

Choosing Youth Delegates

Central Plains Annual Meeting is just months away, so now is the time to choose a congregational youth delegate. Inviting young people to participate in Annual Meeting helps to connect youth to the broader church, introduces them to the deep fellowship we share in Central Plains, begins to grow their leadership skills, increases feelings of ownership in the church, and allows youth to help guide the conference in the present and the future! In addition, our time around tables and in worship at Annual Meeting is richer when we incorporate intergenerational voices in our discussions, Bible studies, discernment, and decision-making.

This year we will be meeting in person again after two years of virtual gatherings. Our theme is “Come to the Table” and we’ll look at some of the myriad of stories of Jesus eating with people. We look forward to good worship, good discussions, good fellowship, and lots of good fun!

Whom to choose

Each congregation is invited to choose one “active participant of their congregation between the ages of 15 and 20” to represent the congregation as a youth delegate. *Youth delegates have full participation in the delegate body.* Additional youths are welcome to be a part of the youth delegate program, but will not have voting privileges, so if congregations choose to send more than one youth to Annual Meeting (which we’d love!), they must designate one the “youth delegate.” Please consider choosing youth delegates by the same mechanism by which your congregation chooses non-youth delegates.

Making the Invitation

How a youth is invited to be the youth delegate matters! When a pastor or council chair thoughtfully invites a youth to be a delegate, s/he understands that it’s an important task and feels affirmed for being chosen. It is also important to explain what is involved so the youth will understand what s/he is being asked to do. When youth feel affirmed to do a significant task and understand what they are getting into, they are more likely to agree to do it! The Youth Delegate Invitation that is found in this packet or online at centralplainsmc.org/annual-meeting-2022 is designed to help a youth understand what s/he is being asked to do. Please read it and give it to the youth you invite.

Preparing Youth Delegates for their Task

It is a good idea to get your delegates together before Annual Meeting to review the business that will take place. This meeting will be very helpful in preparing your youth delegate. You’ll also want to make sure that each youth is registered and has a place to stay during Annual Meeting. Much of our conference reporting will be done ahead of time via our website again this year, so you’ll want to direct your youth delegate to the resources that will be found on centralplainsmc.org/annual-meeting-2022 so that they are informed and ready for their work as delegates when they come to the meeting.

I look forward to meeting with our youth delegates when we gather for Annual Meeting. I always appreciate the wisdom of our youth delegates when we engage in discussions of business, Bible study and discernment and also the ways in which our youth delegates care for one another and for the church and make Annual Meeting much more fun!

Please feel free to call (319) 325-4522 or email amandableichty@centralplainsmc.org with your questions or suggestions.

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