



**2024 International Affairs Seminar For Youth
Christian Church In Ohio (Disciples of Christ)
United Church of Christ Heartland Conference
Information Sheet For Participants**



Purpose: The International Affairs Seminar for Youth (IAS) challenges youth to learn about international affairs, U.S. foreign policy, and the Church through study, discussion and presentations during our time in New York City and Washington, D.C. It seeks to encourage faith-based critical thinking and reflection through prayer, worship, discussion and community building. We are excited to be partnering this impactful experience with the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ .

Time: Friday, March 8, 2024, 7:30p.m. thru Saturday, March 16, 2024, 4:00p.m.

Departure/Return Location: 1st Christian Church, 116 E. Boyer St., Wadsworth, OH 44281.

Cost: \$1,200 covers Bus, Lodging, most meals, tour fees, 2 Theater Plays, and more. (About \$150 per day). Plus, an additional \$200 for personal needs, like public transportation, some meals, souvenirs, etc. A \$300 check deposit can be mailed to IA Seminar, Christian Church in Ohio, 10335 Maple Dell Rd, Marysville, OH 43040, along with your application by **January 8, 2024**. You can also make a Credit Card payment using the Christian Church in Ohio website on the IA Seminar page.

Financial Assistant: 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 organize your own IA Seminar Fundraiser(s).

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

(Contact Rev. Ralph Wearstler, RevRalphW@sbcglobal.net, for other financial assistance.)

Participants: The trip is limited to 46 high school sophomores, juniors and seniors of 2024, plus 8 adult advisors. **Special request for Freshman Student is possible.**

Schedule: We arrive Friday night at 1st Christian Church in Wadsworth, OH for orientation and stay in host homes. Saturday morning, we travel by charter bus to New York City, staying at the NYC International Hostel for 4 nights, spending the evening playing IA Seminar Jeopardy. We worship Sunday morning at Park Ave. Christian Church . Monday begins at the Today Show, then tour the United Nations, World Trade Center memorial, other interesting sites. In the evening we explore special nightlight sites . Tuesday we will share in a mission project, an afternoon of site seeing, and then see a Broadway Play. Wednesday morning, we travel to Washington DC, staying at a DC Hostel 3 nights. We will tour the National Cathedral, gathered at National City Christian Church, and listen to topical speakers. Thursday morning, we tour the Capitol Building and sit in on House and Senate sessions. You will setup a visit with your Congressional Representative that afternoon. We will also be touring the DC sites. Friday morning, we will share in a Mission Project to help those in need in D.C. area. Friday afternoon travel groups will explore local sites, and a Friday evening program & worship. We leave Saturday at 8:00a.m. returning to Wadsworth, Ohio, lunch on the way, then have a final closing circle and farewells around 4p.m. These are just some of the events and activities packed into a very exciting week.

School Issues: While on the Seminar you will miss 5 days of school. All schools have accepted 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. Ralph Wearstler 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. Also check with teaches to see if your paper or presentation could go for extra credit, maybe in more than one class.

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 essay on “The Purpose of International Affairs in your life and faith”.
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 2,000 word Focus paper or an 8-minute TED-Talk style audio/video presentation or PowerPoint based on one of the Focus topics.
4. Provide 2 references: Pastor & Teacher (sent to you after First Payment)
5. Total Payment of \$1200 (read section on Financial Help)
6. Willingness to live by the “Covenant” during the Seminar

Step #1

1. Complete the application form.
2. If you did not participate in the IA Seminar Introduction Class at Camp Christian this past Summer, you will need to write a 400-500 word essay (2 pages double spaced) stating what you believe to be *“The Purpose of International Affairs in your life and faith”*. Give your reasons and examples.
3. Mail the application, your essay, a recent headshot photo to Rev. Ralph Wearstler, **7012 Jackson Street, Mentor, OH 44060**. Send the **\$300 deposit** to I.A. Seminar, Christian Church in Ohio, **10335 Maple Dell Rd, Marysville, OH 43040** by **December 18, 2023**. When you turn in items and payment you will receive a **\$100 Scholarship** toward your final payment.
4. You may also submit by **Email**: 1) Go to I.A. Seminar Website: [[click here](#)] or cut & paste to browser <https://www.ccinoh.com/ministries/children-youth/youth-fellowship/international-affairs-seminar.aspx> 2) fill out documents, 3) attach a digital or scanned signature, 4) Email to Rev. Ralph Wearstler, RevRalphW@sbcglobal.net, 5) Make an Online Credit Card payment from the Regional website / IA Seminar page.
5. Email Rev. Ralph Wearstler with any initial questions you have.

Step #2

As soon as your application, 1st deposit and essay paper are received, you will receive a series of Emails with attached resources and information, and detailed instructions about the 2,000 word Focus paper or 8-minute PowerPoint/TED-Talk style video presentation, as well as a medical form for a parent to complete and sign. You will read the assigned articles, select a Focus topic, do research based on the topic and the instruction sheet, and complete the assignment. Only when your Focus paper/presentation (which can be Emailed) and final payment are received will your place be assured on the I.A. Seminar.

When the Focus Paper/Presentation and Final Payment are received you will receive another **\$100 Scholarship**, so your Final Payment will be **\$700**, because you also received the **\$100** Registration Scholarship for your Final Payment.

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 27, 2021.

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 Social Media Site 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 18, 2024**.

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Total Tour Cost:

The \$1200 includes: (About \$150 per day)

- 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 Scarf
- 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 8 or 10 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:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Application Form	\$100 Registration Scholarship
400-500-word essay	
\$300 registration fee	January 8th, 2024
	2nd \$100 Scholarship with Focus Paper & Payment (February 2, 2024)
Recommendation Letters	January 10, 2024
Focus Paper or Presentation and \$900 second payment in full	February 2, 2024
Cancellation / Deposit Refund (Minus \$25.00 Processing fee) if student is replaced (if not replaced, see application notice)	February 2, 2024
Medical forms signed & Returned	February 8, 2024