

Prosper United Methodist Church Bylaws for Student Leadership Council

The name of this organization shall be: Prosper United Methodist Church Youth Ministry Leadership Council

PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION: The purpose of this organization will be to:

1. Provide Prosper United Methodist Church Youth Ministry students with leadership opportunities and to share their time, gifts and talents in service to the church and its student ministry.
2. Be a part of planning and facilitating special events, weekly programing, retreats, and mission trips
3. Work together with fellow councilmembers, fellow students, church staff, volunteers and congregation members to make our church and student ministry the best that it can be
4. Provide and support a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone who attends any Youth Ministry function

MISSION, VISION, & Goal

Our Mission – To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision – To put God's Grace into action and to shine as beacon of Love, Help, Healing, Hope and Joy

Our Goal - To create and provide an environment where students feel comfortable, allow them to be who God created them to be and open their hearts to what God has in store for them.

We want to walk along students as they discover, develop and own their faith; experience God's grace; and engage the community to share God's love through study, service, and experiences.

MEMBERSHIP OF LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Article I Officers

The officers of Prosper United Methodist Church Youth Ministry Leadership Council shall be: Administrative Chair, Leadership Development Chair, Missions Chair and Communications Chair. Elected officers serve one-year terms.

Article II Duties of Officers Section 1:

Administrative Chair

- A. Will preside over Youth Ministry Council meetings
- B. Will represent the student ministry on the Administrative Council
- C. Will plan meeting agendas with the aid of the Director of Family Ministries or Adult Sponsor
- D. Must have served on Council as at- large or officer for one year

Section 2: Leadership Development Chair

- A. Will represent the Youth Ministry on the Lay Leadership Development Committee
- B. Will find students to lead devotions and prayers at Youth Ministry Sunday night programming
- C. Will work with Director of Family Ministry to identify potential future Youth Ministry Council members and officers
- D. Will plan and implement Youth Leadership Development activities and or programs with the aid of the Director of Family Ministry and/or adult sponsor

Section 3: Missions Chair

- A. Will represent the Youth Ministry on the missions committee
- B. Will lead the planning of missional opportunities throughout the year as well as summer missions
- C. Keep mission needs on the agenda of each Youth Ministry Council meeting.

Section 4: Communications Chair

- A. Will take minutes of all Youth Ministry Council meetings
- B. Will send copies of the minutes to all council members, adult sponsor, Director of Family Ministries
- C. Will send out reminders for meetings
- D. Will brainstorm new ways to communicate and use social media for the Youth Ministry
- E. Will work with the Director of Family Ministries to produce materials to be used in Church wide communication channels.

Section 5: Discipleship Chair

- A. Will open Youth Ministry Council in prayer
- B. Will help find adults to volunteer with our youth group Sunday evenings and Sunday school classes
- C. Will find a Bible study appropriate for youth to participate in for each semester

Article III Council

The Leadership Council shall consist of the elected officers, at-large seats, Director of Family Ministries and an adult sponsor.

Article IV Officer Election

- A. Elections for Prosper United Methodist Church Youth Ministry Leadership Council shall be held in August, annually
- B. Each potential candidate will submit an application and indicate whether they wish to be considered for an officer position
- C. Candidates will be allowed to be in conversation with their fellow council members about their desire and qualifications to hold an officer position; however, no public campaigning will be allowed
- D. Candidates for officer positions may remove themselves from consideration of positions they do not wish to fill
- E. Elections will only be open to previous school year council members, in good standing, and new council members approved by the Youth Ministry Planning team
- F. A secret ballot election will be held. Positions will be voted on one at a time until a candidate is elected with at least 51% of the votes
- G. Elected officers may only fill one officer position and are removed from consideration of other positions

Article V Eligibility for Office

All Candidates for office must:

- A. Be entering 7-12th grade
- B. Be an active participant in the Youth Ministry
- C. Be in good standing with the leadership council if they held an at-large or officer seat in the previous year(s).

Article VI Leadership Council Operating Standards

Section 1 Organization and Operation

- A. The Youth Ministry Council, as it deems necessary, may add at large seats for one-year terms
- B. The Director of Family Ministries shall serve as ex officio member of the Youth Ministry Council
- C. One adult Sponsor can serve as ex-officio member of the Youth Ministry Council
- D. All council member terms will begin September 1st of each year
- E. The Youth Ministry Planning Team will review all applications and approve members of the council. They will also give recommendations for officer elections.
- F. The Director of Family Ministry may create or remove officer positions as they deem necessary with the approval of the Youth Ministry Adult Planning Team

