



**2017 United Nations International Affairs Seminar For Youth
Christian Church In Ohio (Disciples of Christ)
Information Sheet For Participants**



Purpose: The United Nations International Affairs Seminar for Youth challenges youth to learn about international affairs and U.S. foreign policy through study, discussion and presentations in the United Nations Center in New York City and in Washington, D.C. It seeks to encourage faith-based critical thinking and reflection through prayer, worship, discussion and community building.

Time: Friday, February 24, 2017, 7:30p.m. thru Saturday, March 4, 2017, 5:00p.m.

Departure/Return Location: New Horizons Christian Church, Akron, OH 44110.

Cost: \$950 plus \$200 personal money needed for public transportation, food, souvenirs, etc. Make Checks Payable To Christian Church In Ohio. First payment \$350 with registration by **December 16, 2016**, short payment plan is available for total cost. (Contact Regional Office)

Participants: The trip is limited to 46 high school sophomores, juniors and seniors plus 8 adult sponsors.

Schedule: We arrive Friday night at New Horizons Christian Church in Akron, OH for orientation and stay in host homes, travel by charter bus Saturday for New York City, stay at the NYC International Hostel for four nights, spending Saturday night visiting Union Theological Seminary. We worship Sunday at the famous Riverside Church. Monday begins at the Today Show, then tour the United Nations and World Trade Center memorial. That evening we will visit the Empire State Building after touring Time Square and others sites. Tuesday we will be hearing speakers on relevant topics. An afternoon of site seeing, and then we will see a play on Broadway. Wednesday we travel to Washington DC, and stay at the DC International Hostel for three nights. Share in Ash Wednesday Worship at National City Christian Church. Thursday we tour the Capitol Building and sit in on House and Senate sessions. You will arrange a visit with your Congressional Representative that afternoon. Friday morning we will share in a Mission Project. Friday afternoon travel groups will explore city sites. We leave Saturday at 8:00a.m., returning to Akron, Ohio, lunch on the way, and then we have a final closing circle and farewells around 5p.m. These are just some of the events and activities packed into this very exciting week.

School Issues: You will miss 5 days of school to attend the Seminar. All schools will offer excused absences for this quality study event. Some schools will go so far as to not expect work to be made up because of the nature of this trip. Please show your principal the material and discuss what you need to have your absence excused. Rev. Steve Bentley and/or your Pastor will write a letter if needed to your Principle or Teacher, as well as the place where you work. This also applies to extracurricular activities: Sports, Band, Choirs, and Theater. Please provide name and address of person to which a letter should be written.

Job Issues: For those holding an afterschool or weekend job, most employers see the value in programs like this. Please give them plenty of notice of your absence. We can also provide a letter to your employer or supervisor if needed.

Requirements:

1. 400-500 word paper on “**The Most Important Purpose of the United Nations**”.
2. Read selected articles on Immigrants and Immigration Issues (resources will be e-mailed to you, or mailed if e-mail is not available, after first paper and deposit are received.)
3. Write a 2000 word position paper (5 pages) based on reading topics.
4. Provide 2 references: Pastor & Teacher (sent to you after First Payment)
5. Payment of \$950 (read section on Financial Help)
6. Willingness to live by the “Covenant” during the Seminar

Step #1

1. Complete the attached or enclosed application form.
2. Write a 400-500 word paper (2 pages double spaced) stating what you believe to **be the most important purpose of the United Nations**. Read the United Nations Charter. State the four purposes of the United Nations from Article 1 of the UN Charter. Give your reasons and examples for the most important purpose. Use the UN website, www.un.org for this research or use your local library.
3. Give the attached reference forms to your pastor and a teacher with an addressed/stamped envelope (UN Seminar, Christian Church in Ohio, 1347 Worthington Woods Blvd, Suite A, Columbus, Ohio 43085 - 6701). They should be returned to the Christian Church in Ohio as soon as possible, but **no later than January 16, 2016**.
4. Mail the application, your first paper, a recent photo, and the **\$350 deposit** to UN Seminar, Christian Church in Ohio, 1347 Worthington Woods Blvd, Suite A, Columbus, Ohio 43085 - 6701 by **December 16, 2016**.
5. You may also apply by **Email**: 1) fill out Word documents , 2) attach a digital or scanned signature, 3) Email to Rev. Ralph Wearstler, RevRalphW@sbcglobal.net, 4) Mail in your payment or make a Credit Card payment on the Regional website / UN Seminar page.
6. Email or call the Regional Office with any initial questions you have.

