

**Winnetka Covenant Church**

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Wilmette, IL 60091  
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Minister to Youth Search Packet  
January 2012

Expectations for Youth Minister  
Responsibilities  
Qualifications  
Congregational Objectives  
Church Profile

We are eagerly searching and praying for our next youth pastor.

Our mission is to be a Christian community and to proclaim the gospel, worshiping together in love, nurturing people in the faith, serving others as Christian disciples, and building a world of justice and hope in the name of Christ.

We hold grace as our highest value.

We practice honest, open, direct communication.

We speak the truth in love and listen in love.

We believe the best about each other, valuing others above ourselves, as Christ does.

We allow room for mistakes, acknowledging that mistakes are part of the growth process.

**Pastoral profiles or resumes may be submitted by February 29, 2012, to:  
wccsearchcommittee@gmail.com**

## **Expectations for Youth Pastor—Winnetka Covenant Church**

### **Responsibilities**

Assume leadership of current youth ministry programs for senior high and junior high.

Recruit, equip, and lead a volunteer youth ministry team from among the congregation.

Relate faith to life, equipping kids for decision making, teaching core Christian values, and teaching them, through Christ's example, how to serve and reach out to others. In short, to become disciples and to make disciples.

Develop meaningful relationships with junior and senior high youth, meeting youth where they live and gather.

Reach out to youth in the community.

Connect intentionally with and be involved in the lives of youth's parents and families.

Bring Christ to youth, communicating what it means to believe and belong; helping them to cultivate and grow their faith.

Facilitate and participate in regular meetings, Bible studies, Sunday school, and gatherings of senior high and junior high youth.

Develop and implement service projects and missions trips, stressing the importance of community and global outreach and service as a consistent aspect of the Christian life.

Work together with other churches and youth ministries in the community.

Support the pastoral staff in the Confirmation experience.

Attend and participate in the meetings of the staff and the Board of Christian Formation.

Support the mission of this congregation and the Evangelical Covenant Church as described in our mission statement and *Covenant Affirmations*.

Be present and actively participate with the church family during Wednesday night activities.

Work with and under the supervision of the senior pastor.

Participate with the youth group in retreats, Central Conference, and denominational events.

Find ways to connect the youth ministry with the congregation.

Participate regularly in a collegial group of youth ministers from area Covenant churches providing mutual support and accountability.

Participate in continuing education opportunities such as the Youth Ministry Connection at the Covenant Midwinter Conference, as well as regional youth ministry workshops.

Maintain regular contact with youth who have recently graduated from high school.

Contribute in other areas of the church's life and ministry, according to time, special interests, and gifts. Participate and have visibility in Sunday worship services.

### **Qualifications for Youth Pastor—Winnetka Covenant Church**

Demonstrate a commitment to the new life in Christ and the ability to communicate the source of this life to others through personal witness.

Possess a solid knowledge of the Holy Scriptures and live them as the basis of life, teaching them as a foundation for youth ministry programming.

Show previous experience in working with youth and in the church.

Be a seminary graduate, or college graduate with a youth ministry degree, and have or be prepared to seek credentials from The Evangelical Covenant Church.

Possess, at a minimum, an appreciation of music and its effectiveness in building youth ministry. Musical abilities (i.e., singing, playing an instrument) are a plus.

### **Congregational Objectives for the Youth Ministry Program of Winnetka Covenant Church**

To encourage each one of our senior high and junior high school youth to know Christ as their personal Savior and to help them establish a lasting relationship with God.

To affirm that God created them and loves them, that Christ accepts them as they are; and to help them live in this grace.

To let them know that they belong; to include them in the life and ministry of the church; to affirm their uniqueness and to identify their gifts; to teach them leadership skills.

To help them explore their faith, encouraging them in the hard questions and engaging with them in conversations that relate faith to real life.

To walk alongside them in their lives and give them tools to make hard personal choices, both morally and ethically.

To assist in helping them find the grace of God in all people—poor, rich, hurt, weak, strong.

To create a welcoming community that actively reaches out and invites others to be part of the group.

To encourage them to reach out beyond themselves, to have concern for others with a sense of mission; to help them desire to give.

To celebrate with them; to mark special times and passages in their lives; to console them and love them through tragedy, loss, and confusion; to be the love of Christ for them.

To have fun and play to the glory of God.