



Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod www.mnosynod.org

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YOUTH LEADERS COVENANT 2018

The MNO Synod has a history of positive development for youth and young adult ministry. Dedicated funding for youth ministry staffing, a place for youth and their leaders to worship, lead, create, tell and study our faith and our relationship with creation, including others.

Congregations choose gifted people to lead youth groups. These leaders bring enthusiasm and passion for synod and national events and other programming. They come with a positive spirit that is infectious and inspiring and includes diversity in opinions and experiences.

In an effort to continue this good work and create safe places for our youth to be all that God has intended them to be as God's people in this time and place, to teach that differing viewpoints are okay and to respect differing experiences and opinions and to know this so that we can grow in faith through diversity, we the leaders who have signed on to the covenant agree to the following:

1. When there are differences, we respect diversity. That does not mean we agree but that we respect the diversity found and lived out in each other.
2. Tough topics are covered in God's Word as found in scripture. We do not shy away from discussing tough topics but enter into and engage in them in appropriate ways, as leaders, first one to another and then as community or communities.
3. Express the depth of who we are in the Lutheran tradition, through our worship, our language, our traditions and our cultures, ever mindful that we belong to a whole community in Christ, with ecumenical and interfaith relationships as well
4. Recognize we have power as leaders and that we influence young people. Honour that trust and recognize when we use it to express our own opinions.
5. Build relationships between groups and leaders. Build positive interactions and friendships so that youth see the power of community that is developing beyond their own context, that they are part of a larger body as the Body of Christ.
6. Build partnerships that strengthen each other. Be aware of single leadership situations and seek to assist each other in the work we all do on behalf of the church, our congregations, our youth and our communities.
7. Create opportunities where the struggles and joys of ministry are shared and affirmed. Find the time to talk about difficult situations and share how you are dealing with them.
8. Be open to change. The church and God's people are ever changing in needs, cares, and ministry and our work as leaders need to reflect this reality.
9. Support each other through joint programming, youth leader gatherings and intentional leadership development, as well as attendance at congregational events
10. Model hospitality to youth, reaching out to new people and others we meet in youth programming and events. Mingle, mingle, mingle.

We ask for support in living out this covenant through MNO Synod staff assistance and programming, congregational leadership and other signatories to this covenant.

Signatories:

Name	Congregation/Ministry Area	Signature
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

***Once you have signed a copy of the covenant, please send a copy to the synod office <mnosynod@elcic.ca> and we will add your name to the list of signatories on the synod website.**