[www.coopmet.org](http://www.coopmet.org)

474 Centre Street

Newton, MA 02458

Dear prospective IFYI Staff Mentor,

Thank you for your interest in being a mentor at Interfaith Youth Initiative (IFYI) Summer Fellowship 2020! IFYI is a transformational immersion program—for the high school youth who participate and also for adults who serve as mentors! Coming together as an interfaith, interracial and intercultural group for seven days holds blessings and challenges as youth and staff work to peacefully live together in a world of infinite differences.

The IFYI experience is not only a transformational one, but also an intense one! As a Staff Mentor, be prepared for seven full days of service, leadership and guidance to the youth Fellows of this program. We incorporate staff reflection into the schedule in order to make the experience for mentors, know from the onset that Staff Mentors are “on” for most of the 7.5-day experience. The IFYI experience is one of “immersion” into the world of youth work, interfaith dialogue, integrative facilitation, chaplaincy/mentorship, service, and bridge building. From the job description below and the amount of responsibilities attached to your role as mentor, much will be asked of you, and it is so worthwhile. Being an IFYI Staff Mentor is for those who have a heart for reconciliation, spiritual and relational companionship, youth leadership and intersectional collaboration!

From past experience with the intense nature of IFYI, we have found that the transformational experience at IFYI is only made possible by having a committed, caring, and thoughtful staff. If you choose to sign on to the IFYI Summer Program from July 22-July 29, we ask that you commit to being present for the duration of the 7.5-day Institute, the two-day pre-training, a one-on-one coaching call with the Program Director, and also for a conference call (specific dates TBD). To provide hands-on facilitation experience, Staff Mentors are asked to plan and prepare 2-3 brief group gatherings/workshops beforehand with the assistance and guidance of the Program Director. IFYI is only made richer to the extent that Staff Mentors have an opportunity to bond, co-create, and plan prior to the actual IFYI week according to their gifts, skills, interests and desired areas of growth and experience. We also ask, pending your availability, that you *greatly consider* being a Staff Mentor at the IFYI Reunion Mid-Year Retreat (in late fall 2020 or winter 2021), for which a separate stipend is available.

If you are accepted as staff, we will follow up with you about dates for our pre-IFYI in-person staff training. After receiving all applications, we will choose the date most convenient to all. The training is not only mandatory for staff, but also essential to the success of the IFYI program. This time is also sacred space as we, in our diversity, similarity and difference, model for the youth healthy dialogue, mutual respect, authentic relationship and true collaboration. *There is a $1000 stipend for accepted and hired Staff Mentors*.

In order to secure as diverse a group as possible—with staff representatives from a number of traditions —only so many staff from one faith tradition/value system can be accommodated. Thank you again for your interest in being a Staff Mentor for IFYI 2020! Please do read the following IFYI Staff Application Form, paying particular attention to addressing the four reflection questions and return this completed document with your resume. We will then be in touch with you to set up an interview. *We look forward to receiving your application and continuing thoughtful conversation!*

Abiding Peace and Hope,

Shelton Oakley Hersey, IFYI Program Director, IFYI@coopmet.org

*“When two people relate to each other authentically and humanly, God is the electricity that surges between them.”*  - Martin Buber



**----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**Interfaith Youth Initiative Summer Fellowship**

Staff Mentor Application Form

**A Program of COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES**

**Please direct questions and completed electronic applications to:**

**Interfaith Youth Initiative Program Director**

**IFYI@coopmet.org**

#### 1- PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone (include area code):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Cell:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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### Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Gender: Male\_\_\_\_\_ Female\_\_\_\_\_ Non-Binary\_\_\_\_

## 2- FAITH/PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

#### RELIGIOUS INVOLVEMENT

### Religious affiliation (if applicable):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of religious community (if applicable):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about IFYI and this opportunity?

\_\_\_ Pastor/Rabbi/Imam, etc. \_\_\_ Religious Education Director \_\_\_ Youth Advisor

\_\_\_ Staff Mentor Alumni (Name of Alumni)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Other (Please specify)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**3- REFLECTIONS/RECOMMENDATION**

**Reflections**

In a few substantive sentences or paragraphs, please tell us about yourself. Please be sure to address the four areas below. We hold all you share in confidence and encourage open sharing of yourself in this space.

1. *What are some of your primary interests/passions in faith, peacemaking, leadership, service, etc? Which of these could you most contribute to youth while at Interfaith Youth Initiative Summer Program?*
2. *What is your background in youth work- in religious environments or elsewhere?*
3. *What do you hope to gain from being present at Interfaith Youth Initiative Summer Program?*
4. *What challenges do you envision working in an interfaith and multicultural environment- both among youth, and among staff? How will you respond to these potential challenges?*

**Contact Info for Reference and Resume**

Please mail or email a recent copy of your resume to the Program Director at [shelton@coopmet.org](mailto:shelton@coopmet.org) along with your application. Also, please write the name, address, and phone number or email address of two people who we can contact via email or phone as informal references.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Role/How they know you:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Role/How they know you:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**4- IFYI STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES**

