

ASHES & EMBERS

CLAY 2023

Canadian Lutheran-Anglican Youth Gathering (CLAY)

August 10-13, 2023

Waterloo, ON

PRE-GATHERING INFORMATION

EVERYTHING you need
to **know**
to **PREPARE** for and
travel to **CLAY**



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GREETINGS

Thank you for registering your Home Team for the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering, Ashes & Embers! As a Home Team Leader (HTL), whether you are the Primary Home Team Leader or attending as a secondary Home Team Leader, you are a very important part of our team in preparing and planning for the gathering. You have a great deal of responsibility before, during, and after this event. This booklet is meant to provide further information about the gathering, and to assist you in the Home Team building process. We ask you to share all of it with your Home Team. You are welcome to print as much of it as you wish to distribute to your youth and their parents. As materials in this booklet will be important for you while you are in Waterloo, you may wish to print this booklet, or ensure that it is downloaded to your phone or tablet, so you have it with you at CLAY.

If you have any questions about the gathering, please contact:

Home Team Leader Coordinator: Lauren Wray

Email: htlcoordinator@claygathering.ca

Be sure to visit our website at claygathering.ca for continuous updates and information and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We encourage you and your Home Team to pray, sing, worship, and grow together, as we prepare to gather at Wilfrid Laurier in Waterloo, ON for Ashes & Embers!



GATHERING GOALS

- To proclaim the grace and faithfulness of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ.
- To respond to God's grace and faithfulness in ways that are intentional, practical and meaningful.
- To celebrate that, by the grace of God, we are children of God.
- To celebrate the Full Communion relationship of the ELCIC and the ACC and encourage youth to live out that relationship in their home contexts.

These goals will be accomplished:

1. By providing a youth-centered program that will develop leadership.
2. Through varied worship experiences that help youth connect word and sacrament to their daily Christian life.
3. Through sharing what has been learned and experienced with others.



HOME TEAM LEADER IOI

As a HTL, you play an integral role in the Youth Gathering. The National Planning Committee relies heavily on you as a valued partner in making the gathering successful and appreciates the time and energy you put into this vital position. As a HTL, you will take an active part in all of the activities that take place at the gathering. Your enthusiasm and the example you set goes a long way toward creating a memorable experience for the youth. You will be actively involved with your youth and their experiences before, during, and after the gathering.

EXPECTATIONS OF A HOME TEAM LEADER

- To help youth prepare for CLAY, travel with them to and from the gathering, experience the gathering with them, and help them share their experiences when they return home.
- To be attentive to the needs of youth in the following ways at the gathering:

AS A FRIEND

Someone who is available to youth; someone who is concerned about youth and can consult freely with them.

AS A LISTENER

Someone who can listen to and be aware of what others are saying, feeling, and doing; someone who can respond to problems as they arise.

AS A SUPPORTER

Someone who can encourage and provide moral support to young people and other Home Team Leaders.

AS A SPIRITUAL LEADER

Someone who can help youth in their faith development, lead Bible studies (pre- and post-gathering), and lead the group in prayer — before, during and after the gathering.

AS A FACILITATOR

Someone who can communicate with youth and gathering leaders about activities, procedures and rules.

AS A SUPERVISOR

Someone who offers leadership to ensure healthy and respectful participation by all members of the Home Team.

HOME TEAM LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

As a Home Team Leader, you will be a full participant in the gathering. You are fully responsible for the youth in your Home Team from the time they leave their parents/guardians at the beginning of the trip until the time you return them to their parents/guardians upon their arrival back home. You will also ensure that the youth in your care are safe at all times and respect others and property while in your care. This means making sure that each facility they use (residence rooms at the gathering site, as well as any dwelling while traveling to and from the gathering) is left in as good (or better) condition than they found it.

