**Youth Leader**

Position Description

Montgomery United Methodist Church

Damascus, Maryland

**Summary of Position:** The Director of Youth Ministry at Montgomery United Methodist Church (MUMC) is responsible for the development, and resourcing of the Youth Ministry, (grades 6 – 12). This Director will passionately commit to and promote the mission of the church: To grow in faith, serve others, and share Christ with all people…to the glory of God.

**Duties for Ministry in the time of COVID:**

Youth Ministry needs to be interactive:

* Teens are not responding well to 20 minute lessons/sermons when utilized at on-line youth group
* Learning develops best when teens are involved in discovery
* Teens prefer when they can be participatory learners. This is due in large part to the changing nature of education in general in this country. Teens have become accustomed to this approach even before the pandemic
* Break-out rooms can be utilized effectively to reduce group sizes

Start with conversation:

* What is missing since not being able to meet at Church or Youth Group?
* What part of life has become harder in this last year?
* What issues do you hear that other teens are struggling with?
* What parts of virtual instruction are not working very well?
* What creative thing has one of your instructors done this year that was interesting or fun?
* What is one thing that the church can do for our teens *right now*?

Strategies and tools that have been utilized effectively:

* Face-Time calls
* Social media clips used as a catalyst
* Drive-bys – Appointments are made for short conversations in the teen’s front yard; in lawn chairs; masked and socially distanced
* ZOOM meetings – allows for an approach that is more like a daytime TV talk show than a “speech” format
* Games or contests – there are a variety of suggestions on-line for games that can be used in a ZOOM format
* Caravans for special occasions
* “Try this with your family” suggestions
* Utilizing on-line devotionals together, such as “YouVersion”

**Duties for Ministry Once Normal Church Operations Resume:**

* This position is anticipated to be ~20 hours per week. A minimum of 50% of allocated time should be spent directly interacting with the Youth.
* Define program goals in collaboration with the Senior Pastor.
* In a virtual environment, engage with the Youth using social media, Zoom, and other tools as available.
	+ Encourage participation through small groups
	+ Engage with the Youth using electronic means for games, movies, and teaching
* Recruit leaders, train, and resource teams of adult leaders for both Middle School and High School youth groups. Establish a culture of relationships that will sustain Youth Ministry in the congregation. Support and attend events involving children and youth, as appropriate, both on campus and off-site.
* Support and collaborate with the Senior Pastor to maintain a schedule for weekly Sunday School, Youth Group meetings and activities, Confirmation Program, “Youth Sunday” worship services on the 5th Sunday of the month, and special events.
* Recruit, develop, and support adult leaders from within the congregation to share in the leadership of the Youth Sunday School program, to include mission, service opportunities, worship, outreach, fellowship, and growth in discipleship.
* Work with the Discipleship Team to design and facilitate small groups for both youth and adults.
* Keep parents, volunteers, congregation, and youth engaged and informed of events and opportunities, utilizing the Communications Guidelines and Social Media Policy of the MUMC.
* Attend staff meetings, Discipleship Team meetings, Christian Education Ministry Team meetings, Church Council meetings, Missions Committee meetings; and SPRC meetings as appropriate.
* Work with Lay Leaders in order to responsibly manage the Youth Ministry budget.
* Work with Lay Leaders to develop and maintain detailed records, including attendance, permission forms, fund-raising tracking sheets, etc.
* Ensure all parent and adult volunteers receive and sign MUMC’s Safe Sanctuary Procedure, Sexual Misconduct forms, as well as any applicable county, state, or federal requirements. Coordinate the checking of all references.

**Personal Qualities:**

* Previous experience with Sunday School, VBS, Youth Group leadership
* Exhibit “natural maturity” and have a Christ-focused character and conduct in all relationships.
* Demonstrate building a relationship-centered ministry with and for members of the church, and in the community
* Understand and maintain appropriate confidentiality with records, and in relationships.
* Understand and maintain appropriate professional boundaries.
* Be an active listener
* Able to work autonomously and be a “self-starter”
* Allow the Youth to feel comfortable, but be able to maintain control of the environment. Have a strong balance of structure and freedom.

Send resume to John Rudisill, Senior Pastor, Montgomery UMC at pastor.john.rudisill@verizon.net or call (301) 253-4460 with questions.