**Young Adult Exchange**

**Memo of Understanding**

**HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT**

This document is to provide a framework for churches interested in participating in an exchange. The partnering churches can choose to adapt and revise this document as they see fit. There is no obligation to report their arrangements to CBOQ Youth. CBOQ Youth is available to assist in arranging the exchange (416-620-2946, cboqyouth@baptist.ca).

**PREAMBLE**

As a student graduates from high school into post-secondary life, it marks a new chapter in their faith journey. For those who move away from home to continue with post-secondary studies, they tend to have a natural transition into that new chapter. Even those who live at home have the opportunity to make a shift if they involve themselves in a campus group. However, for those who remain at home and are either apprenticing or working, there may be a lag in their faith development. A young adult exchange allows for that “new chapter” experience with a partnering church.

**OBJECTIVE**

The objectives of the exchange are:

* To provide young adults a different faith community experience.
* To learn and understand different ministry structures.
* To hone key ministry skills.
* To provide a different perspective of ministry back to their home church.

While this is called an exchange, the arrangement can be one-way, i.e. one church sends a young adult to a partnering church for ministry and faith expansion. The duration of the exchange (suggested minimum six months) is at the discretion of the partnering churches.

This memo of understanding outlines the expectations and responsibilities of all parties:

* Sending church
* Student (the young adult participating in the exchange)
* Receiving church

**ESTABLISHED RESPONSIBILITIES**

SENDING CHURCH

* Screen potential candidates.
* Ensure they have a mentor/support person for each exchange student who meets (whether in person or by phone) monthly.
* Create learning objectives with the student for the duration of the exchange.
* Commission the student into the exchange.

RECEIVING CHURCH

* Assign one mentor/support person for each exchange student who will meet in person bi-weekly.
* Establish a list of ministry opportunities for the student to participate in that coincides with the student’s learning objectives.
* Have an exit interview with the student before returning to the sending church.

STUDENT

* + Create a set of learning objectives for personal and ministry growth.
  + Complete any personnel screening protocols by the receiving church (e.g. criminal record check).
  + Arrange own transportation (with the help of the sending church) to receiving church (if applicable).

**SUGGESTED DEBRIEF QUESTIONS**

The following are areas for debrief for the student to process with both the sending and receiving churches.

1. What surprised you the most about this exchange?
2. Think about what you observed about the culture of the receiving church.
   1. In what ways does the culture seem similar?
   2. In what ways does the culture seem different?
3. Get 2 pieces of paper - You are going to draw 2 pictures to share.
   1. First, draw a picture that illustrates your experience from an outside perspective. You might want to draw people you met, a moment that happened, and things you did that stand out as being significant to you.
   2. Second, draw a picture that illustrates your experience from an internal perspective. For example: how did your time at the receiving church make you feel? What new things did you learn about yourself? What did you learn about God? How has God shaped or changed your heart?
4. Your gifts and experience:
   1. What do you think was the greatest value of you being at the receiving church?
   2. What were 3 specific things you felt you excelled or did well in?
   3. What were 2 things you would have done differently?
   4. Did the experience itself match your expectations and goals going into the exchange?
   5. What’s the next step in you continuing to develop in your gifts or goals?
5. Where do you especially see God during your time there? What are some God moments?
6. Is there one word or phrase God gave you during the exchange?
7. Anything you think God wants you to be, do or say, as a result of this experience?
8. What would be your advice for future exchange students?