

## UNITY BAPTIST YOUTH POLICY - **DRAFT**

### Youth Group Guiding Principles

- Youth group is welcoming to all youth who attend, whether or not they are regular Unity Baptist Church attenders. Youth group participants are encouraged to invite friends to attend youth events with them.
- Youth group activities prioritize opportunities for learning about Jesus, building relationships, and serving others, in accordance with the overall UBC and Youth Strategic Plans.
- Sponsors, youth, and special guests behave in a way that is encouraging, kind, affirming, and respectful of all others present.
- Youth are expected to help facilitate events by participating in activities like planning games, bringing snacks, and setup and cleanup. Taking an active role in activities enables youth to develop a sense of ownership of their group and build on the principle of serving others.

### Youth Event Scheduling

- Youth group (Grades 6-12) is held bi-weekly Thursday night from 6:30 to 8:30 PM (unless otherwise noted, ie: service nights).
- A Bible study is held on the alternate Thursdays from 7:00-8:30 PM for older youth (Grades 8-12). The Bible study for grades 6 & 7 is held bi-weekly during the Sunday morning worship service.
- Youth Group is divided into terms: Fall (September-December), Winter (January-March), and Spring (April to mid-May). Prior to the beginning of each of those terms youth sponsors determine the schedule for the term and provide it to parents via the website.
- Any events outside Thursday nights are determined by sponsors and included in the schedule to provide advanced planning for youth families.

### Youth Event Communication

- Schedules are posted to the church website on a term basis. Announcements are also made in the pre-service slides and bulletin.
- Weekly announcements for events are not sent out via text or email (all info is on the website). If a change does need to be made on short notice due to unforeseen circumstances, we will contact the parents/youth via the Remind 101 app.
- [youth@unitybaptist.ca](mailto:youth@unitybaptist.ca) email address is the primary communication link for parents for non-urgent questions/concerns.

## Youth Misconduct Resolution

1. First Occurrence - youth is removed from activity for a talk with a youth leader
2. Second Occurrence - youth is removed from activity for a talk with the youth leader. In addition a youth leader discusses the occurrence with the appropriate parent(s) at pick up.
3. Third Occurrence - youth is removed from all further activities during that event and parents are called and asked to pick up youth.
4. We have a zero-tolerance policy with regards to
  - a. Alcohol, drug or tobacco use at events
  - b. Abusive or disrespectful behaviour towards sponsors, other youth or guests at our events

## Parent/Sponsor Communication

Parent concerns regarding youth are directed to designated youth contact (Joel & Chantel Raatz). Any concerns regarding youth sent directly to church staff will be forwarded to the designated youth contact.

- Designated youth contacts are responsible to respond within a reasonable amount of time.
- If the matter is not resolved, the designated contacts will meet with the parent and the senior staff member for youth to resolve the issue. Decisions from this stage are final.

## Parent-Planned Youth Events

Parents have expressed an interest in planning and facilitating occasional youth events. To ensure that the proposed event integrates well with the existing youth program, parents and sponsors adhere to the following procedure:

1. Parents contact the designated youth sponsor and provide details of the proposed event prior to the beginning of the youth term.
2. The youth sponsor team discusses, assesses and approves the proposed event based on the following criteria:
  - a. Does it align with the *Unity Baptist Youth Strategic Plan*?
  - b. Does it provide opportunity for all youth to participate?
  - c. Will it provide opportunity for growth as followers of Christ?
3. If the event is approved, youth sponsors contact parent(s) to finalize scheduling and details to include in the term schedule.
4. Sponsors are responsible for communicating details about the event; parents are responsible for planning, hosting, and facilitating the activities.
5. At least two sponsors must be available to attend the event as supervisors and to provide a familiar contact for youth and parents.