General responsibilities of a Home Team Leader are as follows:

- Gather all necessary information from each Home Team Member such as emergency contacts, medical and dietary needs, etc. Register all members of the Home Team for the gathering.
- Actively worship, study and plan together with the Home Team before, during, and after the gathering.
- Have a meeting with the members of the Home Team and their parents to review the expectations of the gathering. These expectations include...
 - ...full commitment to participate in all gathering activities.
 - ...full commitment to abide by gathering rules. This includes abstaining from the use of alcohol and/or non-prescription drugs at any time at the gathering. Everyone shall adhere to this requirement, including Primary/Home Team Leaders.
 - ...any other expectations you have and those that are in our materials.
- Check with your Church Council Chairperson/Warden to ensure that your church has adequate insurance coverage for you and the members of your Home Team.
- When you leave for the gathering, bring the names, addresses, phone numbers, and emergency contact information of everyone in your Home Team. Be aware of any medical conditions of the youth of your Home Team before you leave for the gathering.

- Read this booklet thoroughly and complete the pre-gathering Bible study material with your Home Team prior to attending the gathering.
- Monitor your group at the gathering. This means knowing the whereabouts of everyone on your Home Team at all times and ensuring the gathering rules, housing and schedule requirements are met.
- Attend all Home Team Leader meetings at the gathering so you can receive up-to-date information, ask questions, and discuss any concerns.
- Meet with your own Home Team and other Home Teams during scheduled times.
- Strive to fulfill the Home Team Leader expectations as outlined.

All of this means that you are much more than a chaperone or a driver. Remember, you are a vital and valued partner to the success of the gathering. Your leadership enables the gathering to fully accomplish the goals listed on page 3.

CLAY HOME TEAM LEADER MEETINGS

Primary Home Team Leaders are expected to attend all HTL meetings. They are scheduled throughout the gathering and are your opportunity to ask questions and receive important information about schedule changes or procedures. No announcements are made at the Large Group Gatherings (LGGs).

If your group includes additional Home Team Leaders and Leaders-in-Training, they are also encouraged to attend!

Check the gathering schedule when you arrive at CLAY for dates, times and location of HTL meetings.

FIRST-TIMER TIPS

Bringing a Home Team to CLAY for the first time? First of all, that's awesome! Thanks for serving your community's youth in this way. We're excited to meet you and we would be happy to help support you along the way! Here are just a few tips and tricks. Remember, we're also available to answer any other questions you may have!

Registrar - registrar@claygathering.ca
Home Team Leader Coordinator –Laureen Wray:
htlcoordinator@claygathering.ca

- Everyone registers for the gathering as part of a Home Team. We call the main contact person for that team the “Primary Home Team Leader” or “PHTL”.
- It's in your best interest to register your Home Team as early as possible. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. As a first step, register yourself into the system. That way, the Registrar knows to expect a registration from your Home Team.
- Write down your username and password and keep them somewhere safe and handy!
- Contact the Registrar if you would like to be put in touch with a more experienced HTL in your area!
- It's a good idea to start fundraising as soon as possible. Looking for ideas? Post a question on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/claygathering>) or on our Instagram account (@claygathering) and we know there will be tons of suggestions listed in the comments!
- Have more than one HTL on your team? Divide and conquer when you arrive at CLAY! Have one leader take “wake-up” duty, while the other takes the “last one asleep” role! Send one HTL to the HTL Meeting, while the other is hanging out Free Time with your youth!

- Do members of your Home Team primarily speak a language other than English? While the primary language of CLAY is English, we make every effort to connect Home Teams that speak other languages. If you would like us to connect you with another Home Team whose primary language matches yours, please email the Registrar at registrar@claygathering.ca

HIGHLIGHT VIDEOS OF PAST GATHERINGS

To provide youth, parents and new Primary/Home Team Leaders with a feel for what a CLAY gathering is all about, check out this video of CLAY 2018 highlights: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0s66S_nUVw



PREPARING FOR CLAY

Being a Home Team begins while you're at home. Here are some ways to connect with each other as you prepare to travel to CLAY:

