



Missouri Mid-South Conference
United Church of Christ

Missouri Mid-South Youth Roundtable: Information and Application Process



The application deadline is June 5th . Please mail your application to...

Youth and Young Adult Working Group
Missouri Mid-South Conference
411 E. Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63119

Questions? E-mail yaya_mms@live.com or call 314-918-2614



What is the Youth Roundtable?

The Youth Roundtable (RT) is the youth leadership organization of the Conference. The RT is comprised of youth and adult sponsors from around the Missouri Mid-South Conference. Youth serving on the RT recognize that they are part of the present and future of the Church and that their perspectives are vitally important to the ministry of their churches, the conference and the United Church of Christ denomination. Committed to active participation in the whole life of their churches and the conference, RT youth gather together four times a year and on-line throughout the year, seeking to engage in true dialogue around issues of faith, that they might

1. find and claim their individual voices around issues our conference and national church settings are engaging
2. become empowered to claim their voice outside of the RT — on boards, councils and committees throughout the life of the U.C.C.
3. provide suggestions and support to the Youth and Young Adult Working Group of the conference (YAYA) regarding conference youth and young adult programming and other YAYA mission statement-related activities and involvement

From where did the idea for the Roundtable come?

The RT was born out of a concern and a desire. The concern is that we as churches, a conference and a national church often encourage youth participation but don't do nearly enough to empower youth leadership. The result has been youth group programming at all levels of the church that often seeks to entertain more than it seeks to honor how God might be speaking in our younger members in potentially earth-shattering ways — ways that could reveal new paths for the life of the church. It is the desire of the conference's Youth and Young Adult Working Group (YAYA) to change this, working towards our mission statement goal of ensuring "fair and adequate representation" of youth among the governing voices of our conference by empowering youth to find and claim their voice in the RT, so that they may then find and claim their voice in other settings of the United Church of Christ.

Who may apply?

Any youth in high school or middle school are welcome to apply. Adult sponsors should be at least 23 years of age. Adults also need to complete the application (including references) and will be asked to complete a background check form at the first roundtable meeting.

Why do we have applications?

The application process is not meant to exclude, but to (1) encourage serious commitments among those who really want to be a part of this ministry and (2) ensure a fair and adequate representation of youth from churches across the conference. For example, it would not be "fair" or an adequate representation of our conference's youth population to allow a large number of youth from a single church to serve on the RT. Applications will be reviewed by YAYA and applicants will be notified of decisions on Friday, June 13th. Roundtable members will be required to attend our first meeting in Columbia, Missouri on Saturday, June 28th (see the Roundtable event schedule).

What paperwork is needed to apply?

Each person must fill out an Application form, a Youth or Adult Covenant and get two references to complete the RT reference forms. All of these items are due by June 5th to the conference office. See the application form for the mailing address.

What kind of commitment is required?

The term is two years (one year for high school seniors), beginning at the end of June. Roundtable members are asked to place the RT among their top priorities. Members are expected to attend at least three of the four in-person meetings per year, including the meeting held during the annual gathering of the conference (“Biennial meeting”/ “Faithworks”). Some meetings may include an overnight stay. [See the Roundtable Event Schedule for details.](#)

In addition to in-person meetings, youth are expected to maintain active participation in RT’s online forum throughout the year and to become active in at least one other governing setting in the life of their church, the conference or the national church.

Each youth is expected to make one short presentation to the RT group per year — around an issue in either the life of the conference or the national church that he/she has chosen and researched. The presentations are meant to provide good jumping off places for dialogue in the group.

What kind of support do Roundtable Members need?

Roundtable members need the prayerful support of their parents/guardians and local church to help keep calendars cleared and to coordinate transportation to help get members to meetings. A roster will be provided, so that members may either carpool or ride the train with other RT youth and adults from their area. If an RT meeting happens over a mealtime, that meal will be provided. Assistance related to other expenses will be available if needed.

What prior experience should a Roundtable applicant have?

Applicants must currently be active in their local U.C.C. church (in church school or youth group or church board/committee or choir, etc.).

Who do I contact for more information?

First, check out the MMS Youth Roundtable website we will be using. Some current issues in the life of the conference and wider U.C.C. are already posted, with links (click on the pictures), to jumpstart our conversations. The website can be found at:

<http://www.youthroundtable.weebly.com>

If you have further questions, please e-mail yaya_mms@live.com or call Leah Atkinson, Acting Conference Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (through July 2008) at 314-269-6690. If you have received a hard copy of this application, additional applications and forms can be downloaded from the conference website: <http://www.mmsucc.org>

2008-2009

Youth Roundtable Event Calendar

Saturday, June 28

First meeting of the Roundtable
Columbia United Church of Christ
Columbia, MO
12:00-3:00 PM (lunch provided)

