

Basic Principles of CE

The Irish CE union provides activities for Children, Young People and Adults. These take the form of regular meetings under the auspices of local churches. Irish CE Union activities including a residential summer camp for children, residential weekends for young people, spring break for adults, talent contests and an annual two day convention for all ages, at which "hostel" accommodation is provided for young people.

The Four Standards

1. Confession of Christ

Members who have accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord are provided with regular opportunities to share their faith, both in the Society and in outreach work.

2. Service for Christ

Members are trained and instructed for Christian Service through the method of 'learning by doing'. With guidance from adult leaders, young people plan and take part in a varied programme of activities to which Bible Study and Prayer are central.

3. Loyalty to Christ's Church

Members are encouraged to be loyal to their own church and denomination through attendance at and participation in its regular services and other activities.

4. Fellowship with Christ's People

Members share fellowship in the devotional meetings, in group work, and in social and recreational activities. In this way, their faith is strengthened and they mature in their Christian life.

Mission Statement of the Irish CE Union

Christian Endeavour (CE) is a non-denominational movement which seeks to teach and train its members for service in their local church through participation in regular meetings and by taking an active role in group work.

Members are encouraged to take the CE Promise, which promotes commitment to Christ, the local Church and fellow believers.

The Four Essentials

There are four essentials which provide the framework within which CE operates, namely the Devotional Meeting, the Promise, the Consecration Meeting and Group Activity. These are incorporated within the Mission Statement of Irish CE.

Devotional Meeting

It is in the devotional meeting that members are given opportunities for worship, fellowship and training and that many of the objectives of the Society can be met.

Each member is encouraged to take some part in some of the following ways: lead in the meeting, read from the Bible, sing, give a testimony, present missionary news, deliver a short talk, lead a discussion of Bible study etc.

Participation in both the planning and the carrying out of the activities within the meeting is an important element in, and perhaps the key to, a successful Society. A flexible approach is encouraged so that the programme is balanced in terms of content and variety of presentation to satisfy the spiritual needs of young people at different stages of Christian development, and to retrain the interest of others who have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Promises

Young People/ Young Adults Promise

Depending on Jesus Christ at all times and in God's strength, I promise Him that I will serve Him with all my heart. I will endeavour to read my Bible and pray every day and will support the work of my own church. I will attend CE as I can and will take part in the meeting as God calls me to.

Junior Active /Christians Promise

With God's help, I'll try to do all that He would want me to, I'll pray and read the Bible each day, and live my life the Christian way. I'll join in at Junior CE, and trust that Jesus will shine through me.

Junior Member's Promise

It's Monday (or whatever day) night. It's Junior CE. It's the place I want to be. I learn about God. I'll be quiet and good. I'll behave like a CE member should.

Consecration

Once a month there is a special time set aside within the Devotional meeting for an Act of Consecration at which the members are reminded of the promises they have made; they are encouraged to consider whether they have really been keeping them, and are given an opportunity to renew them.

Group Activity

Group activity is an essential part of the training and participation elements of CE. It encourages each member to be involved, with the leader(s), in the running of the Society and provides opportunities for skills to be acquired and developed for future use. In this way, the natural energies and enthusiasm of the young people are channelled into constructive, planned activity 'For Christ and the Church'. The number of groups will vary according to the size of a Society but the four most essential ones are:

Programme Planning: This group plans the programme of devotional meetings, allocates duties to the members and suggest topics, speakers etc.

Membership: This group looks out for new members and looks after the present members who are encouraged to attend regularly and to mature as Christians.

Missionary: This group seeks to foster interest in and support for missions at home and overseas, and becomes involved in activities which reach out tot the community.

Social: This group creates a friendly atmosphere for the members and visitors and arranges a variety of social and recreational events for the members and other groups in the Church.