*For IFYI staff, responsibilities prior to July 22nd include attending the following:*

1. Training/planning two-day retreat (dates TBD pending group availability).
2. One in-person or FaceTime meeting with the Program Director (dates TBD).
3. A conference video call with the Staff Mentor team (date TBA pending group availability).
4. Coordination with whomever necessary in the Staff Mentor team to plan your facilitation spaces.
5. Attendance for the entirety of the weeklong IFYI Fellowship (July 22nd-28th).
6. Attendance at the final Staff Mentor debrief, reflection and evaluation gathering (July 29th)

*If you are accepted as a Staff Mentor, we will ask you which dates you are available for an in-person staff training/planning retreat (and other synchronous meetings). This in-person training retreat will last approximately 8 hours both days and will most likely be on a weekend to accommodate schedules.*

*Duties during the IFYI week include the following for IFYI staff: Some of these activities will require planning before July 22nd (specific responsibilities might be subject to change as co-creation of the 2020 IFYI curriculum is developed over the course of April-June).*

1. Working and staying overnight on campus during the duration of the program from early morning Wednesday, July 22nd through late evening Tuesday, July 28th. Also, being present in the morning of Wednesday, July 29th for our final staff meeting, debrief and celebration gathering/brunch.
2. Attend and be on time for meetings during the week with the staff.
3. Help create and maintain a positive, welcoming, pleasant, respectful, safe, inclusive and transformative community throughout the duration of the week by:
4. Taking the initiative to get to know each student by name early in the program,
5. Being a presence willing to address the needs of students,
6. Modeling positive behaviors such as respectful communication, applying active listening, practicing self care (like going to bed on time and communicating the need for personal reflective space), including everyone, limited and intentional usage of cell phones, and full participation
7. Overseeing the students in dorms on location, including the maintenance of various Ground Rules (in the Staff Guide to be received at the training retreat).
8. Create, prepare and lead or co-lead (opt. with another mentor) one or more workshops or interactive dialogue in your areas of expertise/passion. The IFYI Program Director will help guide you in this.
9. Participate, support and assist other staff and students during large group activities and off-campus outings.
10. With another mentor plan and lead at least 1 “morning circle” or evening fun activity during the program week. (Details on these spaces will be provided during training.)
11. Help with individual consultation and/or spiritual, emotional, relational and mental guidance of students.
12. Your leadership and facilitation will be focused primarily in five areas: **Active Mentorship,** **Reflection Cohorts, Expression Cohorts, “Exposure Activities” and individual workshops/group gatherings (an expected commitment of 1-2).**
13. **Reflection Cohort:** Prepare for and lead an intentionally diverse small group consisting of one other mentor and 4-6 youth Fellows, which will include:
14. Preparing for and facilitating discussions based on our shared experiences, workshops, and site visits
15. Engaging youth Fellows in reflective and community-building activities
16. Being a pastoral presence willing to address the needs of students for the duration of the program,
17. Empowering youth in finding their voice on issues of justice, reconciliation, etc.
18. **Expression Cohort:** Lead and coach a small group chosen by the youth Fellows based on their personal interest (i.e.: music, photo/film, drama, art, dance, or writing/spoken word) in preparation for the youth and Staff Mentor led Closing Celebration on the last evening of IFYI (July 28th).
19. **”Exposure Activities”/Mini Site-Visits:** Lead/Co-lead gatherings and/or worship or practices specific to your faith tradition/value system. These gatherings happen twice during the week.
20. Being a consistent role model and relational presence in the lives of the youth Fellows.
21. Guide your Reflection and Expression Cohorts throughout the week (and through participation in the Closing Celebration) in reflecting upon the IFYI theme (**“Becoming an Upstander and Standing Up for What is Right”** and its meaning both in today’s world and for the participants’ possible future vocations.
22. Participate in evaluating the program—and encouraging students to do the same throughout the week. Evaluation forms will be distributed at the program’s conclusion and will take place for staff August 2nd.
23. You are also asked to help recruit potential high school youth Fellows for IFYI as you’re able.
24. We ask you to strongly consider offering to mentor an IFYI Fellow as they contribute a snapshot of their IFYI experience to their individual communities through the fall of 2020 (separate stipend available).
25. We also as you to strongly consider attending the Mid-Year Reunion Retreat (in late fall 2020 or winter 2021) as Staff Mentors (separate stipend available).

Thank you for your interest and willingness to offer your gifts to IFYI, Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries, and the youth we serve. Our deepest hope is that this mutually created sacred space is transformative for us all and that each of our staff mentors take home new insights, invaluable hands-on experiences, and an even better sense of their own personal gifts, passions and skills. Feel free to contact us at [IFYI@coopmet.org](mailto:IFYI@coopmet.org) if you have any questions or concerns. *We so look forward to getting to know you through this process!* Please return an electronic signed copy of this application to my email (above) by April 15th, 2019, but preferably as soon as possible as we will hire on a somewhat rolling basis. Thank you and blessings!

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**