

CYPU Spring 2023

Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery RPCNA Report

Board Members:

Stephen Rhoda – President/Interim Director – Class of 2024
Bryan Planalp – Secretary/Clerk – Class of 2025
Anna Roberts – Treasurer – Class of 2025
Joy Whitt – Class of 2024
Kevin Duffey – Class of 2023

Board Activity: The Board met six times beginning in June of 2022 with several key areas of focus.

- Transition from the good work of Jacob Long who requested to resign from his role as Director.
- Document key roles include the Director, Youth Leadership Team (YLT), and Treasurer
- Begin a search for a new director and support Stephen Rhoda in his role as Interim Director.
- Address Child Protection Policy requirements for events.

Key Successes during the last year.

- Stephen Rhoda successfully took on the responsibilities of Interim Director from Jacob Long. The transition was completed in early August of 2022.
- A job description of the Director's role was documented and approved by the CYPUB board. This was key to support the Director's search and transition to the CYPUB board oversight.
- YLT guidelines were documented.
- Treasurer documentation, PayPal and Banking information was transitioned to Anna Roberts – Treasurer for on-going administration.
- Events Held in 2022
 - Fall Fest 2022 - November meeting at McCormick's Creek State Park. Shipps were event coordinators, Day long event. (Two Meals) Phillip McCullum was the speaker (20-25 attended)
 - Winter Conference 2022 – 3 night event at Lakeview Camp in Seymour Indiana. Approximately 50 attended, John Punt was speaker. 5 male counselor and 3 female counselor Luke Hart was cook. 2/3 male/ 1/3 female. Ratio was a good cross-section of presbytery, Steve and Mary Rhoda were event coordinators.
 - Youth Leadership Team – Steve is meeting regularly with the YLT
 - Psalm Sing - January 29, 2023, February 26, 2023 – 2nd RP – Jacob and Cassie Long were event coordinators.
- Upcoming 2023 events in Spring and Fall

- Theological Foundations Weekend 2023 – March/April Event – arrangements coming up soon.
- Winter Conference 2023 - TBD
- Reach out to churches – Board will reach out to the Presbytery by making visits to churches with the goal of growing participation
 - Promotion of CYPU and the YLT
 - Discipleship and volunteer opportunity
 - Search for Director

CYPU Board Proposals for Presbytery consideration:

Proposal 1:

Stephen Rhoda would like to focus on the Director's role and would like to pass-on the responsibilities of President of the Board. Therefore

We Propose:

- 1) Bryan Planalp will become the President of the CYPU Board
- 2) Stephen Rhoda will remain Director of the CYPU
- 3) An additional CYPU board member will be named.

Proposal 2:

We propose:

- 1) Changes to the Youth Ministry Staff Application Form:
 - a) Removing the experience questions; our proposed revision is attached.
 - b) Changing the form requirements so that rather than a letter of recommendation from pastor or elders, there is a standard attestation that is sent to pastor or elders to confirm (by signing) or reject.
- 2) Purchasing a Docusign account and using it to administer this form electronically.
 - a) This will work on the web or via the Docusign app.
 - b) Presbytery may want to consider whether the Docusign account should be owned by the CYPU or by the presbytery itself (i.e., should it be shared across all presbytery events).
 - c) Docusign is \$25 per month per seat, so purchasing one seat would cost \$300 per year.
 - d) We would like to ask presbytery to fund this cost in our CYPU budget. The benefits will be speed, ease, and uniformity.
- 3) CYPU Board will create a process to administer the forms and collect the documentation. Sending and collecting the forms will be time-consuming at first, as all youth workers will have to be processed, but should become easier over time as youth workers assist at multiple events.

Proposal 3:

We propose:

- 1) CYPU Board review of the CPP to seek clarification and recommended minor adjustments. Some areas to be reviewed include:
 - a. In II.B.2, what does it mean to “administer a GLGP youth program”? Does this refer to event coordinators, or anyone present at the event to oversee the youth (event coordinator, counselors, drivers, cook)?
 - b. In III.A, “Staff” and “Volunteer” have different requirements, and volunteer does not mention background check or the application form. However, the rest of the policy and context seems to assume that volunteers will also fill out the application form; is that the intent?
 - i. In III.A.2.c, what does it mean for volunteers to “remain under Staff supervision”? Does this mean line of sight, or just generally under their

oversight at an event? Would counselors at the high school winter conference be Staff or Volunteers?

- c. Regarding the application form, if the pastor is a close relative of the applicant, should we require that the form be approved by an unrelated pastor or elder rather than a relative?
- d. The CPP does not say how frequently to administer background checks, or if the application form ever needs to be redone. Our assumption is that background checks need to be redone every three years, and that the application form is a one-time event. Is this correct?
- e. Do the bathroom guidelines in III.D.3 apply to high school age youth? Youth was defined as “those the age of 18 years of age or younger”.
- f. In III.C.2, what is an “approved adult”? Could this be added to the definition section? Is this someone who has to fill out the application form?

Proposed new Youth Ministry Application Form:

Youth Ministry Staff Application Form
Great Lakes – Gulf Presbytery (RPCNA)

All information on this application will be kept confidential. If you have any questions about the application, please call or email the Presbytery Youth Leadership overseeing the event.

I. Basic Information

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

What age will be you be at the time of the first event at which you wish to serve? _____

How many years have you been a communicant member of the RPCNA? _____

Are you currently a communicant member of the RPCNA in good standing? _____

Current congregation: _____

II. History

Have you ever been:

- Arrested for any reason? *Yes / No*
- Convicted of, or pleaded no contest to, any crime involving minors? *Yes / No*
- Convicted of, or pleaded no contest to, a moving violation in the last 3 years? *Yes / No*

III. Affirmations

Place your initials on each line.

_____ I have carefully read the GLGP Child Protection Policy.

_____ I recognize that the GLGP is relying upon the accuracy of the information contained herein. Accordingly, I attest and affirm that all the information that I have provided is completely true and correct o the best of my knowledge.

_____ I authorize GLGP to contact any person or entity listed in this application and elder(s) of my session, and I further authorize any such person or entity to provide GLGP with information, opinions, and impressions relating to my background or qualifications.

_____ I further authorize GLP to conduct a criminal background investigation and/or child abuse investigation if further investigation is deemed necessary.

_____ I voluntarily release GLGP and any such organization or entity listed herein by me from liability involving the communication of information relating to my background or qualifications.

IV. Attachments

Please remember to include the following with this application form:

1. *(If necessary)* Explanation of answers.

Applicant Signature _____ *Date:* _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if applicant is under 18)
_____ *Date:* _____

V. Pastor/Elder Attestation

I am a pastor or elder from the applicant's current congregation. I attest that the applicant is a member in good standing of my congregation. I further attest that I have no reservations regarding the applicant's fitness for working with youth.

Additional comments (optional):

Pastor/Elder Signature and Date _____

For Administrative Use Only

Date submitted and received: _____

Date background check submitted: _____

Date background check results received: _____

Date and name of elder giving recommendation of applicant to be a youth ministry staff member: _____

Application Approved _____ Application Denied _____

Date of application approval or denial: _____