

Youth Ministry Communication and Transportation Policy
September 2023

1. Can adults call youth on the youth's cell phone?

Yes, adults, both staff and volunteers, may call youth on the youth's cell phone but only with previously-obtained written parental permission using the Youth Ministry Communication and Transportation Consent Form. If a youth initiates a call to an adult staff member or volunteer, the adult should send an immediate email or text to the youth's parent to alert them that the call is taking place.

2. Can adults text youth?

- Yes, adults, both staff and volunteers, may text youth on the youth's cell phone but only with previously-obtained written parental permission using the Youth Ministry Communication and Transportation Consent Form, and only if a second adult is copied on all texts.

3. Can adults interact with youth on social media (e.g., Snap, Tik Tok, Instagram, Facebook, X)?

- No. Communication between youth and adults via social media is not necessary at this time to create and maintain an effective and meaningful ministry with youth. Direct communication with youth will take place in other ways as described in this policy.

4. Can adults email youth?

- Yes, adults, including staff and volunteers may email youth directly with previously-obtained written parental permission using the Youth Ministry Communication and Transportation Consent Form and only when another adult is copied on the email message. Staff members should only communicate with youth using a church-issued email address.

5. Can adults meet one-on-one with youth in person?

- Yes, adults, including staff and volunteers, may meet one-on-one with youth in person but only with previously-obtained written parental consent using the Youth Ministry Communication and Transportation Consent Form and only in a location

where other adults are consistently present and visible. No private, isolated meeting should ever take place between one youth and one adult.

6. Can adults meet one-on-one with youth in a video-conferencing format?

- No. If a one-on-one meeting needs to take place between an adult staff member or adult volunteer and a youth, this should take place in person under the conditions stipulated in #5 above.

7. Can adults drive a youth alone in a car or in the church bus?

- Yes, adult staff members and volunteers may drive a youth alone in the staff member or volunteer's car or in the church bus but only under the following conditions:
 - a. Written parental permission has previously been obtained for either a specific outing or in general using the Northwest Presbyterian Church Youth Group Transportation and Communication Consent Form.
 - b. Only when this one-on-one situation cannot be avoided.
 - c. Only for the shortest time required for transportation purposes.
 - d. A parent must be notified when the child has been picked up and when the child has reached the destination.

8. Can a youth ride with another youth when the youth is driving to and from a youth event.

- Yes, but only with previously-obtained written parental permission which names specific youth drivers with whom the child may ride. A youth may NEVER ride home from a youth event in the car of another youth without specific written permission from the parent of the youth who is being transported. Written permission may be obtained from the parent via email, text, or in writing.

9. Can a youth drive to and from an offsite youth event?

- Yes, but only with previously-obtained written parental permission. No other youth may ride in the car of a youth driver in this situation without previously-obtained written parental consent. These situations should be considered exceptions and youth should be expected to ride in church-arranged transportation to and from youth events unless absolutely necessary. Written permission may be obtained from the parent via email, text, or in writing.