



Community of Christ
Canada West
Mission Centre

Canada West Mission procedure to process Registered Youth Worker application forms:

As of March 1, 2014, Community of Christ Legal Services must receive applications to become a Registered Children and Youth Worker **at least two weeks** before the applicant proposes to begin working with children and youth. Approval outside this timeframe cannot be guaranteed.

The **Applicant** is to fully complete pages 1 and 2 of the Registered Youth Worker application form and submit to their Pastor.

The **Pastor** is to review the application form and ensure it has been properly completed and conduct interviews for applicant references provided on page 2 (there are sample questions on last page). After conducting the interviews, the Pastor is to complete references (page 3), Statement of Personal Interviewer (page 4) and Statement of Church Officer (page 5) and **submit to** Canada West Mission by e-mailing it to **Lisa Neudorf** (lisa@communityofchrist.ca).

Canada West Mission will process the application form and submit it to Community of Christ Legal Services.

Legal Services will notify the applicant and Canada West Mission of the applicant's authorization and confirmation as a Registered Youth Worker. Please remember the applicant is not a Registered Children and Youth Worker until Legal Services has authorized and confirmed the individual as such. Neither completion of training, nor submission of an application guarantees registration. We look forward to working alongside you on this.

Please note, there are two steps to becoming an approved Registered Youth Worker 1) the application; and 2) the training. Once an applicant has been approved as a Registered Youth Worker, they are not required to go through the application process again. Community of Christ legal does require all RYW to participate in updated training every five years.

For more information contact Lisa Neudorf, CWM Camping & Retreat Coordinator (lisa@communityofchrist.ca) or Hazel Browne, Executive Assistant to General Counsel (hbrowne@CofChrist.org).

Community of Christ

Children and Youth Worker Confidential Application

*This application is to be completed by all people wishing to serve in **any** position with the Community of Christ that involves direct contact with children or youth. The intent of this application is to help the church provide a safe and secure environment for young people who participate in ministry and to assist applicants and church leaders in identifying and utilizing gifts and skills of the applicant.*

1) APPLICANT INFORMATION

Date of Application: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Full Name: (Last, First, Middle) _____ (Other) _____

Present Address: _____

City, State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Criminal Offenses; Investigations; Administrative Actions – If the applicant answers ‘Yes’ below, the applicant MUST provide a detailed description of the underlying circumstances. Marking “Yes” does not necessarily disqualify an applicant from consideration. However, if the applicant does not provide additional details, the review will cease until further information is provided. If needed, please attach a separate sheet of paper with the additional details and any further explanation that is relevant.

Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation? Yes No

If yes, please explain (include date and nature of the offense). _____

Have you ever been or are you currently under investigation by any law enforcement or government agency for child abuse, neglect or any criminal activity involving a minor? Yes No

If yes, please explain (include date and nature of the issue). _____

Has your youth worker status with Community of Christ previously been removed? Yes No

If yes, please indicate the reason(s) why your status was changed. _____

Congregational Membership or Affiliation – Membership in Community of Christ is NOT necessary to be a youth worker. However, ALL applicants should satisfy the 6 month rule (i.e. applicant has been associated with the congregation sponsoring this application for at least 6 months immediately prior to applying). In some cases, applicants that cannot satisfy the 6 mo. rule might still be approved if the applicant can provide appropriate character references, as further described in the References section below.

Community of Christ cong. you have been associated with for the past 6 mo. _____

Current Pastor: _____ Pastor’s Phone/Email: _____

List any other churches or faith communities you have regularly attended or participated in during the past five years (include name & location): _____

2) REFERENCES AND APPLICANT SIGNATURE (To be completed by the applicant)

References – At least three (3) references are required for applications to be processed. References must be age 18 or over, must not be a relative, must have known you at least 6 months and should be able to speak to your ability to work with youth. Please provide accurate and complete information for each reference.

If you are not able to satisfy the 6 month rule, at least one of your references must also satisfy one of the following*: (i) be a pastor or youth minister of the church the applicant regularly attends; (ii) be a Community of Christ member who has known the applicant longer than one (1) year; or (iii) be a leader in the community (i.e. School Principal/Teacher, Supervisor from work; Staff member from an organization where you've previously volunteered, especially a youth-serving organization).

* **Please indicate which reference satisfies one of the above criteria.**

Reference #1: Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Reference #2: Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Reference #3: Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Applicant's Statement: I authorize any references, or any other person or organization, whether or not identified in this application, to provide any information they have to Community of Christ regarding my character and fitness for children and youth work. I release all references listed in this application from liability for any damage that may result from furnishing such information to Community of Christ, and I waive any right to inspect references provided on my behalf. I further authorize Community of Christ and its agents or assigns to conduct a background check for any criminal records and agree that I will fully cooperate in providing all information and signing all documents necessary to complete the background check.

I hereby attest and certify that I have never been convicted of nor pled guilty to: any type of child abuse, any type of rape, sodomy, sexual abuse or misconduct, child pornography, endangering the life or welfare of any child, gross sexual imposition, sexual imposition, voyeurism, public indecency, stalking, harassment, violation of a protection order, any offense of physical violence or assault, or any existing or former offense of any municipality, any state, United States, or any other nation that is substantially equivalent to any of the above offenses. *(If you have been convicted of or pled guilty to any of the above offenses and wish to explain the circumstances thereof, please attach your explanation on a separate sheet.)* I further certify that I have never resigned or been discharged from employment or a volunteer position because of any behavior described above.

