



YOU ARE INVITED!

Ever wonder what CYMK-Ukrainian Orthodox Youth is?

Want to learn how to organize youth in your parish?

Want to learn how to develop a youth ministry in your parish?

Interested in meeting people from across Canada, and learning what type of youth programming they are doing in their parishes?

Want to worship in other parishes across Canada?

Want to be part of the bigger picture and accomplish great things together?

Come to the 2017 Biennial CYMK-UOY Convention Aug. 9-13, 2017 in Winnipeg, MB!

Dear Parish Council presidents & members,

Does your parish have a youth group? Or if you do, is it fully effective? Are all youth fully engaged in the group (or at least 80%?)? If the answer is no to any of these questions, that's okay - this is just the start of our conversations! The real question is do you, as a council, want to change this?

I've had conversations with many of you personally, (and my plan is to connect with all of you soon!), and the majority of you said youth work is important for your parish. If this is still true, and you are committed to creating a vibrant youth program, **then I strongly urge you to sponsor your parish priest, a potential youth advisor or coordinator(s), and several youth to attend this event.**

“Who is CYMK-UOY?”

This event is being sponsored by *CYMK- the Ukrainian Orthodox Youth* group of Canada, established in 1931. Their aim since then has been to foster hard-working individuals of the Ukrainian Orthodox community into leaders with a strong base in their faith, culture and ties to their community. All local youth groups have been active members of their parishes, whether donating money for windows, vestments, chandeliers, or orphanages or planning and leading social-events for the parish.

“Why Gather”

Whether your youth group is called CYMK-UOY or another name, it does not really matter; what matters is that they **are** organized, and ultimately, organized across Canada **with a sense of belonging and community**. Even though our demographics are changing and not all parishes have youth with 100% Ukrainian heritage or who are fluent in Ukrainian, we are all still members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church here in Canada.

“Why Should I Attend the Event?”

If you, as a council, are looking for ideas and suggestions about how to start, run or improve a youth program, then this convention is for you! The CYMK-UOY National Executive and I have worked diligently to put together practical, relevant and engaging sessions that will walk you through these steps, through a CYMK lens, but which can be applied to your local circumstances. Indeed, the event is part of a larger program - the Biennial USRL Convention, for the youth, men and women organizations, and is therefore informative on many levels.

This event is also an opportunity to form new relationships, share ideas and common interests. Joining efforts at conventions helps on many levels to work towards a greater cause.

As Ukrainians, we are known for our hospitality just as much as we are known for our factionism. This is the opportunity to bring TOGETHER our community, and show our children what it means to be UNITED.

Please encourage your members to attend the convention and take this opportunity for a family vacation, see what Winnipeg has to offer or visit friends. The CYMK and USRL Convention will help you gain enthusiasm, empathy and love from those who live far away and enlighten your spirituality as we pray together.

In Christ,
Christina Kowalenko
National Youth Organizer

Liza Zienchuk
National CYMK-UOY Executive President