Section 2 Responsibilities

- A. Members of the Youth Ministry Council are required to attend and facilitate the Youth Ministry Retreat
- B. Members of the Youth Ministry Council are expected to attend:
 - a. Youth Ministry Council meetings
 - b. Fundraisers
 - c. Youth Ministry programming at least once a week
 - d. A summer mission trip
- C. Members of the Youth Ministry Council are encouraged to attend:
 - a. Youth Ministry special events
 - b. Bridgeport Summer Camp
- D. Members of the Youth Ministry Leadership Council will be active participants in council meetings. Engaging in discussions, planning and implementing any Youth Ministry Council business. I.E. Planning of Sunday night programming, missional opportunities, special events and the Youth Ministry retreat

Section 3 Conduct Standards

- A. Keep a positive attitude
- B. Show respect for everyone with whom you come in contact, by your actions and your words. This includes members of the Youth Ministry as well as those outside of it
- C. Respect the facilities
- D. No obscene language
- E. No use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco; including no smoking or vaping
- F. No excessive public displays of affection while at church functions. This includes excessive hugging, kissing, or other obviously “romantic” behavior

Article VII Removal from Office

A Youth Council member may be removed from the organization for neglect of officer duties in Article II, failure to meet eligibility requirements in Article V or failure to maintain Youth Council standards and responsibilities as defined in Section 2 and 3 of Article VI.

Section 1 Neglect of Duties & Responsibilities

- A. In the event that a member neglects their Leadership Council responsibilities; the Director of Family Ministry or Adult Sponsor will initially address the matter with the member and document meeting in writing with a copy to parent/guardian;
- B. If problem persists a meeting will be held on matter with member, Director of Family Ministry and parent/guardian;
- C. When above procedures have been followed and if the problem continues the member will be removed from the Leadership Council, after the individual has been informed in writing.

Section 2 Conduct Standards

- A. If a student fails to maintain Conduct Standards the Director of Family Ministry will address the matter with the member and parent(s)/guardian(s)
- B. If the problem persists the member will be removed from the Leadership Council, after the individual has been notified in writing.

Article VIII Meeting Schedule

There shall be a meeting of the Leadership Council held once a month on Sunday evenings following the first youth group of the month to conduct regular business. Additional meetings may be scheduled for event planning or task force purposes.

Article IX Student Council Meeting & Voting

Section 1 Meeting

The agenda for business meetings will be as follows and run by the Administrative Chair

- 1. Call to order
- 2. Opening Prayer
- 3. Roll Call
- 4. Brief Recap of Minutes
- 5. Reports of Officers
- 6. Reports of Task force
- 7. Unfinished Business
- 8. New Business
- 9. Announcements
- 10. Recap
- 11. Set next meeting
- 12. Closing Prayer
- 13. Adjournment

Section 2 Voting

- A. All members of the leadership council have voting rights, including any at-large positions
- B. Items of business may be called to a vote by a motion and a second
- C. Voting can only happen if quorum is present. This council defines quorum of 50% of its members
- D. Voting on items of business should only be used if there is not a clear majority or way forward
- E. Motion must be approved by the Administrative Chair
- F. The Administrative chair should try to move items of business forward with compromise and continued discussion before allowing a vote
- G. Called votes pass by a simple majority

- H. The Leadership Council has only delegated powers. The Director of Family Ministries and the adult sponsor retain the power of veto
- I. The Leadership Council may appeal a sponsor's veto to the Director of Student Ministries. The Director of Family Ministry's decisions are final
- J. Director of Family Ministry has 1 week from the time of receiving the minutes to review, reconsider and veto any business

Article X Leadership Council Vacancy

- A. If an At-Large seat is vacated mid-term for any reason, the seat will be left unfilled
- B. In case of such a vacancy, said vacancy will be announced at the next scheduled meeting of regular council business
- C. If an officer position is vacated mid-term for any reason, the seat will be filled from within the Leadership Council
- D. In case of such a vacancy, said vacancy will be announced at the next scheduled meeting of regular council business. At that time any member meeting requirements for office must express his/her interest in filling said seat
- E. A special meeting will be held within two weeks to vote to fill the vacant seat. It will be up to each candidate to seek support of council members
- F. Election will follow standard procedure as laid out in Article IV

Article XI Procedure for Amending the By-Laws

- A. Proposal to amend the by-laws must be submitted to the council at least one week in advance of business meeting.
- B. Proposal must be approved for discussion by a motion and second
- C. Administrative Chair will allow equal time for speeches for or against
- D. The proposal may be amended with a motion, second and a simple majority vote
- E. After a proposal is amended it may not be amended again
- F. Administrative chair may allow for speeches for or against after amending
- G. After speeches for and against the amendment moves to vote
- H. Amendments are passed with a 2/3rds vote

Created on 07/15/2025; To be adopted officially at the first meeting.

Section 2 Conduct Standards

- A. If a student fails to maintain Conduct Standards the Director of Student Ministry will address the matter with the member and parent(s)/guardian(s)

