

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean Springs

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Job Description: Director of Youth Ministry

Position Title: Director of Youth Ministry

Reports To: Senior Pastor / Executive Director of Operations

Position Summary: The Director of Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Ocean Springs (FPCOS) will oversee and lead our Youth Ministry activities. The Director is responsible for developing a community of students who are consistently growing as disciples of Jesus Christ. This role requires a dynamic and visionary leader to guide and grow our middle school and high school students in grades 7-12. The scope of our youth program involves both students who are already part of the FPCOS community and outreach to those who are outside a church with a solid discipleship program. This position is responsible for leading youth ministry staff and identifying, recruiting and equipping volunteers.

This is a full-time role, which a benefit package that includes paid medical insurance for the employee and family.

Key Responsibilities:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive youth ministry program that aligns with the vision and values of FPCOS.
- Plan and organize regular youth group meetings, Bible studies, small group development, outreach activities and retreats. Personally lead annual retreats and offsite camps for students
- Ensure that all programs and activities focus on spiritual growth, discipleship, and community building.
- Provide leadership and oversight to all youth ministry staff, including part-time and volunteer leaders.
- Identify, recruit, and train a team of dedicated volunteers to support various aspects of the youth ministry.
- Serve as a spiritual mentor and role model for the youth, providing guidance, support, and pastoral care.
- Intentionally initiate and develop relationships with youth and their families,

recognizing and encouraging them in the development of their faith and service in the church.

- Commit meaningful weekly time to offsite contact with students in order to facilitate the development of personal connections.
- Develop and manage the youth ministry budget in coordination with church leadership.
- Oversee resource allocation and ensure that all materials and equipment are effectively utilized and maintained.
- Provide clear and ongoing communication with youth, parents, church leadership, and the congregation regarding youth ministry activities and opportunities.
- Work collaboratively with other church leaders and ministries to ensure that youth ministry is integrated into the overall mission and vision of the church.
- Participate in church staff meetings and contribute to the planning and implementation of church-wide initiatives.

Qualifications:

- Demonstration of a deep and growing personal faith in Jesus Christ, with a commitment to reformed Presbyterian theology and practice.
- Passion for youth ministry and outreach, with the ability to inspire and motivate others to serve and grow in their faith.
- Bachelor's degree in theology, ministry, education, or a related field (Master's degree preferred).
- A minimum of 3 years of experience in youth ministry leadership, with proven capability in program development and staff and volunteer management.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to connect with youth and their families.
- Strong organizational and administrative skills.
- Ability to lead and participate in physical activities during youth events and trips.
- Willingness to travel as required in support of various camps, retreats and other activities

For inquiries, please send resumes to:

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First Presbyterian Church of Ocean Springs

Philosophy of Youth Ministry

At First Presbyterian Church of Ocean Springs (FPCOS) we want our youth to know Christ, to understand the Bible, to experience life-giving community, and to grow in their awareness of God's unique calling for their lives.

Youth ministry at FPCOS comes along side families to nurture the faith of our students with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We want the home to be the center-point of discipleship. Equipping families to raise their children in the faith is at the heart of our student ministries. For youth who don't come from a faith background in their home life, we want our youth ministry to be a spiritually vital faith family. As we reach students who don't come from Christians homes, our hope is that through our youth ministry, we can reach those families with the gospel.

As a Christ-centered church, God's word is the foundation for all of our worship, discipleship, and mission ministries. Our student ministries prioritize teaching the scriptures and helping students know how to engage with God through the ordinary means of grace.

Our youth group provides an opportunity for young people to grow in gospel grace with their peers. We also desire to cultivate an environment where youth want to be a part of our ministry to experience deeper friendships and find joy in life together.

At FPCOS we take a community approach to ministry. Our youth ministry staff work with teams of volunteers to disciple young people. Working with a diverse group of committed volunteers allows our students to have a broader exposure to the Christian faith. Our church staff functions as a team to mentor, support, and encourage one another in the faith and in ministry.

Youth Leader Profile

We are looking to hire a full time Director of Youth Ministry that has a heart for reaching youth with the gospel of Jesus Christ and helping them grow deeper in their walk with him. This person will have previous experience in youth ministry leadership. This person will value working with a team and equipping leaders around them to invest in the lives of youth. The person we will hire will be effective in communicating to youth in both large group and small group settings. We want to hire a youth director that feels called into long-term vocational ministry within the church. As a congregation, we would seek to nurture that call, providing mentorship and education that will further equip them for a life in ministry. Our Director of Youth Ministries would be a part of finding and hiring a counter-part. Optimally we would have a gender diverse team in order to minister effectively to both guys and girls.

How We Look Now

FPCOS is a growing church- both in depth and in breadth. Of our nearly 600 active church members, we have 400 families, 175 of which have children or youth in the home. Each year that number grows. This is a reflection of what is happening in our community.

The city of Ocean Springs is a growing community for young families. Our education system is regarded as one of, if not the best, in the state. Ocean Springs High School was recently classified as a 7A school (the largest designation for high schools in Mississippi). In addition to our growing public schools, a number of private schools (including FPCOS's own Montessori schools), and home-school co-op options create a very diverse education experience for our city's children and youth. As families move to our community to take advantage of the wonderful things Oceans Springs offers, the potential for student ministries to be a means of kingdom growth through the gospel of Jesus Christ is hard to over-state.

In the '23/24' school year, every week over twenty adult volunteers helped our youth ministry team lead boy's and girl's mid-week small group Bible studies, provide meals for youth events, host Jr. and Sr. high prayer breakfasts during the school year, lead our Faith Foundations Sunday school classes, and helped out at the large group gathering on Sunday nights. At present we have about 60 youth that participate regularly in at least one of our weekly ministries. There is potential for greater youth involvement within the congregation and the community. We have about 100 youth on our youth ministry contact list.

Each summer we go to camps with RYM to Colorado and/or Florida. Other one-off events like retreat weekends and youth service projects happen throughout the year. Youth involvement in mission trips with our ministry partners in Belize is common.

FPCOS Student Ministries has a leadership team comprised of older senior high students that help lead our youth program. Worship is a part of our group gathering on Sunday nights and is led by a youth worship band. Cultivating student leaders for peer impact within our youth ministry is part of our student culture.

In addition to serving our students, the FPCOS youth ministry hires college students each summer to serve as youth interns. We want to be a church that helps equip people who are discerning a call into ministry. Many of these interns have gone on to full-time vocational ministry. One of those interns joined our staff to serve our youth ministry full-time for a season.

Our church campus is in the heart of downtown Ocean Springs. The "Harbor House" is in the center of our campus and is used exclusively for youth ministry. However, the youth ministry has outgrown the Harbor House and utilizes space in our education building as needed. Adding another functional ministry building that will meet the current and future needs of a growing youth ministry is part of an on-going campus expansion plan.

For inquiries or questions, please contact greg@fpcosms.com