CHRIST COMMUNITY
C H U R C H
Changed Hearts. Changed Lives. Changed Community.

Parent & Student Informational Form
Youth Ministry Communications Policy

Note to Parents:

Christ Community Church (CCC) is committed to creating a ministry environment that encourages growth in wisdom and Christlikeness. This includes promoting a healthy and responsible environment for communication between adult youth workers and students (6th-12th graders).

As a result, CCC has developed a Youth Ministry Communications Policy. This policy establishes guidelines for what it looks like to walk in wisdom as we communicate with one another. The goal is not simply to avoid unwise and harmful communications between adults and minors. Our aim is to use digital technology as a means for cultivating healthy relationships between leaders and students so we can all grow as Christ's disciples unto God's glory.

Before youth leaders may communicate with a student via phone calls, texting, and email, the student's parents must sign and submit a consent form. This promotes an environment of trust and transparency between youth leaders and parents. The youth leaders' goal is to minister to the next generation in a way that is above reproach (**1 Tim 6:14**). Technology should not be used to hide secrets but rather in a way that helps us all—adults and students—walk with Christ in the light (**1 John 1:7**).

It is up to parents to decide at what age their student may begin to use technology to communicate with youth leaders. Before turning in a consent form, take some time to discuss the "Note to Students" with your child. The purpose of this material is to give you an opportunity to have a conversation about using technology with wisdom and Christlikeness. This includes the how to communicate with adults (youth leaders) and peers! Discipleship thrives on open and trusting conversations. Give your student an opportunity to ask you questions and talk about experiences they have had with technology already. Lastly, please do not hesitate to contact the youth ministry team if there are other ways that we can partner with you in discipling the next generation to use technology with wisdom and Christlikeness!

Note to Students:

As your youth leaders, we want to serve you as you grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Whether you have a question you'd like to discuss, want some advice, or need someone to listen and pray with you, we want to be available to you. One way we can do that is through God's gift of technology. Things like phone calls, texting, and email make it easy to communicate with each other throughout the week!

However, part of living in a fallen world is the reality that there are those who use God's good gifts for their own evil purposes. Tragically, there are adults in the world who misuse technology to hurt young people. Jesus cares deeply about young people (**Luke 18:15-17**). He commands older believers to care for the next generation (**Matt 18:5-6**). That is why our youth group has a few simple guidelines to help us use technology wisely. These guidelines are designed to create a community where technology helps youth leaders and students communicate in a way that is loving, safe, and unto God's glory.

First of all, before you use things like texting and email to communicate with youth leaders, your parents need to sign a permission form. This form needs to be given to the Youth Director. This ensures that your parents know whom you are communicating with.

Second, the most important practice for using technology to communicate with youth leaders is something called **two-deep leadership**. ***This means communications between students and leaders should always involve two adults.*** This could be two youth leaders or a youth leader and a parent. We practice two-deep leadership because it means other adults are aware of who is communicating with you. This encourages healthy and transparent community, which provides you with a safe place to seek advice, prayer, and a listening ear from your youth leaders! See the table below for more on how you can practice two-deep leadership.

Type of Communication	Two-Deep Leadership
Texting/Emailing a youth leader	• Include 1 youth leader and 1 parent OR • Include 2 youth leaders
Calling a youth leader on the phone	• Ask a parent before calling a youth leader

Finally, as you use technology to communicate with your peers and youth leaders, keep the following things in mind. These principles will help you grow in wisdom and Christlikeness:

1. **Communicate in a way that glorifies God.** God has uniquely gifted humans with language. This great gift comes with great responsibility (**James 3**). Frequently ask God to help you to use the gift of language in a way that honors Him. Run quickly to His throne of grace and pursue reconciliation when you fall short!

2. **Communicate in a way that encourages and edifies others.** We want our youth group to be a place where we use technology to help each other grow in Christ. Your words can be life-giving or destructive to others. Building someone up is more important than being right, funny, or noticed. Harassment and bullying do not respect others as God's image-bearers. If you notice bullying online or in-person, talk to a parent/youth leader so we can help you care for those who are being harmed and put a stop to the bullying.

3. **Communicate in a way that respects your dignity as someone made in God's image.** Think through the potential benefits and/or consequences of the things you say, share, and post. Consider whether the things you are posting are things you want to be accessible to all those who might see or read them. Sending obscene, vulgar, or sexually explicit messages or photos does not honor ourselves or others as God's image-bearers and is not permitted among youth leaders or students. If you notice or experience something that makes you uncomfortable, do not hesitate to reach out to a parent or youth leader for help!

Be sure to ask your parents or a youth leader for help if you're not sure how to put these things into practice. Our prayer is that we will all grow in wisdom and Christlikeness as we use technology to communicate with each other!