

Role of the Observer YAD Caucus

The purpose of the YAD Caucus is to provide a friendly and safe place for Youth Advisory Delegates to gather, learn, worship and exchange ideas. It is also designed to help YADs “digest” the large amount of assembly business in a manner that is friendly for younger participants. You will find — as an observer — that the YADs are one of the most prepared groups at the Assembly! Part of this is due to the time they take each day to gather and share information.

The format for the caucus meetings is developed by the four assembly assistants known as YAD Advisors, four adult volunteers who oversee the YAD program on site at the General Assembly. The YAD Advisors are supported by staff from the Office of Ministries with Youth (GAC) and staff from the Office of General Assembly (GA Meeting Service).

Once YAD Co-moderators are elected by the YADs these two co-moderators will moderate the caucus meetings.

During YAD Caucus YADs, advisors, staff and observers will have the opportunity to reflect on the events of the day, be prayerful presence to one another, return the day’s work to God and be guided by the Holy Spirit and each other as we seek wisdom in the work before us.

All who are present are invited to participate in the times of worship as well as small groups. During those times when the caucus is divided into small groups for check-in and reflection, observers are invited to form their own groups within the observer section of seating.

Much like the seating in Assembly committees and plenary the YAD Caucus has assigned seating sections. Observers should be seated in the section (generally in the back of the Caucus space) marked: Observers.

Throughout the course of the meeting observers are asked to be aware of themselves in the following ways:

- Please be respectful of the YADs. This is a time for the YADs to express their ideas, opinions and suggestions. Observers should remain quiet during the meeting and should allow the YADs to respond to questions, issues and presentations.
- Please remember that younger people express themselves in very different ways than older people. For many YADs this is their first experience of a larger church gathering. They will need time to unwind, be rowdy and express their ideas in a way that feels more comfortable to them than the traditional Assembly manner.
- Please keep your presentation brief. Limited to the amount of time stipulated by the co-moderators. The YADs will hear you better and retain your information better if your presentation is brief, lively and relevant for young people.
- Please sit only in the area designated for observers.
- When introducing yourself, provide your name and the group you represent. Resist the temptation to give a brief summary of your group’s mission. This is not the time! The time

for sharing about your program is during your allotted presentation time or after the caucus meeting on your own time.

- Please do not distribute literature and other materials during YAD Caucus. Items should be distributed from your booth.
- Please be a prayerful presence during the caucus time. You are encouraged to take this time to give thanks for the young people of our church, to pray for them, to celebrate them and to enjoy them!