the ability to veto or approve the change, but may offer further conversation about the proposed change. A recommendation on the proposed change will then be sent back to RYC.

RYC will make the final decision on the proposed change in light of the further conversation.
If a decision cannot be reached, the Director of Youth Ministries and Regional Minister are able to help facilitate a final decision.

I have read the above how to change the covenant procedure and understand what it means.