

Greetings Church Leader!

Regional Youth Assembly 2024 will be a time of fellowship, worship, and fun for the Disciples of Christ (DOC) youth of Georgia, and we hope that your youth and adult sponsors will be able to join this year! We can't wait to see you all again! We are offering online registration again this year on the Regional website. In this registration packet, you will find the following:

- RYA 2024 Poster
- Registration Fees and Deadlines
- Youth Medical Release Form
- Adult Medical Release Form
- RYA School Excuse letter
- What to Bring to RYA
- Youth Activities Council (YAC) Application Info

Due to the effects of inflation and our desire for this ministry's long term financial health, registration fees have increased this year. These increases are necessary to maintain the self funded goal of this event set by the Regional Board.

This year, we will have the option of online payment for registration fees. Follow the link on the Regional home page (www.gadisciples.org) to make online payments via PayPal, either with a credit card or PayPal account. Please remember that registration is not complete until the payment is made in full.

This year, we will again be having interest groups for our high schoolers during our time together on Saturday afternoon, led by adult members of the region, which will be a time for your high school youth to explore their faith in different ways that appeal to them. These interest groups should be conducive to sharing at a Christian Church event, but are not required to be strictly theological in nature. For instance, playing a sport/game could be a successful interest group. Alternatively, we have also had great success in the past with interest groups around topics of Bible study, social justice, mission work, etc. If you or your adults have any special skills you believe could translate well to leading an interest group, we'd love to hear from you!

Also, per Regional policy, all adult sponsors will be required to have a clear background check completed in the last two years, and we will be confirming with you that these have been completed. If your church does not have the financial resources to run background checks, please reach out to us at yac.gadisciples@gmail.com .

Lastly, this year, adult sponsors will have two different options during breakout time after our large group gatherings: attend high school keynote and assist with high school interest groups, or assist with the middle school activities. Don't worry, no special skills are needed to help with either of these activities, just a willing and helpful spirit!

If you have any questions, please reach out to us yac.gadisciples@gmail.com . We look forward to seeing you at RYA 2024!

-The Youth Activities Council

Registration Deadlines and Fees

<u>Early Bird</u>	On or before October 1st	\$265
<u>Regular</u>	After October 1st , on or before December 31st	\$275
<u>YAC Member Rate</u>	On or before December 31st	\$200

After December 31st, Refunds are not guaranteed and are at the discretion of the Regional Directors of Youth Ministry. No registrations will be accepted after December 31st. Any questions may be addressed to yac.gadisciples@gmail.com

No registrations will be accepted without the full registration fee.

At the beginning of the Youth Assembly, **one adult** from each group will be asked to check-in for their entire group. Most of the information and necessary materials will be given to you at this time in bags for your church to ease the check in process.

There must be **at least** one adult for every 5 youth of each gender (*example: If a church has 6 youth attending: 2 male & 4 female, there needs to be one male adult and one female adult accompanying those youth*). If this is not possible, the adult(s) must make arrangements with other adults attending the Assembly. If such arrangements are made, please note this on the registration forms for housing purposes. If you have any further questions please email the YAC Adult sponsors (yac.gadisciples@gmail.com). Thank you for your help and cooperation!

All youth groups will be assigned to cabins and will share accommodations with other youth groups as necessary.

Adult sponsors will be housed in the cabins with their youth and will be responsible for their youths' safety for the duration of the event.

Members of the Youth Activities Council (YAC) will stay in cabins with their own youth groups.

Partial scholarships may be available for those who need assistance covering the full registration fee.

Please inquire with YAC (yac.gadisciples@gmail.com) to check *before* sending in your application.

Regional Youth Assembly 2024 Emergency Release Form - Youth

January 19th-21st

Name of Youth: _____

Allergies, medical conditions, or medications: _____

Emergency Contact Name (other than Parent/Guardian): _____

Phone: _____ Relationship: _____

Insurance Company: _____ Policy Number: _____

Family Doctor Name and Phone Number: _____

I understand that the adult sponsors from the above church/organization during this event will be responsible for the above named participant, for whom I am legally responsible. In case of an emergency, I give my permission for medical treatment to be administered. I grant permission for this individual to participate fully in said trip, and hereby give permission to take this participant to a doctor or hospital, if necessary, and hereby authorize medical treatment, including but not in limitation to emergency surgery or medical treatment. I assume the responsibility of all medical bills, if any are incurred. Further, should it be necessary for the participant to return home due to medical reasons, disciplinary action or otherwise, I will assume transportation costs.

Parent or Guardian signature/date

If the adult sponsors from the above church/organization decide to take the youth from the church/organization off the grounds of Epworth by the Sea, I give my permission for my child to go. I understand that the Christian Church in Georgia (Disciples of Christ) is not liable for accidents, injuries or events that may occur while my child is off the Epworth by The Sea premises.

Parent or Guardian signature/date

Please make two copies, one to return to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia and one for an adult sponsor of this group to have on hand during this event. You must have a completed and signed Emergency Release Form to attend this event.

Regional Youth Assembly 2024 Emergency Release Form - Adults

January 19th-21st, 2024

Name: _____

Allergies, medical conditions, or medications: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Relationship: _____

Insurance Company: _____ Policy Number: _____

Family Doctor Name and Phone Number: _____

In case of an emergency, I give my permission for medical treatment to be administered to the above named participant. I hereby give permission to take this participant to a doctor or hospital, if necessary, and hereby authorize medical treatment, including but not in limitation to emergency surgery or medical treatment. I assume the responsibility of all medical bills, if any are incurred.

