



Job Title: Youth Director
Ames United Church of Christ
217 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010

Reports to: Minister to Children and Families

Position Type: 20 hours/week (average) from August 1 through May 31

Compensation: \$15/hour plus payment into Social Security
\$500 each year for continuing education (tuition, travel, lodging, food)
\$500 in years with mission trips (even years)

There is no paid vacation. The employee shall provide adequate notice to the minister of extensive time when not available.

No other benefits are available. Employment conditions are specified in the Ames UCC Personnel Policies. This position is part of the program staff.

Introduction to the Position

The middle and high school years (6th through 12th grade) are pivotal in a life of faith. Without strong opportunities to question and learn, and to develop relationships with adults outside of their home, the chances of youth continuing on in Christian community in adulthood decline dramatically. This position is designed, then, to support such opportunities in ways that match Ames UCC's progressive, Open and Affirming, and Just Peace theologies.

The ideal candidate for this position will, with oversight of the Minister to Children and Families and support of the Senior Minister, nurture our youth's spiritual development, guiding them toward serving Christ with their lives and assuming meaningful responsibilities in the congregation, the community, and the world, while assisting parents and guardians in raising teenagers to maturity with integrity.

Qualifications

1. Strong desire to serve God in this position.
2. Knowledge and skill in the philosophy, psychology and principles of Christian education. Experience preferred in a successful youth ministry.
3. A genuine love for and good rapport with young people.
4. Sensitivity and awareness of the needs and pressures of teens with knowledge of possible solutions.

5. Ability to teach and train youth volunteers.
6. Christian commitment and character and agreement with the theology of unconditional welcome with people of any age, gender, race, culture, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression and polity of the United Church of Christ with a sensitivity and concern for individuals and the church.

Job description

The Employee shall execute a well-planned, carefully balanced youth ministry from September through May (with August for planning) coordinated with the church calendar of events in consultation with the Minister to Children and Families, Senior Minister, parents/guardians, the Christian Education Team, and other lay leaders, as appropriate.

An active youth ministry may include a combination of the following:

1. 6-12 Grade Youth Gathering (Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights)
2. Youth Mission Trip (every other year)
3. Church "lock-ins" (every other year)
4. Fellowship trips (arcades, concerts in the park, ice cream, and the like)
5. Community Service (within the church and without)
6. Retreats at Pilgrim Heights/Our Sacred Space
7. Life Skills Education (financial basics, cooking, sexuality and relationships)
8. Leadership in Worship (once per year)
9. Fundraising (once per year)

Infrastructure for such ministry must include:

1. Development of a core team of adult facilitators, chaperones, and co-learners who are not related to the youth in order to fulfill the Safe Church policy and assist in executing all programs. All must successfully pass the Iowa Conference of the UCC background check.
2. Building relationships with the youth and their families apart from formal youth activities (sports, recitals, etc.)

The following is a snapshot of how a week might look:

1. 4 hours in preparation for Sunday and Wednesday nights (with purchased curriculum)
2. 6 hours executing both evenings (2 hours with the youth at each, 1 hour in set up/clean up at each)
3. 4 hours building relationships with youth outside of church (sporting events, recitals, group texting)
4. 2 hours building relationships with parents, grandparents, and guardians of youth
5. 2 hours building relationships with other adults in the congregation to support and help facilitate youth group gatherings
6. 2 hour staff meetings and other administration

How to Apply

Please submit the following to Pr. Hannah Hannover (hannah@amesucc.org) and Pr. Eileen Gebbie (eileen@amesucc.org) via e-mail. Please do not call or stop by the church.

1. A one to two page cover letter explaining your interest in the position.
2. A one to two page theological statement describing your concept of God, how you have come to know God, and how you nurture your own relationship with God.
3. A current resume.
4. The names and contact information for three references (unrelated to you) who can speak to your faith and/or integrity and/or workplace experience.

This position will remain open until filled.

Ames UCC is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.