

Goleta Presbyterian Church

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Director for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Position Description

The Director for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries is responsible for leading a program of Christ centered activities and Christian discipleship to reach out to the children and youth and their families in the community of Goleta with the message of Christ's love. Being with and encouraging the Christian development of children and youth is the most important component of the job. Additionally, an understanding of theology, pedagogy, and leadership is crucial as this position requires more than administrative skills. An individual who values diversity and multicultural awareness is essential. As a member of the church staff, the Director for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries will work as part of a team with the Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Team, the Personnel Ministry Team, the GPC Administrative Assistant, and the Pastor. The Director for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries will be accountable to the Pastor and the GPC Session.

At Goleta Presbyterian Church we are in the process of revitalizing and reimagining our children, youth, and family ministries. We are looking for a creative and loving individual, or more than one person (this position could potentially be split into two separate positions), who is eager to think outside of the box with regard to ministry, discipleship, and program. We hope for someone who is patient with those who value traditional models of ministry, but someone who is also willing to model and implement new ways of engaging children and youth. It is essential for

the person in this position to be familiar with how people grow in faith and that faith formation is more than the accumulation of information. Faith formation is about transformation. While we have implemented some new programs throughout the past year that are working well, we hope this individual will expand upon these programs, creating additional opportunities for ministry.

Duties Children and Youth Ministries:

1. Develop new children's programs and youth programs and build upon current programs in conjunction with the pastor and input from the CYF Ministry Team.
2. Prepare lesson plans, order materials as needed, research curriculum to propose to ministry team for Sunday Faith Formation, bible studies, weekly devotional groups, and youth topics. Work with the CYF ministry team to coordinate volunteers as needed.
3. Coordinate weekly Toddler Time or a similar program, which includes weekly promotion of the program through social media and email, planning the weekly activity for children ages 0-5, coordinating the music and movement component with a Kindermusik instructor or similar instructor, organizing registration, and weekly set-up. This may include an additional staff member, such as the CYF ministries intern and/or coordinating volunteers.
4. Develop a mid-week activity or program that promotes relationship building, connection to GPC, and faith formation. A recent example is a Choral Drama Program offered for children 3rd-9th grade or a weekly youth yoga and coffee fellowship. Other examples include a weekly children's choir or music group or a weekly children's bible study series.
5. Work with the Love Of God (LOG) high school youth retreat program. Provide ongoing communication with the LOG Directors and the leadership team. Support GPC youth involvement and investment in the program. Attend L.O.G. retreats.
6. Plan and implement summer opportunities such as a camp on-campus or attending a Christian camp away.
7. Discern ways for children and youth to be engaged in the worship service. An example would be for every 5th Sunday to be designated as a "family Sunday" where children and youth participate in leading worship and/or the service is very family friendly and geared toward children and youth.
8. Scheduling fun and Christ-centered on-campus and off-campus activities that will excite, challenge, and motivate children, youth, and families.

9. Coordinate regular community service opportunities and engagement. For example, working with SB Transition House, IVYP, or our GPC Community Food Drive.

Monitor facilities used by Children and Youth Ministries programs:

1. Work with Ministry Team to coordinate volunteers to manage quarterly organization and cleaning of nursery, hugging room, children's classrooms, and youth room. This includes keeping children and youth spaces up to date, inviting, clean, and safe. Weekly cleaning to be done by custodial staff.
2. Manage GPC Hill space and the sleds and toys that are used.

Monitor Nursery Staff:

1. Work with and oversee nursery staff, who will be hired by the Personnel Ministry Team.
2. In conjunction with personnel, train nursery staff and provide a model for care and faith formation for ages 0-2 yrs and 3-4 years. This may include music, appropriate nursery toys and activities, bible stories, and infant/toddler activities.

Prepare and submit expense requests for children and youth programming:

1. Work with Ministry Team Elder and Pastor to create a yearly budget to present to Session.

Ministerial Development:

1. Meet at least monthly with the Pastor and quarterly with Ministry Team Chair.
2. Attend weekly GPC Staff Meetings.
3. Foster and Maintain relationships with Children and Youth Families.
4. As an ambassador for Christ, be on-time, professional, and courteous.

Miscellaneous:

1. Assist with special projects and services as required.
2. Perform other duties as assigned by pastor.

Desired Elements in Ideal Candidate:

1. An emphasis on Presbyterian reformed theology and tradition is valued. Open to learning/ leading confirmation classes and teaching about the “order of service” in conjunction with the pastor.
2. An emphasis on intergenerational community and programming is important while also focusing on unique ways today’s children and youth can be engaged.
3. An interest and willingness to read relevant ministry related material, which addresses challenges we face in the church reaching children and youth as well as the unique challenges teenagers are confronting today. Examples include Fuller Youth Institute resources: Sticky Faith Innovation, Talking About Race with Teenagers, Faith in an Anxious World.

Weekly Hours: 20-30 hours per week. Or, split into 2 separate positions. For example: 20 hrs per week for children’s ministry, 10 hours per week for youth ministry.

Compensation: Based on Experience.

The Pastor, chair of the Children, Youth, and Family Ministry team, and the chair of the Personnel Ministry Team will conduct a review after the first 60 days and then annually thereafter.

Supervisor: Pastor, Goleta Presbyterian Church

Staff Support and Coordination:

Christy Grant, Ministry Team Elder

Children, Youth, Family Ministry Team