- Get to know each other! Organize events together just for fun, for study and for fundraising to help you get to the gathering.
- If you have not already done so, have a meeting to discuss travel plans to CLAY and help give everyone more information about the gathering. Read this book carefully prior to that meeting and share all of the information in it.
- If your group decides to spend extra time before or after the gathering in Waterloo, check our "Cool Things to See and Do in Waterloo" section on page 11. When you register, you will be prompted for the number of additional nights you want to stay at Wilfrid Laurier University campus before/after CLAY.
- A special "Leave This Information with Parents/Guardians" page appears later in this booklet (page 26) for you to copy and give to all parents/guardians.
- Write a group covenant (see page 22 in this booklet).
- Work through the pre-gathering Bible study with your Home Team. It is designed to help you prepare for both the theme of the gathering and the speakers' presentations. The pre-gathering Bible study will be available on the website in the spring of 2023. Be sure to subscribe to the CLAY email list to receive notification of when the Bible study becomes available.
- Work on an activity to help youth learn about the current National Youth Project: More Precious. Information is available at: <https://claygathering.ca/nyp/>
- Pray with and for your youth. Pray for the National Planning Committee, the keynote speakers, musicians, drama team, worship leaders, Home Team Leaders and all those preparing to be at the gathering.

THINGS TO BRING

- Bible (paper book or downloaded on device)
- Personal items, prescriptions and toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, soap, face cloth, etc.)
- Residence items: hand soap, slippers/indoor footwear
- Casual clothing (ensure you have clothes to layer to be ready for a variety of temperatures and weather conditions)
- Bathing suit and towel, shower shoes
- Rain gear and umbrella
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sunscreen, hat, insect repellent (scent-free)
- Personal spending money
- Camera/phone
- Sunglasses
- Outdoor activity items such as a Frisbee, football, soccer ball, etc.
- Water bottle and travel mug
- Primary/Home Team Leaders should also have a copy of each participant's emergency contact information (names and phone numbers of parents/guardians).

THINGS TO NOTE

- We will be staying in dormitory-style residences at Wilfrid Laurier University.
- Most residence rooms are private (one person per room) with single beds, with a shared washroom between two bedrooms.
- Participants will be supplied with a pillow, pillow case, blanket, 2 sheets, 2 towels and a cup.
- Laundry facilities are available for a fee.

COOL THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN WATERLOO

If your Home Team is planning on spending extra time in Waterloo before or after CLAY, we have some suggestions from our local expert to get you started. Be sure to check out <https://explorewaterloo.ca/> for even more.

ACTIVITY	COMPANY	CONTACT/INFO	OTHER DETAILS
Farmers' Markets	Kitchener Market & St. Jacobs Market District	www.kitchenermarket.ca/en stjacobsmarket.com/	Spend a morning wandering around, seeing the crafts, taste local farmers' market treats.
Butterfly Conservatory	Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory	www.cambridgebutterfly.com/	Indoor activity in a beautiful tropical environment.
Waterloo Regional Museum and Doon Heritage Village	Region of Waterloo	regionofwaterloomuseums.ca/en/index.aspx	Interactive museum about the history of the region and living historical village.
Hiking & Biking Trails - Conservation areas	All Trails	www.alltrails.com/canada/ontario/waterloo	Beautiful trails in the region! A fave is the Geotime trail.
Bingemans Park	Bingemans	www.bingemans.com	Water park, Funworx amusements, Boston Pizza, Escape Rooms, Axe Throwing, and upscale 10-pin bowling lounge.
The museum	The museum	themuseum.ca/	A cool museum with up-to-date displays – Rolling Stones and Murdoch mysteries are a few recent ones.
Chicopee Tube Park	Chicopee Tube Park	www.chicopeetubepark.com/summer/index.html	Tubing and zipline park.
St. Jacobs Playhouse Theatre	Drayton entertainment	www.draytonentertainment.com/theatres/st.-jacobs-country-playhouse	Great musical and theatre productions in market district.
Schneider Haus National Historic Site	Region of Waterloo	regionofwaterloomuseums.ca/en/visit/about-schneider-haus.aspx	Museum with the oldest remaining dwelling in Kitchener.