Platform of Principles

- Personal allegiance to our Divine Lord and Master Jesus Christ, and open confession of His name.
- Definite obligation by endorsement of a Christian Endeavour Covenant.
- Development of the sense of direct responsibility to Jesus Christ.
- Cultivation of the devotional spirit by daily Bible Reading and prayer.
- Training in religious service through the Society meetings and Committee work.
- Adhesion to the Church Visible, with its worship and discipline.
- Loyalty to the Denomination and local Church to which each Society belongs.
- Inter-denominational spiritual fellowship, though Conventions and Christian Endeavour enterprise.
- Good citizenship and the promotion of peace and goodwill among the nations.
- It is not the province of Christian Endeavour to legislate for the individual conscience.

Groups of the Irish CE

Juniors

Children in Junior CE are trained to take part in and be responsible for their own weekly meeting. This meeting offers an action packed programme in which they “learn by doing”. By this the children are fully involved in the planning, preparing for and the actual participation of the meeting.

Bible Reading

Praying personally and collectively by Chain Prayer

Chairing the meeting

Leading the Chorus time

Taking up the collection

Taking part in drama

National Events Include:

Junior Camp- A week long camp held annually each year in July

Talent Contest – Where the children display their gifts by participating in a variety of classes eg music, verse speaking drama, etc

Top Society – A quiz based on Bible Knowledge and CE History

National Award Scheme – The children work at a number of tasks ranging from Bible Knowledge to Practical Christian Living, and receive credit for each one successfully completed. Badges and certificates are awarded at the different levels ie Bronze, Silver, Gold
Irish Junior Proficiency Award- Juniors must complete sections such as ; Bible, Missionary, Social Issues, CE History to obtain the badge

Young People's C.E.

When you think of Y.P.C.E the following will come to mind:-

- Bible study
- Chain prayer
- Drama competition
- Table quizzes
- Sponsor marathon runs
- Singing
- Camps in the summer
- Weekends away
- European youth conventions
- BBQ's
- Eating lots of food
- Chatting
- Making long life friends
- Guest speakers
- Fun Days
- Missionary nights
- C.E Sunday
- Lead church services

The teenagers in the 13 – 18 age groups are called YPCE (Young People's Christian Endeavour). They meet weekly in church buildings across Ireland for worship, fellowship and training. The majority of their weekly programme is organised by the young people themselves.

The aim of the organisation is for the young people to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and to grow in their faith. The young people are given the chance to develop their talents in music, worship, hospitality, prayer, evangelism, leading meetings and lots more. The young people are then encouraged to move up to Young Adults and or become leaders.

Comrades of Endeavour

Seniors in Ireland are referred to as Comrades of Endeavour.

They are groups of people that have served Christian Endeavour faithfully over the years and still wish to have an association with the Movement. Their meetings would be on a Monthly or Quarterly basis.

Their main aims are :

- Fellowship with one another
- Prayer Partners for the work of Christian Endeavour and the Church
- Supporting by giving

Annual Events

- Annual Meeting in March each year
- Spring Break in May each year
- Devotional Meeting during Irish Convention in September
- Why don't you check out a local Y.P.C.E near you or start up your own group in your church.

CE Society Leader

It is essential that a CE Leader has a personal commitment to Christ and is in agreement with the Principles on which CE is founded.

Duties and Responsibilities

- To regularly attend meetings of the Society.
- Devote time to prayer and preparation for the weekly meeting.
- Ensure that the Society is operating on CE lines.
- Provide opportunities for each member within the Society to take some part in every meeting
- Plan the weekly programme well in advance
- Work closely with the Leader in Charge and other leaders in the Society.
- Be willing to undertake training.
- Attend Leader's Meetings to plan the work of CE at Local level.
- Encourage CE members to participate in Local and Irish CE events and activities.
- Liaise with the Local Convenor to give and receive help and information.
- To comply with the Child Protection Policy and procedures of the Church where the Society meets and the Child Policy and Procedures of the Irish Christian Endeavour Union.
- Be willing to allow their name to be submitted for a Access NI checks.