October 17-19

“FaithWorks” gathering of the conference
Tan-Tar-A Resort, Lake of the Ozarks

Tentative Schedule

Fri. 9-11 PM Bowling

Sat. 8-11:30 Breakfast & Mission Fest

11:30-1 Faith-Sharing Lunches

1-1:30 Break

1:30-2:30 Tex Sample Keynote

2:30-3:00 Break

3:00-4:15 Workshops

***** 4:15-6:00 Youth Roundtable meeting**

6:00-9:00 Banquet

9:00-11:00 Karaoke for all,
hosted by youth

Sun. 8:30-9:30 Bible Study

9:30-10:00 Break

10:00-11:30 Closing Worship

Saturday, January 10

Roundtable meeting
(in either Columbia or Jefferson City)

Saturday, April 18

Roundtable meeting
(in either Columbia or Jefferson City)



Application Form
Missouri Mid-South Youth Roundtable

Please complete and return by June 5, 2008 to:
Youth and Young Adult Working Group, MMS-UCC
411 E. Lockwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119

Personal Information:

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Birth date ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy) Gender ____ E-mail _____

Church _____ City/State _____

Pastor _____ Youth Leader _____

Racial / Ethnic Group _____

References: Please ask two adults who are not from your immediate family to complete the reference forms. We would like it if at least one of those persons could be a leader at your church (youth leader, church school teacher, pastor, moderator, etc.) — whoever has the most contact with you (and is not immediate family).

Questionnaire: Please answer the following questions (attach another sheet if you need more room):

What have you been involved with at your church?

What faith-related activities do or have you participated in outside of your home church (ie: youth events, community Bible studies, on-line faith communities, conference gatherings, etc.)?

What major responsibilities do you have right now? Will you have enough time for Roundtable (in addition to your job, club leadership, sports, youth group, etc.)?

Why would you like to serve on the Youth Roundtable?



Roundtable Youth and Adult Sponsor Participation Covenant

Serving on the Youth Roundtable is a leadership opportunity that comes with a high level of responsibility and expectations. *Should I be chosen to serve* on the Roundtable, I agree to the following:

- All meetings are important and I will attend at least three of the four meetings of the Roundtable each year. I will notify one of the Roundtable Leaders of an absence prior to the meeting.
- I recognize that any Roundtable responsibility I take on (i.e. tasks / assignments, phone calls, etc.) is important and that follow-through is imperative. I will communicate with one of the Roundtable adult leaders if I am in need of assistance.
- I agree to participate in respectful dialogue on the Roundtable — meaning that I will seek to listen and understand the viewpoints of others, ask questions and carefully share beliefs I have formed or am forming. I will not make it my personal mission to convert others to my way of thinking. I recognize that among the RT members, I will encounter many beliefs different from my own. I welcome that reality and the potential growth I may experience by working with such a diverse group.
- I agree to be a regular and active participant in my local United Church of Christ congregation. Participation may include attending worship, attending or teaching church school, serving on a church council / board / committee, or singing in the choir. I understand that an Roundtable adult leader may contact my local pastor and/or youth leader in regard to my participation in my local congregation.
- My participation on the Roundtable is a privilege and I understand that I am representing my local church as well as the Conference during all Conference-related events.
- I recognize the importance of living my faith daily and I will seek to continue to grow in my faith throughout my term on the Roundtable.
- I recognize that passing grades in school (or for adults — maintaining healthy relationships with my partner and children) should be a priority I place above the Roundtable.
- I agree to abide to all of the above and recognize that I may be dismissed from the Roundtable if I fail to uphold the guidelines and requirements listed above.

Participant Signature

Date _____

I have read the covenant and will do my best to support this youth/adult in following these guidelines and meeting the expectations.

Parent, Guardian, or Partner's Signature

Date _____

Pastor, Christian Educator or Youth Leader's Signature

Date _____



Youth Roundtable Reference Form #1

One form is to be completed by your pastor, youth leader or Christian educator (whoever knows you best that is also not related to you). The other form is to be completed by an employer, teacher or adult family friend.

I, _____, am applying for a position on the Youth Roundtable. The Roundtable is a youth leadership organization within the Missouri Mid-South Conference, United Church of Christ. Your frank appraisal will assist those reviewing applications in gaining a better picture of my character, qualities and abilities. **These forms are due by June 5, 2008.** When you have completed the form, please mail it to:

Youth and Young Adult Working Group, MMS-UCC, 411 E. Lockwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119

Please rate the applicant on the following areas, using a scale of 1-5. One = excellent, five = poor

_____ Dependability

_____ Judgment

_____ Christian Commitment

_____ Emotional Stability

_____ Cooperation

_____ Initiative and Resourcefulness

_____ Intellect

_____ Personality

_____ Adaptability

Do you recommend this applicant for the Youth Roundtable? Circle one: Yes / No

Please provide any further information that would be helpful in appraising the applicant. Please use the back of this form or attach a separate sheet if more space is needed.

How many years have you known the applicant? _____ In what capacity? _____

Your name _____ Title _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Day Phone(_____) _____ Evening Phone(_____) _____

E-mail _____

Questions? E-mail yaya_mms@live.com or call (314)918-2614



Youth Roundtable Reference Form #2

One form is to be completed by your pastor, youth leader or Christian educator (whoever knows you best that is also not related to you). The other form is to be completed by an employer, teacher or adult family friend.

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