

# Presbytery Youth Report

*“One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts.”  
Psalm 145:4*

God calls us to declare His works to the next generation, that the present and future generations would praise the name of the Lord. Since the late 1800s in our denomination, Covenanter Young Peoples’ Union (CYPYU) has assisted churches, pastors, and parents in making Christ known to young people in order that they might praise Him. In the GL-G Presbytery, many parents continue to send their students to the CYPYU Christ-centered events throughout the year. With the help of pastors, leaders, and counselors, the CYPYU Leadership Team (elected from among the youth, by the youth) annually carry out:

Summer Bash (July), Fall Ministry Project (October), Winter Conference (December), Theological Foundations Weekend (February), ECHO summer mission trip (June), and the Covfamikoi youth program (with the exception of International Conference years).

Our current CYPYU leadership team is composed of students from Bloomington, Christ Church, Immanuel, Second RP, Southside, and Orlando. Our present team members are as follows:

President: *Ava Concannon*

Vice President: *Mariah Larson*

Secretary: *Isabel Olivetti*

Treasurer: *Jesse Burton*

Registration Director: *Lauren Thomson & Jayna Bailey*

Brochures: *Calvin Falk*

Social Media: *Lydia Enas*

Food and Set up Coordinator: *Mariah Larson*

Sports Director: *David Erney*

Summary of events from 2021:

Event	Month	Location	Theme	Speaker	Sponsor	Attendance
Theological Foundations Day	April	McCormick's Creek State Park	Theology/RP distinctives	David Hanson	Nick & Esther Rittenour	43
ECHO	June	Ft. Myers, FL	Service/Missions	N/A	John Hanson	~22
Summer Bash	July	Avon Town Park	Isaiah 6 - Holiness of God	James Faris	Andrew & Lauren Saunders	46
Fall Ministry	Oct	Various	Service in the Church	Ken DeJong	Kevin & Bethany Mauser	31
Winter Conference	Dec	Camp Lakeview	Proverbs	Joel Hart	Jacob & Cassi Long	59

Due to COVID in 2021, the CYPYU team planned an outdoor single-day event in spring dedicated to strengthening the Theological Foundations of our youth. Without Covfamikoi, we gathered again in summer for a day in the park of fellowship and exhortation to holiness from Isaiah 6 brought by James Faris.

The most recent Winter Conference, December 28-31, 2021, “Living Well in God’s World” examined God’s call to live wisely from the book of Proverbs. Pastor Joel Hart urged the students to consider the beauty of a wise life in God’s world that reflects the wisdom of our Creator God. Many thanks to Jacob and Cassi Long for leading this event on short notice.

At the time of this report, we just concluded a successful Theological Foundations Weekend (TFW) February 25-27, 2022, with Pastor David Hanson as our main speaker and teaching coordinator with additional teaching from Ian Wise. Thanks to Nick and Esther Ritenour for their continued coordination of logistics.

We want to publicly thank Kevin & Bethany Mauser for 12 years (2009-2021) of faithful service with the Fall Ministry Project. We are looking for another individual or couple to coordinate this event. We also want to publicly thank Zachary and Flo Blackwood for 5 years of faithful service (2014 - 2019) as Covfamikoi Youth Directors. Stephen and Sarah Shipp will be the Covfamikoi Youth Directors in 2022. The event leaders take the responsibilities that make each of these CYPUs possible. We are blessed and grateful to labor and serve alongside these faithful saints from several congregations!

Once again we made it a priority to offer significant scholarships to churches outside close proximity of Indiana. As a Presbytery spanning from the Great Lakes all the way to the Gulf, it is important to make certain that the more distant churches have an opportunity to participate in the CYPUs as well, and we are thankful for the Presbytery's financial support to make this a possibility.

We are grateful that Andrew Saunders filled the CYPUs director role in an interim capacity from March to June, 2021, and Stephen Rhoda from November 2021 to the present. The CYPUs director mentors the CYPUs leadership team and coordinates between the CYPUs team and event leaders and leads one or more events annually as needed.

Included with this report is a proposed profile for new board to be established by Presbytery to oversee the ministry of CYPUs, providing accountability, support, and encouragement for the director of CYPUs.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephen Rhoda, CYPUs Director Pro Tem

### Recommendations

1. That Presbytery renew its financial support for CYPUs at the same level as last year.
2. That Presbytery adopt the proposed profile for a new board for CYPUs.

