

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S and FAMILY MINISTRIES

Location: Sycamore United Methodist Church

160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178

Reports to: Lead Pastor and Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Works with: Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Team, Youth Director,
Director of Discipleship

Status: Part-Time

FLSA: Exempt

Purpose: The Director of Children's & Family Ministries will provide dynamic, age-appropriate, Biblically-sound, Wesleyan-based programming for children from birth through grade 5.

Essential Function and Responsibilities

The Director of Children's & Family Ministries of Sycamore United Methodist Church will work with the Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Support Team to create and implement programming for children's ministries. This shall help children and families: learn about the Bible; develop their own faith; and grow in discipleship to Jesus Christ. Successful results will be achieved when children and families are excited to live an on-going life of discipleship as active and valued members of the congregation through participation and service to the church and greater community.

Children's Ministry Responsibilities (approximately 14 hours/week)

- Build, train, utilize, and supervise a team of teachers, leaders, and support staff to implement the programs and activities. Provide regular feedback and recognition for all members of the teaching team.
- Implement a child-inspired, teacher-friendly **Kids First** curriculum and program for both Sunday worship services grounded in Wesleyan theology.
- Prepare and deliver Children's Sermons on Sunday mornings.
- Direct the yearly Vacation Bible School ministry.
- Create, maintain, and direct special ministry events for children, youth and families at least quarterly (i.e. Bethlehem Bazaar, Palm Sunday Event, Trunk or Treat, etc.)
- Create, maintain, and/or direct additional programming to support the spiritual growth of children & families outside regular worship hours.
- Work in cooperation with the Director of Discipleship & Preschool Director to strengthen relationships with preschool families, and support/resource ABC staff.
- Prepare and deliver bi-monthly Chapel lessons for ABC Preschool

- Developing a strategy to equip and engage parents as the primary disciples of their children.
- Developing relationships with children, youth and families.

Other Responsibilities

(approximately 5 hours/week)

- Ensure all Children/Family information in Church Teams is accurate and current
- Issue e-communication and social media interaction on children & family ministries and events.
- Collaborate with other ministry areas for children and youth to regularly participate in worship, outreach, service, and church activities.
- Annually participate in the development of the Children's Ministry Program Budget and manage the budget throughout the year.
- Ensure compliance with Safe Gatherings and Safe Sanctuary policies for all children and youth activities to reduce the risk of abuse.
- Participate in weekly staff meetings and regular meetings of the Children and Youth Ministry Team.
- Regularly seek input from families, staff, and lay leadership to provide the best outcomes for the ministry of Sycamore UMC.
- Maintain all children's facilities and spaces in a neat and orderly fashion.
- Other duties as assigned.

Childcare Ministry Responsibilities

(approximately 1 hours/week)

- Have oversight of the childcare staff including working with Lead Pastor and/or SPPRC to hire new staff members.
- Ensure all staff are trained and background checked through Safe Gatherings.
- Coordinate childcare needs with other church programs.
- Create & coordinate a childcare scheduling system.
- Ensure childcare rooms and equipment are safe for children.
- Implement a child-inspired, age appropriate **Kids First** curriculum and program for both Sunday worship services.

Required Education, Skills, and Experience

- A Bachelor's Degree in Education or Religious Studies; or equivalent work experience.
- Pass Background Check
- Must have Driver's License

Preferred Education, Skills, and Experience

- Proven record of effectiveness in designing, developing, implementing, and leading children's ministry within a team context.
- Certification or equivalent in Youth or Children and Family Ministries is a plus
- Basic working knowledge of Microsoft Suite & Google Workspace programs.

Personal Qualities Required

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Faith
- Trust
- Teamwork
- Accountability

Core Competencies

Mission Ownership: Demonstrates understanding and full support of the mission, core values, and beliefs of Sycamore UMC. Can teach those values to others. Leads the leadership team to identify their unique mission and vision which is in line with the mission and vision of the larger congregation.

Spiritual Maturity: Authentic and growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Able to share your own faith story with others in meaningful ways. Practices Christian discipleship. Models and develops humility, teaching ability, accountability, healthy and safe boundaries, and servant leadership in all relationships.

Biblical Knowledge: Able to discuss and interpret the Bible when applying scripture to life situations. Guides others, especially children & family ministry leaders, in the exploration and discovery of Biblical truth. Encourages and designs avenues for others to engage in the ongoing skill development of applying scripture to the life situation of children and their families.

Ministry-Specific Expertise: Well informed and able to share with others the foundational Wesleyan theology and best current practices in their own area of ministry leadership. Regarded by the staff and congregation as being the primary thought leader in your area of ministry by virtue of formal training, ministry experience, and ability to share that expertise with others in accessible ways.

Interpersonal Skills: Demonstrates the ability to lead others including potential new leaders. Demonstrates the skills of active listening, direct communication, and non-defensiveness. Seeks to collaborate rather than compete with other areas of ministry. Productively engages and resolves interpersonal conflict. Holds others accountable in the spirit of love. Engages people positively.

Team Building Skills: Shares best practices and is able to identify and solve common problems. Works with teams to assess the health of ministry programs, groups, and

leaders. Recognizes dysfunctional team behavior and redirects it into effective behavior. Creates and communicates vision, direction, and goals for the team.

Management Skills: Demonstrates commitment as well as flexibility in scheduling regular coaching sessions with those in their span of leadership. Understands their leadership style, temperament type, and preferred ways for handling conflict so that they may effectively adapt to the needs of the situation. Recruits, delegates, empowers, and holds leaders accountable. Marshals resources (people, funding, material, support) responsibly to get things done.

Evaluation based on:

- The growth that children and families experience in their knowledge of the Bible, in their Christian faith and identity, in their participation in church activities, and in their connection to the Sycamore UMC congregation.
- An increase in involvement of children and families in the congregation of both newcomers and long-time members.
- The presence of a spiritually gifted and equipped leaders who serve in the children's and family ministry
- The upkeep of an accurate database and use of timely communications.
- The use of an annual evaluation process for the children and family ministries in conjunction with the Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Support Team.
- The Director of Children's Ministry exhibits healthy practices to be spiritually fresh, relationally healthy, physically well, professionally competent, and culturally current as a leader for this essential area of ministry.

Please email resumes to: LFReyes@sycamoreumc.org

References will be requested

Applications to be accepted now

Revised 10/15/24