

August 3, 2011

To: Clerk of Elders, Pastors and Church Secretaries
Re: Samuel School I Selection
From: Rachelle Staley, NWYM Associate Superintendent of Youth and Young Adults

Dear Friend:

Our annual Samuel School I is scheduled for October 7-9 at Quaker Hill in McCall, Idaho. Samuel School I is a spiritual retreat for about thirty 7th and 8th grade young people whom local elders discern to be tender to the leading of the Lord—perhaps even open to God’s call to special ministry. Samuel School I is a program sponsored by Northwest Yearly Meeting.

The Samuel School theme is “Hearing, Learning and Doing God’s Will.” The conference aims at increasing the sensitivity of these youth to the Holy Spirit and encouraging them to become faithful “Samuels,” young men and women who respond to God. This is such a transformative time for these young people to expand their tools on listening for God’s voice.

The process for selecting and sending young people is outlined below:

1. Between now and your August Elders’ meeting, talk to other elders, youthworkers, youth pastor and your pastor about youth who would be good candidates for Samuel School I. Create a list of names for the Elders’ consideration. If you do not have an upcoming elders meeting please touch base and come up with nominations. Each church has different ways of handling this process, please make sure the communication is clear among the leaders who is taking care of the steps outlined in this letter.
2. Please put Samuel School selection on your August Elders’ meeting agenda. **At your August Elders’ meeting**, you should select one or two youth to attend Samuel School. You may also nominate two alternates. If you feel strongly about sending more than two attendees, please call Rachelle Staley at the Yearly Meeting office at 503-476-9127. We suggest the elders and primary youthworker interview prospective Samuels personally to get a feel for their spiritual sensitivity. Please do not select previous attendees and keep in mind that Samuel School I is not designed to be a general junior high retreat. We hope that the process of selecting students for Samuel School and receiving their report following the retreat will increase your opportunity for nurturing these future leaders.
3. Confirm each student’s participation with his/her parents/guardians. Send the enclosed welcome letter to the students. You will also want to let the student know what transportation arrangements have been made.
4. Please immediately send a letter of encouragement or personal contact to each student upon his

or her selection. Make sure the youth chosen (and their parents or guardians) understand that, although this is a spiritual retreat selection, it does not imply superior spirituality over those not chosen. Also you can assure parents there will be sufficient and competent counselors and program leaders. If they have questions and want more specifics, please feel free to have parents/guardians contact me.

5. Select an adult “Eli” for each student, who will help integrate the Samuel School experience into students’ lives back home (Elis do not attend Samuel School). It may be helpful to ask your Samuels if there are adults they would like to get to know better through this relationship. We ask that Elis make a six-month commitment to this role, which could open the door to a nurturing relationship. A monthly brochure will go to the adult Elis to encourage them in their discipleship role with their Samuels. Enclosed is an introductory paper for the Eli program. **Please use this as a tool for selecting Elis and helping them understand their commitment.**
6. **Please return the enclosed registration form by Friday, September 23.** Please note that registrations will be accepted only when accompanied by the respective Eli names and addresses. You may also email the information to rstaley@nwfriends.org.

Each local church pays the conference expense of \$155 per person. Make checks payable to Northwest Yearly Meeting and mark them “Samuel School.” Registration and payment should be sent to: **Northwest Yearly Meeting, 200 N. Meridian Street, Newberg, OR 97132.**
Registration and payment need to be sent in by October 1st.

Participants should plan to arrive for registration at 5 p.m. on Friday, October 7. Departure is noon on Sunday, October 9, following lunch. Although each church is responsible for arranging transportation please feel free to contact the NWYM office for suggestions in combining travels.

Thank you,

Rachelle Staley
Associate Superintendent of Youth and Young Adults

Enclosures:

- Registration Form
- Guidelines for Samuel School Selection (for Elders)
- Medical Release Forms
- Eli Introductory Paper
- Samuel Welcome Letter