## PROPOSAL

### Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America

# CYPU Administrative Board Profile

#### Origination and Purpose

The Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA) has established this administrative board to oversee the ministry of its youth organization: Covenanter Young People's Union (CYPU). The purpose of the board is to provide accountability, support, and encouragement for the Director of CYPU and for the ministry of CYPU as a whole.

#### Board Membership and Officers

The members of the board shall be appointed by Presbytery. The board shall consist of five members, including at least two elders and at least two women. Members shall be communicant members of churches of the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery.

Each member shall serve a three-year term. Members completing their term may be reappointed by Presbytery for as long as they are willing to serve. While the board may make suggestion to Presbytery for new members to serve on the board, only Presbytery may appoint members to the board. The chair of the board will be appointed by Presbytery and will be responsible for calling, scheduling, and leading the meetings. A secretary will be chosen by the board from its members to record and submit minutes of each meeting and to process correspondence on behalf of the board.

#### Meetings

The CYPU Board will meet at least twice each year, meetings beginning and ending with earnest prayer for God's blessing in the name of Christ. The first meeting should occur as early as possible in the calendar year for the sake of planning the year's activities for CYPU. A second meeting should occur in the middle of the calendar year to review completed events and to confirm plans for the balance of the year. Meetings may occur in person or electronically, or by a combination of the two.

#### Accountability and Reporting

1. The board shall submit minutes of their meetings to the Ad Interim Commission (AIC) of the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery within a week after each meeting. The minutes should provide a clear record of the board's decisions, including updates on ministry plans, efforts, and accomplishments.
2. The board shall provide a written report to the spring meeting of the Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery, with a member designated by the board to be available in person to answer questions from the floor of Presbytery.
3. The board shall submit a request for annual funds budgeted and provided by Presbytery along with their report.

# PROPOSAL

## Delineation of Tasks and Responsibilities

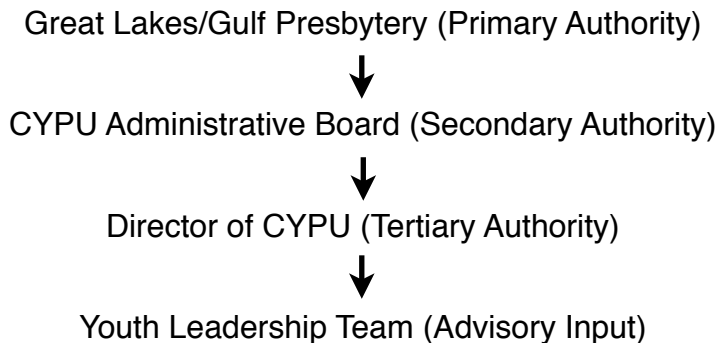
1. The board shall be responsible for calling a director of CYPUP and overseeing the director's work. At each of its two annual meetings, the board shall receive both a written and oral report from the director. The written report will be required of the director at least a week in advance of each meeting. The oral report will require that the director participate in the meeting, though not having a vote in the decisions of the board. The director's report will serve as the main focus of each meeting.
2. The director shall take the lead role in planning and implementing the events of the CYPUP ministry year, including the following existing ministries:

Theological Foundations Weekend (TFW)	Summer Bash
SONRise	Fall Ministry Project
CYPUP Events at Covfamikoi	Winter Conference

These events have occurred in the past and are not hereby mandated by this board profile. Also, new and additional events may be proposed by the director, but may not be carried out without board approval.

3. The Director of CYPUP shall work closely with a Youth Leadership Team (YLT) composed of six youth members from among those eligible for participation in CYPUP ministry, for the sake of giving voice to the youth in the choice and planning of their ministry events, also providing leadership training and experience. As meetings of the YLT are conducted, the Director shall submit minutes to the board within a week after each meeting.

Therefore, the administrative structure of CYPUP will be as follows:



4. The board shall approve the calling of members of the Youth Leadership Team. Each year the director shall lead the current YLT to make nominations of new members, and after gaining pastor or Session recommendation for each nominee, the director shall submit the recommended nominations to the board for approval.
5. The board shall approve the calling of event directors, i.e. a lead person or married couple specific to each ministry event of CYPUP.
6. The board will ensure that an insurance policy providing liability coverage for accidental injury and abuse/misconduct for CYPUP ministries and activities is in force, either under the broader policy of Presbytery or by way of a policy specific to CYPUP.

## **PROPOSAL**

### Conclusion

This profile shall serve as a mandate and guide for the ministry of the CYPU Administrative Board. Presbytery welcomes proposed changes to this profile from the board as they report each year but fully expects the board to operate according to this profile until any changes may be made by Presbytery.