

YOUTH FORUM AT THE 43ND GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA:
SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Youth Forum? Youth Forum is a unique event in the life of the United Church of Canada, engaging youth delegates in exploring United Church identity and connection and contributing their learning and perspectives to the work of the General Council in meaningful ways.

Who is it for? For youth ages 15-18 in 2017

How does it work? In 2018, Youth Forum will include three key components:

Winter Gathering

*Five Oaks Centre, Paris ON
February 16-19/2018*

At the Winter Retreat, delegates will engage in experiential learning activities to help them become more aware of the current structure of the church, how policies and proposals are developed and submitted, and how decisions are made by the General Council. The GC 43 Youth Forum as a group will elect 13 youth (one from each Conference), and an additional 13 alternates, and recommend them to Conferences for election as commissioners to the General Council.

Summer Pilgrimage 2018

During summer 2018, the 13 youth commissioners, along with two young adult leaders, will be employed by the General Council to make a pilgrimage across the country to United Church youth events, gatherings, and camps to listen to the dreams and needs of young people. They will also spend some weeks working in their home conference. The whole time of employment will be July 4- August. 24/2018.

General Council 43

*Oshawa, ON
July 21-28/2018*

The 13 youth who are elected as Commissioners at the Winter Gathering will attend GC 43 and will take part in the work of the commissioners during the following triennium. In addition to the 13 youth who are commissioners and who engage in the pilgrimage, the four other Conference youth who attend the Winter Retreat will engage in the court of the 43rd General Council and in the out-of-court-time programming for youth at the 43rd General Council. These non-voting Youth Forum Delegates at General Council will share their wisdom with voice but no vote.

Youth Forum Process: Manitou Conference Executive will select five interested and motivated youth to attend the National Youth Forum **Winter Gathering** at Five Oaks Centre in Paris, Ontario. They will also attend the General Council in Oshawa, July 21-28/2018. This Retreat will help to prepare and form the Youth attending Youth Forum at GC 43. At this Retreat, the five youth from Manitou Conference will gather with five youth from all the other Conferences in Canada. Those youth delegates will then further select one full commissioner and one alternate to represent Manitou Conference at the **43rd General Council** in Oshawa, Ontario. **Youth Forum Commissioners** will be employed throughout the summer by the General Council to consult with youth while completing a **national pilgrimage**; as commissioners, they are empowered to speak and vote at General Council, and so must be members of the United Church of Canada.

How will Manitou choose their delegates? Anyone in Manitou Conference who is between 15 and 18 years of age in 2017, with a deep passion for the church and the work of God alive in the world is welcome to apply. Once all the applications are in, members of Manitou Conference Executive will make a decision which 5 people will attend the Winter Gathering and General Council. Please note that those chosen will ideally represent the whole Conference geographically.

How do I apply? Complete an application form available from your minister, youth minister or online at www.manitouconference.ca. Applications must be submitted to Manitou Conference **BY NOVEMBER 10, 2017.**

**For more information, please contact Melody Duncanson Hales, Manitou Conference staff:
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