

Youth Delegate Fact Sheet 2016



So you've been asked to be a delegate to Central Plains Annual Meeting! I bet you are wondering what in the world that means! We are Erin and Nathan Ramer, your youth delegate coordinators, we'll try to explain.



Your congregation is one of over 50 congregations that make up Central Plains Mennonite Conference. Every summer, these congregations send representatives called "delegates" to a meeting where they fellowship, worship and make the decisions that keep Central Plains going.

We want to include you.

Central Plains wants you to come to Annual Meeting because we think you should be there to influence the kind of church we are becoming. That's why we encourage every congregation to send at least one youth as a delegate.

This year, we meet in Des Moines, Iowa. The schedule is divided into blocks for worship, business and workshops with breaks for snacks and meals. We meet from Thursday evening through Sunday morning.

We'll be there to mentor you

As a delegate, you'll be included in all meetings and activities, including voting. Plus, we'll have some extra things planned for you to help you understand and process all that you are seeing and hearing. Things like:

- A get-acquainted time just for the youth to get to know one another
- Lunch together with the other youth delegates
- A fun activity in the evening
- A one-on-one conversation with a pastor or conference leader
- Time to talk with conference leaders about church business or leadership.

About logistics

Registration packets are mailed to churches in early April and someone from church will give you a packet. You'll need to fill out a registration form and make your lodging reservation. Youth delegates usually don't all stay together in one place, so you'll want to ask what the other delegates from your church are doing for lodging. The lodging information is in the registration packet, so when you register, ask where the other delegates from your church will be staying. If you're wondering about who will pay the registration fee, ask your pastor or church council chair. Many congregations pay the way for their youth delegate.



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I really get to vote?

Yes, you really do! Don't worry that you will feel unprepared. I'll try to give you all the background information you need and answer all your questions.

How many youth delegates will be there?

It varies from year to year, but there are usually 15-20.

Does the youth delegate have to be a certain age?

Yes. The conference by-laws state that a youth delegate must be at least 15. BUT, younger youth are welcome to come and participate just like the other youth delegates; the only difference is they would not be able to vote.

Can I bring a friend?

Yes! A friend can come and participate in all the same things you do, except vote.

Won't my friend feel out of place if s/he can't vote?

No, there are actually lots of people at Annual Meeting who don't vote: conference and church-wide staff, guests and spouses of delegates. Your friend will be treated just like a youth delegate and will not feel out of place.

Why should I do this?

It's an opportunity to shape the kind of church you want to be a part of. It's a good way to become more familiar with the other congregations in our conference and deepen your understanding of Mennonite Church USA. And, it's a great introduction to church leadership.

Here's what youth delegates from past years have said about their experience:

"I felt included and that they were actually listening to us."

"My mentor was awesome. She was very fun and easy to talk to."

"I had a really good time with the other delegates, and I more understand conference, which is good. The business meetings were long, but that's the reason we're here."

"This was a great learning experience for me, and I also had fun!"

Still have questions?

Your pastor may be able to answer questions about what Annual Meeting is like. You can also give us a call or write us an email. We hope you'll come! We look forward to seeing you at Central Plains Annual Meeting!



Erin & Nathan Ramer

Youth Delegate Coordinators

319-646-3358

elaramer@gmail.com

nathan.wmchurch@gmail.com