Step #2

As soon as your application, deposit and first paper are received, you will receive a series of Emails with attached reading materials, information, and detailed instructions about the 2000 word Focus paper, as well as a medical form for a parent to sign and complete. You will read the assigned articles, make a decision about your Focus topic, do research based on the topic and the instruction sheet, and complete the paper. Only when your Focus paper (which can be Emailed) and final payment of \$600 are received will your place be assured on the UN Seminar.

The Seminar is limited to 46 **sophomores, juniors, & seniors** and 8 adults. Should we receive more than 46 FINAL PAPERS, the procedure for selection will be as follows:

- a) Acceptance will be granted to those youth whose papers arrive **FIRST** and who demonstrate adequate research, content and neatness.
- b) Youth who are not in the first 46 group will be placed on a waiting list and contacted as openings develop. (Last minute replacements have happened.)

All waiting list deposits will be returned after February 28, 2017.
TO ASSURE YOUR PLACE, COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION AND PAPERS
AND RETURN THEM EARLY. DO NOT PROCRASTINATE.

Step #3

When everything is received you will be added to the list and your Email address will be included on a Facebook and/or Email list where you will be able to ask questions, be in touch with other participants, and learn important information before the trip. About 2 weeks before the Seminar you will receive a Get-Ready-Book with detailed schedule, contact information, map to the departure location, etc.

Before the Seminar you will need to contact your Congressional Representative to arrange for an appointment in her/his office while in Washington, D.C. You will attempt to coordinate this appointment with other youth and adults from your same Congressional District. This is a significant part of the Seminar. We will attempt to meet one or both Ohio Senators as a group. This needs to be done by **January 24, 2017**.

Financial Help:

Most churches are willing to assist you in paying for the cost of the UN Seminar because of the quality of the event and its life-changing nature. Ask your Pastor if your church has scholarship funds for you. Ask your church's Women's Group or Men's Group if they have funds to assist you. Ask your Youth sponsor for youth group funds. You can also see about organizing your own UN Seminar Fundraiser(s).

Please Do Not Let A Lack of Funds Prevent You From Attending!

Total Tour Cost:

The \$950 includes:

- Orientation costs and snacks on Friday night
- Lodging Saturday through Friday nights
- Travel by charter bus
- Metro Transportation Cards for New York City
- Partial cost coverage for adult leadership
- Seven group meals (Lunch or Dinner) and Eight breakfasts
- All program expenses (UN tour, speakers, meeting rooms, etc)
- Empire State Building admission
- Tickets to a Broadway Play and a theater event in Washington, D.C.
- UN Seminar long-sleeve t-shirt
- Travel insurance for the entire event
- Administrative costs

Additional funds of \$200 will be needed for some public transportation, meals not provided, snacks, souvenirs, museums or other tours, etc.

How We Live and Travel:

Most travel in the cities is by travel groups of 5 or 6 youth and one adult. No one goes anywhere alone. Youth share rooms at International Hostels with 6 or 8 youth per room. Adults stay together in adjacent rooms. Youth will stay in homes of church members on Friday night before Saturday's departure to New York City.

Deadlines:

Item

Application Form
400-500 word paper on UN
\$350 registration fee

Recommendation Letters

2000 word research paper
\$600 second payment in full
Medical forms signed

Cancellation / Deposit Refund (Minus \$25.00
Processing fee) if student is replaced
(if not, see application notice)

Dates

December 16, 2016

January 16, 2016

January 24, 2017

January 24, 2017