Grand River Rocks Climbing Gym	Grand River Rocks	grandriverrocks.com/	Climbing gym very close to Wilfred Laurier University.
Brubacher House	University of Waterloo	uwaterloo.ca/brubacher-house/	Historical museum on University of Waterloo campus.
Woodside National Historic site	National Parks Canada	parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/on/woodside	Historical museum that was once the childhood home of Canada's 10 th Prime Minister, William Lyon MacKenzie King.
Shades Mills and Laurel Creek Conservation Areas	Grand River Conservation Areas	www.grandriver.ca/en/outdoor-recreation/find-a-park.aspx	Beach-like experience and great hiking trails.
Skyzone Trampoline Park	Skyzone	www.skyzone.com/ca-kitchener	Indoor trampoline park.
Kiwanis Park	City of Kitchener	www.kitchener.ca/en/pools-and-swimming/kiwanis-park-and-pool.aspx	A lake-like outdoor pool, picnic and playgrounds, canoe launch, athletic fields, and volleyball courts.
Canoe the Grand River	Canoe the Grand	canoeingthegrand.com/	Canoe the Grand River (with transportation pick up).
Max's Sportsworld	Max Sportsworld	maxsportsworld.ca/	Mini golf, axe throwing, driving range, batting cages and more. Across from the St. Jacobs market.



INSURANCE

LIABILITY INSURANCE

The 2023 Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering provides limited general liability insurance coverage for all participants and staff for the period of August 10–13, 2023, through the ELCIC. Congregations should review their insurance needs and coverage to confirm adequate liability protection for their group’s travel, attendance at the gathering, and any extra time spent before or after the CLAY dates. In most cases, this coverage is provided through your congregation’s existing property and liability insurance policy or available through a policy rider or extension.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

The scope of medical insurance coverage varies by provincial/territory plan. It is suggested that groups review their provincial plan coverage and limits in advance of travel. It may be advisable to purchase additional supplementary health insurance coverage when traveling out of province to cover the cost of services not included in the reciprocal agreement between Provincial Medical Service Plans. All participants are responsible for ensuring they have sufficient and appropriate health insurance while attending the gathering.



TRAVEL INFORMATION

AIR TRAVEL

For air travel to the gathering, each Home Team must make their own arrangements for booking flights. We encourage you to contact other Home Teams in your area to increase the size of your booking “group” in order to take advantage of the lowest possible group rates offered by the airlines.

WestJet

To receive a discount off fares with WestJet, please follow these instructions:

1. Visit www.westjet.com/conventions to book flights online.
2. During the booking process, use coupon code 2R1Z8YE to apply the discount.

Notes:

- The booking is to be made to Toronto (YYZ)
- The travel period begins Thursday, August 3, 2023 and ends Sunday, August 20, 2023.
- A 5% discount applies on Econo fares, and 10% on EconoFlex and Premium fares.

Air Canada

To receive a discount off fares with Air Canada, please follow these instructions:

1. Visit www.aircanada.com to book flights online.
2. During the booking process, use promotional code NBGNT6Z1 to apply the discount.

Notes:

- The booking is to be made to Toronto (YYZ)
- The travel period begins Thursday, August 3, 2023 and ends Sunday, August 20, 2023.
- A 5% discount applies on standard fares, and 10% on flex fares & higher.

If you have trouble using the above travel codes – let us know!

Contact our Registrar at registrar@claygathering.ca.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION TO WATERLOO

If you choose a transportation option that leaves from Union Station in downtown Toronto, you can take the [UP Express](#) to get to Union Station. Once you are at Union Station, you can use GO Transit or VIA Rail to get to Waterloo.

GO Transit

• **GO Bus**

The **GO Bus** stops at **Toronto Pearson Airport Terminal 1** on the ground level between columns Q2 to Q4. This bus runs hourly on weekdays and weekends, and every 30 minutes during weekday rush hours. You can buy GO Transit tickets at the vending machine in Terminal 1 on the ground level. Choose Wilfrid Laurier University as your destination. You can [calculate your fare](#) and [plan your trip](#) online. The rate is approximately **\$18 one way**, with taxes included, but is subject to change.

Take the **GO Bus Route 40 - Hamilton GO**, exiting the bus at Square One GO Terminal, where you must disembark and transfer to **GO Bus Route 25 - U of Waterloo**, exiting the bus at Wilfrid Laurier University. This stop is adjacent to the Waterloo campus entrance at the corner of University Avenue and Hazel Street.