Should my application be accepted, I agree to be bound by the rules, regulations and policies of Community of Christ, and to act in accordance with those, in the performance of my services on behalf of the church. I affirm that it is my responsibility to remain aware of any changes or updates in the rules and regulations of Community of Christ.

I hereby represent and warrant that the information contained in this application is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that misrepresentations or omissions may disqualify my application or result in my immediate dismissal if I am already serving in a youth-related position. Should any of the information provided or attested in this statement change, I agree to update this application immediately or as requested by church leadership.

Applicant Signature – By signing, you affirm that you have read, understand and agree with the statements above. "If applicant is under the age of eighteen (18), parental/guardian signature is required in addition to applicant signature.*"

Applicant's Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature* _____ Date: _____

3) REFERENCE CONTACT/INTERVIEW (To be completed by a church representative)

Please note that including accurate and complete information on this page is critical to the processing and final decision of the application. Examples of questions for interviewing references can be found in the RCYW Application Guidelines, available online at www.cofchrist.org/children-and-youth-worker-registration. Comments should be pertinent, and each section must be filled out entirely. If additional space is needed to summarize a reference's comments, you should attach additional sheets. Please submit completed forms to your pastor or appropriate jurisdictional officer for processing.

Applicant's Name

First Reference:

Person contacted: _____ Date: _____

Friend Member Other _____ Length of time applicant known _____
(Must be more than 6 months)

Method of contact: Telephone Letter other _____

Name of person making contact: _____

Reference's comments about applicant were favorable guarded unfavorable

Summary of reference's comments: _____

Second Reference:

Person contacted: _____ Date: _____

Friend Member Other _____ Length of time applicant known _____
(Must be more than 6 months)

Method of contact: Telephone Letter other _____

Name of person making contact: _____

Reference's comments about applicant were favorable guarded unfavorable

Summary of reference's comments: _____

Third Reference:

Person contacted: _____ Date: _____

Friend Member Other _____ Length of time applicant known _____
(Must be more than 6 months)

Method of contact: Telephone Letter other _____

Name of person making contact: _____

Reference's comments about applicant were favorable guarded unfavorable

Summary of reference's comments: _____

Signature of person filing this report _____ Date: _____

Print name _____ Title: _____

4) PERSONAL INTERVIEW – APPLICANT (To be completed by a church representative)

All children and youth worker applicants must be interviewed by the appropriate church officer, or the person designated to do so by that officer. Before the interview, the interviewer needs to review the Application and the applicant's Record of Contact. The following questions are examples of questions that should be included in the interview.

- Why do you want to be a children and youth worker?
- What do you feel would be your strong points as a children and youth worker?
- What do you feel would be your weak points or things you need to improve?
- What experience have you had working with young people?
- What do you feel was the most important concept you learned in the RCYW Core Training?
- What other training or education, if any, have you received that may help you as a youth worker?
- Describe your involvement in church, children or youth programs as you were growing up.
- Have you faced any issues in your life that you feel may positively or negatively impact your ministry?
- Do you feel like you are capable of being a positive role model for young people? Why?
- Share any church experiences that have been important to you or would be helpful for us to know.

Summary of Applicant's comments: _____

Statement of Personal Interviewer
Confidential Information

I have interviewed _____ and reviewed the references.

Applicant's Name

I recommend. To the best of my knowledge I find the applicant to be of good character and to possess the qualities needed to serve as a children and youth worker in the Community of Christ.

I cannot recommend this individual as a children and youth worker in the Community of Christ.

Comments: _____

Interviewer's signature _____ Date: _____

Print interviewer's name _____ Title: _____

5) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW & APPROVAL

Statement of Church Officer

I have reviewed the Application, Record of Contact, and Statement of Personal Interviewer for

Applicant's Name

I recommend. To the best of my knowledge I find the applicant to be of good character and to possess the qualities needed to serve as a children and youth worker in the Community of Christ.

I cannot recommend this individual as a children and youth worker in the Community of Christ.

_____ Date: _____
** Signature of Church Officer*

_____ Phone Number: _____
Print Name

Title/Designation: _____ Email: _____

Address of Church Officer: _____

City; State/Province; Zip/Postal Code: _____

Nation: _____

Approved by Mission Center President or Mission Center Financial Officer
*(*signature required, even if it is the same person as above)*

Signature

Print name: _____ Date: _____

Mission Center: _____

***Best practice dictates different officers if possible.**

Questions for Interviewer to ask references on Registered Children and Youth Worker application forms

- Describe why you think the applicant would be responsible in caring for children.
- In what capacity and how long have you known the applicant?
- Tell me how they model good behavior and judgment for children and youth.
- Tell me about any concerns you might have with the applicant working with children and youth.
- What types of life experiences (positive or negative) has this applicant had that would influence their ability to be a registered youth worker?
- Tell me why you would feel comfortable leaving your own children or grandchildren in the care of this applicant.