Adult Sponsor signature/date

I understand that the Christian Church in Georgia (Disciples of Christ) is not liable for accidents, injuries or events that may occur while I am off the Epworth by The Sea premises.

Adult Sponsor signature/date

Please make two copies, one to return to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia and one for an adult sponsor of this group to have on hand during this event. You must have a completed and signed Emergency Release Form to attend this event



**The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia Regional Youth Assembly 2306 Vineville Avenue
Macon, GA 31204**

Regional Youth Assembly Coordinators

Office: 678-464-1982 yac@gadisciples.org

January 2024

To: School Administrator
From: Regional Youth Assembly Coordinators
RE: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia
Youth Assembly, Epworth By The Sea, St. Simons Island

I would like to request that you provide an excused absence for _____, a student in your school, on Friday, January 19, 2024. This student will be participating in the Regional Youth Assembly of our denomination. Because of the travel involved, this young person needs to be absent for all or part of the day.

The Regional Youth Assembly is a yearly event for the young people of our churches and is a most important part of their religious experience.

I will appreciate your consideration and cooperation in enabling this person to participate in this special, once-a-year Regional Youth Assembly.

Sincerely yours,

Regional Youth Assembly Coordinators

Growing, Building and Equipping Vital Faith Communities

WHAT TO BRING TO YOUTH ASSEMBLY

- Casual Clothes, Weather Appropriate Clothes
- Comfortable Walking Shoes
- Sleeping Bag or Bed Linens
- Pillow
- Towels
- Personal Hygiene Articles
- Bible
- Pen and Paper
- Money for Offering

- A Positive Attitude
- Your Enthusiasm
- Your Love for Life
- Your Love for God
- Your Energy

DO NOT BRING

- Inappropriate Clothing
- Illegal Drugs
- Alcohol
- Firearms
- Firecrackers
- Skateboards
- Roller Blades
- A Bad Attitude

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

You can call Epworth By the Sea and leave a message: **912-638-868**

YAC INFORMATION FOR CHURCHES

Dear Church Leader,

We are writing this letter to invite you and your congregation to support the youth ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia by inviting youth of your church to apply to the Youth Activities Council for 2024-2025. As you may know, the Youth Activities Council (YAC) is commissioned to guide, nurture, and plan for our Region's youth ministries, including the annual assembly to be held in the winter at Epworth-by-the-Sea on St. Simon's Island.

We are opening up to fifteen spots to youth from around the state. We will be selecting youth based on applications, geographical diversity, and recommendations from you. While we will make every effort to ensure that the entire state is well represented on YAC, we are even more devoted to ensuring that this is a motivated and capable group, with a passion for ministry and servant leadership. Please encourage youth from your congregation to apply. We are looking for youth who are:

- Individuals of faith and integrity, with gifts and potential for leadership.
- Active members of their congregations: regular participants in worship and youth activities.
- In eighth, ninth, tenth, or eleventh grade at the time of selection.
- Able to participate in planning meetings and retreats, as well as Regional Youth Assembly in 2025. A meeting schedule is included on the *YAC Representative Application* form.
- Regular participants in Regional Youth Assemblies and summer church camp in the Region.

Please have any applicants fill out the YAC representative application and minister recommendation forms linked on the YAC page on the CCinGA website.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can be helpful in any way. Thank you for your help in calling the gifts of our young people to ministry!



Georgia YOUTH ACTIVITIES COUNCIL 2024-2025
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia

What is Georgia's Youth Activities Council?

The Youth Activities Council (YAC) is commissioned to guide, nurture, and plan for our Region's youth ministries, including the annual assembly to be held in the winter of 2025. A group of high-school aged youth will be selected to represent their churches and region on the council. These youth will work with adult volunteers and the Regional Youth Directors to foster and support ministries that develop the full potential of youth as disciples of Jesus as they participate in the congregational, district, regional and general expressions of the church. Two YAC members also serve on the Regional Board for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia.

Youth are selected to serve on YAC by the Regional Youth Directors along with adult volunteers and the Regional Directors. The youth chosen should be:

- People of faith and integrity, with gifts and potential for leadership.
- Active members of their congregations: regular participants in worship and youth activities.
- In eighth, ninth, tenth, or eleventh grade at the time of selection.
- Regular participants in Regional Youth Assemblies and summer church camp at Camp Christian.
- Able to participate in planning meetings and retreats, as well as Regional Youth Assembly.
 - *January 2024*: Meet and Greet Sunday Morning at the 2024 Regional Youth Assembly
 - *Spring 2024*: Overnight meeting in conjunction with Regional Assembly.
 - *Summer 2024*: 2 nights at Camp Christian Conference Center
 - *Fall 2024*: Overnight Meeting. Location TBD
 - *Winter 2024*: Zoom or Lock-in. TBD
 - *January/ February 2025*: Thursday evening and Friday leading up to Youth Assembly
 - There may be other opportunities in which you may choose to participate, such as small task group meetings, district rallies, visiting other congregations, etc.
 - YAC members will be given a calendar in the early spring of 2024 with all of the specific meeting dates. If changes are made, YAC will be given a minimum of two (2) months' notice of date change.