The trip from the airport to the Waterloo campus is about **two-and-a-half hours**.

• **GO Train**

There may be [GO Train options](#) available from Union Station to the Kitchener GO Terminal. The trip on the GO Train will take approximately **two hours**.

VIA Rail

You can take a [train](#) from Union Station to the Kitchener Via Rail station for about \$36 (price subject to change). Once you are at the Kitchener station, you can use Grand River Transit, a taxi or a rideshare service of your choice to get to Waterloo.

PARKING

Free parking is available at Wilfrid Laurier University in designated lots, for guests staying in residence.

If you are traveling to CLAY by bus, contact the Registrar for more information on bus parking.



AT THE GATHERING

WHEN TO ARRIVE AT CLAY

We recommend arriving in the afternoon on Thursday, August 10. Primary Home Team Leaders can register their Home Team between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Dinner on Thursday is included in your registration fee and will be served starting at 4:30 p.m. This will be followed by the first Large Group Gathering, a choice of late night spots and an optional late night worship for the night owls. The gathering concludes at approximately noon on Sunday, August 13 (a bag lunch will be provided following the conclusion of the gathering).

The duration of CLAY itself is full with activities (including - LGGs, Special Events, Morning Worship, Meals, Late Night Spots, Late Night Worship, an offsite event and more!) so there's not a lot of extra time to explore the area. The province of Ontario is beautiful, and it may be worth setting aside time for travelling around before or after the gathering. For an additional fee, you can book extra nights before or after the gathering in the Wilfrid Laurier Residence, so feel free to take advantage of that and use the time to soak up what the province has to offer!

REGISTRATION

Registration for the gathering will be on Thursday, August 10, any time between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Each Primary Home Team Leader will receive one package for the entire Home Team. This package will contain:

- Identification bracelet for each participant and leader. These will be necessary to attend all aspects of the gathering, including entrance into the dining halls for meals.

CLAY GATHERING APP!

At CLAY 2023, there will be an app for that! The app will include:

- Schedule
- Information about and locations for Late Night Spots
- Information about and locations for daytime activities
- Games to play with other CLAY participants
- Other important information including maps & emergency numbers

Stay tuned to claygathering.ca and to your email in the summer of 2023 for more information about downloading the app.

GATHERING RULES

All Participants shall observe the following:

- a) Smoking and vaping only in designated areas, and only by participants age 19 or older
- b) No alcohol, cannabis or illicit or illegal drugs
- c) Sleeping areas quiet after 11:00 p.m.
- d) All participants must be in their own rooms by 1:00 a.m.
- e) Follow all facility regulations

Expulsion Policy

The CLAY Chairperson is authorized to expel any participant (HTL, HT participant, guest, etc.) who engage in illegal, immoral or unsafe activities, endangering themselves or other participants, or any other activity which violates the rules of the gathering. Youth Participants will be taken to their Primary Home Team Leader. Expelled participants are not eligible for any refund and are responsible for their expense of travelling home. Should CLAY need to fund the initial payment, reimbursement is due within 60 days. The NPC Chairperson will consult with the HTL. In the event a minor is to be expelled, the NPC Chairperson will ensure that the parent/guardian is also contacted. If expulsion of a HTL is being considered, every effort will be made to contact the congregation, parish, diocese or synod to which the HTL is accountable. The NPC will provide assistance to the congregation, parish, diocese or synod in arranging appropriate leadership for the remaining Home Team participants.

PASTORAL CARE

While at a gathering, it can happen that an individual feels confronted with issues that need attention. During the gathering, a volunteer pastoral care team is available to all participants should the need arise. Information will be provided on site for how to contact our pastoral care team. The Pastoral Care room will be located in the Bricker Academic Building, Room BA208.

EVENT SUPERVISION

There will be volunteer event supervision on duty throughout various events at the gathering. Call the Gathering Office phone number if you need assistance. Please note that Primary/Home Team Leaders will be contacted should there be any discipline concerns. Wilfrid Laurier Special Constable Services will also be present on campus.

