



February 25, 2016

Dear Pastor John,

Many of our youth across the Upper New York Conference are leading Sunday school, youth events, local and global mission projects, serving on church committees, and leading school and community activities. They have demonstrated leadership potential, but often lack confidence, training, direction, or opportunity to develop their gifts. Soon they will be adults working in a variety of careers, parents, and spiritual leaders. We recognize the opportunity the Church has to guide them into their adult roles by offering them the skills that will enrich their faith, build their confidence, and teach them how to use their potential.

Director’s Invitational (DI) is a five-day, spiritual leadership seminar developed to help youth recognize their style of leadership and develop their own unique, God-given gifts. They will explore many different ways they can use their talents in service. I have invited a diverse group of pastors and lay people, including alumni of DI to form a “DI Design Team,” assisting me in developing the most effective and meaningful experience for our Conference youth. More than 180 DI alumni serve as leaders around the world today.

Please consider nominating one or more youth from your congregation for this seminar. As a way of showing these youth the value their church places in them, we require that the sponsoring congregation pay the cost of this seminar. An opportunity like this can be a wonderful investment into young leaders on an individual level, but this investment is not limited to merely themselves; previous participants (“DI alumni”) have returned to their home churches with a passion to use these newly-discovered or well-developed skills to help serve in Christ’s name. Alumni of the program may be re-nominated until they reach their 18th birthday, but their cost is not expected to be provided for by your congregation. If your church can only finance one youth, we encourage you to nominate a first-time participant this year. If you do not have a youth to nominate, please consider sponsoring a youth from another church or contribute directly to the “Director’s Invitational Discretionary Fund.”

DI, a Casowasco Center for Excellence in Leadership program, is open to youth, ages 14 through high school 2016 graduates and will begin on Aug. 7. We will send them a registration form upon their acceptance to the program. Churches and individuals making nominations will be invoiced for the program fee, $365, ($260 for alumni) when the nominee has accepted our invitation by returning the registration form.

Please return your nomination as soon as possible, as space is limited in this program. Thank you for your commitment to the growth of young leaders, and may God bless them as they grow.



Michael D. Huber

Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries