



NCYAMA National Leadership Council

The NCYAMA National Leadership Council is made up of representatives from around the United States who work with young adults or with ministry formation in one way or another. As a whole, the purposes of this leadership body are:

- To be a liaison and communication links between the local efforts of young adult ministry efforts across the country and the national leadership of NCYAMA
- To bring the needs, concerns, and best practices in the young adult ministry field from their representative areas to the national level
- To share the national perspective with those in their representative areas
- To develop national action plans, initiatives, and resources for the young adult ministry field based on the feedback and needs of their representative areas
- To evaluate, respond to, and recommend future goals for the NCYAMA organization

The entire Leadership Council meets regularly by conference call and via electronic communications, as well as once annually in person in partnership with the NCYAMA Executive Board.

Leadership Council members are expected to serve a two-year term and are discerned in one of two ways: 1) by selection by their local representative area, or 2) by invitation and appointment from the Executive Board and/or National Leadership Council. This discernment process typically occurs in the last quarter of every even-numbered year, with terms beginning January 1 or February 1 of every odd-numbered year; however, due to the changing nature of the field and of church work, this discernment process can take place at other times of year with shorter terms, as needed.

While there is no fee or cost to join the National Leadership Council, representatives are asked to pay for their own transportation and accommodations for the annual in-person board meetings. However, if a Leadership Council member should travel on behalf of NCYAMA for a speaking engagement, representation at other gatherings, etc., those travel and registration costs would be covered by the organization.

The Council is made up of two representatives from each USCCB episcopal region and at-large roles from various areas of church life. Representatives from the geographic regions are to be a liaison between those working with young adults in their part of the country and the national organization. These fourteen regions are as follows:

Region 1: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island

Region 2: New York

Region 3: Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Region 4: Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Washington DC, and West Virginia

Region 5: Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana

Region 6: Michigan and Ohio

Region 7: Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin

Region 8: North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota

Region 9: Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri

Region 10: Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas

Region 11: California, Nevada, and Hawaii

Region 12: Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Alaska, and Montana

Region 13: Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico

Region 14: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida

The Council is also made up of several at-large roles that serve as a liaison between certain ministry areas (and those across the country engaged in those ministries) and NCYAMA and young adult ministry in general. Some of these at-large representatives are also members of other national organizations:

- **Adult Faith Formation Representative** – this person would represent those working in adult formation in parishes and dioceses (as well as those with dual responsibilities with adult and young adult ministry), be conscious of the catechetical emphasis of young adult ministry, and may serve as a connection between NCCL and NCYAMA
- **Youth Ministry Representative** – this person would represent those working in both youth and young adult ministry in parishes and dioceses, be conscious of the transition between youth and young adulthood, and may serve as a connection between NFCYM and/or NACYML and NCYAMA
- **Campus Ministry Representative** – this person would represent those working in both campus and young adult ministry in colleges, parishes, and dioceses, be conscious of the transition between campus and post-college parish life and of the collegiate-age young adults, and may serve as a connection between CCMA and/or NADDCM and NCYAMA
- **Family Ministry Representative** – this person would represent those working in family life ministries in parishes and dioceses (as well as those with dual responsibilities with family and young adult ministry), be conscious of single, engaged, married, and parental outreach within young adult ministry, and may serve as a connection between NACFLM and NCYAMA
- **Vocations Representative** – this person would represent those working in vocations ministries in parishes, dioceses, and religious orders (as well as those with dual responsibilities with vocations and young adult ministry), be conscious of the vocational emphasis of young adult ministry, and may serve as a connection between NRVC and/or NCDVD and NCYAMA

The NCYAMA National Leadership Council has traditionally had liaisons with certain ethnic outreach efforts including **Pastoral Juvenil** (Hispanic Youth & Young Adult Ministry), with a representation who is appointed by the La Red national organization, and **African-American Young Adult Ministry**, which has served as a liaison between NCYAMA and the National Black Catholic Congress. In addition, NCYAMA has maintained a strong connection with the **Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA**, and its work with young adults both domestically and serving on military bases around the world.

Furthermore, NCYAMA is not limited to the at-large positions listed above and is very open to other possible connections across the spectrum of ministries and national organizations/networks working within the Catholic Church in the United States (and quite possibly, internationally with those from neighboring and cooperative countries) that intersect with the work of young adult ministry.

For each NCYAMA Leadership Council member, the following is expected:

- To be a strong advocate for young adult ministry and for NCYAMA in one's local region
- To promote NCYAMA activities, events, and initiatives in one's representative area
- To attend one in-person board meeting per year, typically scheduled in conjunction with another national event to minimize travel expenses
- To participate in as many NCYAMA conference calls and online discussions as possible
- To actively participate in at least one NCYAMA task group or committee each year
- To connect with and, if possible, gather together those working with young adults (in any capacity) or ministry formation in one's representative area (through conference calls, online forums, live meetings, or whatever works best in that given area); these people can include the following:
 - Diocesan and Parish Directors/Coordinators of Young Adult Ministry
 - College Campus Ministers and College Ministry Coordinators
 - Diocesan and Parish Directors/Coordinators of Pastoral Juvenil
 - Directors/Staff of Catholic Organizations with Young Adult Emphasis
 - Young Adult Liaisons or Coordinators from General Catholic Organizations and Catholic Volunteer/Service Networks and Organizations
 - Directors/Staff of Young Alumni Initiatives from Catholic Colleges/Universities
 - Military Service Chaplaincies and other related groups/ministries
 - Diocesan, Parish, and Organizational Coordinators for the following ministries: vocations, family ministries, evangelization, adult faith formation, etc.
 - College/University Directors and Instructors in areas related to Young Adult Ministry, Ministry Formation, Adult Faith Formation, Evangelization, etc.
- To communicate the needs, concerns, and best practices from one's representative area to the national organization during conference calls, online discussions, and/or meetings
- To communicate the national initiatives, projects, and activities of NCYAMA to the people in one's representative area during conference calls, online discussions, and/or meetings
- To be open to writing articles, leading presentations, and facilitating discussions related to young adult ministry on behalf of NCYAMA in dioceses and parishes, with other Catholic organizations, and/or through Catholic websites and publications, as needed
- To be attentive to other Council members' feedback and, based on this, to actively consider ideas on how to implement, respond to, or develop resources for the field
- To provide an honest evaluation on the work and goals of the national organization

Should Leadership Council members fall short of these expectations to a significant degree, it is the right and duty of the NCYAMA Executive Board to communicate these concerns to the individual in question and, should that member be unresponsive, show no signs of improvement, or generally disagreeable to the mission of the organization, remove that person from the Council.

Conversely, should Leadership Council members achieve these expectations, the field of young adult ministry and the role of young adults in the life and ministry of the Catholic Church in the United States will most surely benefit. In addition, NCYAMA will become a stronger and healthier organization due to the proactive work of those in its leadership ranks.