MEDICAL

Limited medical assistance will be available on site. Volunteer nurses and other volunteer first aid responders will be available to assist with emergencies. If anyone in your Home Team requires medical attention, a HTL must accompany the participant to the First Aid Station in the Bricker Academic Building, Room BA209. In the event an emergency prevents you from getting to the first aid station, please call the Gathering Phone. There is a hospital within a short distance of Wilfrid Laurier campus.

Our First Aid volunteers at the gathering cannot administer such things as Tylenol or cough and cold medications. If you think you may need items such as these, you are responsible for bringing them along. All prescriptions and medications must be in their original containers.

Large groups present certain risk for the spread of illness. Public Health requires participants who are feeling ill, or may have contagious symptoms (flu, fever) to remain in their room and rest. This is a matter of community stewardship and health, and is a vital measure to prevent an outbreak.

COVID policies will be determined closer to the gathering so that current best practices can be included. CLAY will follow guidelines set forth by the Province of Ontario, local public health units, and Wilfrid Laurier campus.

Please be aware that strobe lighting and/or rapid video projection may be used as part of the LGGs and the dances. If there are any medical concerns related to the use of these items, each person is responsible to take all appropriate precautions.



NATIONAL YOUTH PROJECT



*“Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you.” -Isaiah 43:4*

The theme for the National Youth Project (NYP) is *More Precious*. It is a partnership between youth initiatives of both the ELCIC and the Anglican Church of Canada focusing on issues of human trafficking.

Many assume that this is a problem outside of Canada, but the reality is, it is happening here on our shores. And it’s happening to Canadian youth.

Our goal is for groups to learn more about the issues of human trafficking to be agents of change in their own lives and community, and to be able to identify the warning signs to protect themselves.

Resources that can be used with Youth Groups prior to the gathering can be found at claygathering.ca/nyp.

We appreciate your commitment to learning about and engaging in social justice issues that make our churches and the world a better place for everyone.



AFTER THE GATHERING

UNDERSTANDING THE EXPERIENCE

A Youth Gathering is an incredibly unique experience for those who attend. It is a place where youth experience community, acceptance and love, where they can discuss their faith openly and are often more open to hearing God's word. It truly becomes a highlight of their lives.

Youth returning home will have a great variety of feelings. Some will be excited and inspired to explore their faith in new ways. Some may keep in touch with their new friends and even gather with others in their area who attended the gathering. Sharing songs and stories in their home congregation is a good way to take the gathering home.

Some youth may need to grieve a little when they return home. Newfound friends may be hundreds or thousands of kilometers away. Coming down from an intense experience, some may feel what could be described as a "post-gathering valley". Acknowledge their feelings of loss and sadness. Encourage them to share with you what they experienced. In time, the feelings of loss will subside.

All of this is meant to say that the many ways HTLs support youth before, during and after the gathering is valuable.

TAKING THE GATHERING BACK HOME

Plan now for ways you can take the gathering back home with you. Will your youth be expected to share with others (home church, community, Diocese and/or Synod) some of what they experienced when they return home?

Talking about this before you leave for the gathering can help with your preparation. Here are some suggestions:

- Keep a journal. Encourage journal-keeping during the gathering itself. It is much easier to share impressions if they have been recorded along the way. You may want to create special individual journals as part of your gathering preparations.
- Host a "Thank You" event. Share pictures, stories and songs, and say a big thank you to your congregation/parish for their support.

- Designate a group photographer.
- Plan to lead worship in your home congregation/parish when you return. Have participants share favourite gathering songs and worship experiences.
- Have an "Ashes & Embers Reunion". Invite other churches in your area that had participants at the gathering.
- Write an article. You may want to submit it to your congregational newsletter, your Synod/Diocese news or even your local community newspaper.
- Participate in the National Youth Project.
- Start planning to attend the next CLAY!



GROUP COVENANT

***NOTE:** *This document is meant to be flexible – make it fit the needs of your Home Team. Feel free to write as much as possible, so that your team can have the best understanding of each other before leaving on the trip.*

~ ~ ~

As believers and followers of Jesus Christ, this is the covenant we make together for the Canadian Lutheran and Anglican Youth Gathering. This represents what we hope to learn, experience, and be responsible for. These are the goals to which we will give our time and energy – before, during and after the gathering.

Our Life Together

1. We will commit ourselves to treat one another as follows:

2. We will help one another as follows:

3. We expect our leader(s) to:

4. We will treat our leader(s) as follows:

5. We will handle the following issues as follows:
 - a) Bedtime, time in, sleep, consideration of roommates' "sleep rights":

 - b) Use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs:

c) Relationships, couples:

d) Disagreements, hassles, impatience:

e) Not adhering to the rules of the housing site:

f) Going off into Waterloo alone:

g) Matters of sexism, racism, ableism, transphobia and homophobia:

h) When someone breaks our covenant:

6. How we intend to contribute to the success of the gathering:

7. What we hope to get from the gathering:

8. What our group plans to bring to the gathering:

9. What we hope to have happen in our group as a result of the gathering:

We agree to help keep this covenant with one another.

Date:

Signatures:



AN ORDER OF COMMISSIONING

(for use on a Sunday prior to the gathering)

Pastor, Priest or Worship Leader: Siblings in Christ, you leave this week to travel together to Waterloo, Ontario, where you will gather with hundreds of Lutheran and Anglican youth from across Canada. Youth gatherings are sponsored by our National Churches in order that:

- a) the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be proclaimed to you through many mediums and in language and presentations that assist you in applying the Gospel to your daily lives;
- b) you may learn and have the opportunities to respond to God's grace and faithfulness in intentional, practical and meaningful ways; and
- c) you, as part of the Body of Christ, may gather to celebrate the gift of being children of God.

Leader: You will be attending The Canadian Anglican Lutheran Youth Gathering: Ashes & Embers as members of a Home Team. This Home Team will be your family for the duration of the trip. You will be representing both our home congregation/parish of [congregation/parish name] and your Saviour, who claimed you in your baptisms and whose name you bear.

(Ask the assembly to please rise)

May we together profess our faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Leader: Will you, the congregation, keep these young people and their leader(s) in your prayers throughout the coming days, asking for God's protection, guidance and loving presence as they journey, experience, celebrate CLAY and then as they journey home together? If so, please respond, "Yes, with the help of God."

Congregation: Yes, with the help of God.

(The congregation may be seated)

Leader: Will you, the members and leader(s) of this Home Team, promise to make every effort to live together as a Christian family – bearing with one another’s habits, being patient, caring, and considerate? Will you forgive one another as you have been forgiven by God through Christ Jesus? If so, please respond: “Yes, and we ask God’s Spirit to help and guide us.”

Group Members & Leader(s): Yes, and we ask God’s Spirit to help and guide us.

Leader: Will you seek out the opportunities available to you that you may fully experience all that this gathering offers? Will you make an effort to worship daily, meet new friends and see new places, sing and celebrate Jesus’ love, have fun, explore scripture truths, and be joyful? If yes, please respond, “Yes, with God’s help.”

Participant(s): Yes, with God’s help.

(Commissioning may be done individually or collectively depending on the size of the group and time. The Pastor/Priest/Worship Leader makes the sign of the cross on the individual’s forehead or over the whole group.)

Leader: [Name(s)], Child(ren) of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Response: Amen.

Leader: Go now and tell everyone what God in Jesus Christ has done for you. In the name of the Creator, and of the Christ, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

(The Pastor/Priest/Worship Leader may invite the affirmation of the congregation, having the group turn and face them and receive it.)

The regular order of service continues.

(Adapted from the Order of Service for Holy Baptism)



LEAVE THIS INFO WITH PARENTS

Here is some important information for you to keep handy while your family member is attending Ashes & Embers, the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering (CLAY) for 2023.

Home Team Number: _____

Primary Home Team Leader's Name: _____

Primary Home Team Leader's Phone Number: _____

The Gathering Office phone number*: _____
(to be provided in June 2023)

***Note: This is an EMERGENCY NUMBER ONLY.**

If you wish to be in touch with your child, please make arrangements for them to call you. If they do not have a personal cell phone, you may need to spend some time instructing them on how to make a long distance call or provide them with a telephone card for this purpose.