

JASON HEPPNER – YOUTH PASTOR CANDIDATE



ABOUT JASON

Jason has been providing leadership in a variety of capacities and roles for the last 18 years in Southern California and in the Kansas City metropolitan-area to students, families, coaches, and local businesses. He completed a Master of Divinity with an Emphasis in Youth, Family, and Culture from Fuller Theological Seminary in 2011. He married his wife Brooke (formerly Brooke Haverty who grew up at Hillcrest and is a former Youth Ministry Intern) in 2013. They have three children, two boys and a girl. Jason loves the beach, CrossFit, running marathons, coaching baseball, storytelling, reading, the LA Dodgers, spending time with people (he is an Enneagram 7), really good coffee, and fun adventures.

WHY ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY?

"Our family has been living in Prairie Village for the last three years and during our time here, we have felt the tug and tension for an opportunity to serve, lead, and pastor in our "backyard." So we prayed and asked for the Lord to provide us with clarity and peace for an opportunity to make an impact for the sake of the Gospel. As we prayed and had conversations with others it became clear that Hillcrest was the place we wanted to call home. We're so excited to join the mission of Hillcrest and to help students and families connect with Jesus, build and reestablish community, influence our city, and be on mission together to share the Gospel. We're so excited to join you all. We expect God to do more than we can ask or imagine. We can't wait to see what God does in our city!"

- Jason Heppner



YOUTH MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Christ Community - Leawood Campus Leawood, Kansas Pastor of High School Ministries Oct 2015-Present

*Multisite Organization (5-Campuses)

Served as a Full Time Student Ministries/Family Director in various churches in California Feb 2006-Oct 2015

QUALITIES THAT STOOD OUT TO OUR SEARCH TEAM ABOUT JASON

- Love for Jesus and His church • Theological fit with the ECC & Hillcrest
- Extraordinary recruiting & networking • Experience in working with both MS and HS youth
 - Great communication skills • Strong organizational management and leadership
- Long-term effective Youth Ministry • Strategic planning • Passion for our HCC neighborhood

SAMPLE OF QUESTIONS JASON WAS ASKED DURING THE INTERVIEW PROCESS

- Tell us how you met Christ and how you have sensed God's calling in your life to be in ministry.
- What are things you have learned that you need to be healthy (spiritually, emotionally, etc.)?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses as a Youth Pastor? How do you compensate for your weaknesses?
- In your ministry experiences, how have you recruited and equipped leadership teams and used their talents? How were you able to retain the people that were most effective?
- Describe for us your "wins" in youth ministry and how would you measure them?
- What does effective youth ministry look like in 2022?
- What is the Gospel and how do you share it with a teenager?
- Describe for us some ways you have partnered with parents in your youth ministry?
- Part of the DNA of Hillcrest is a heart for missions both locally and globally. Describe for us your ways in which your youth ministry has served both locally and globally.
- Case Study: A parent who has a child in High School, who is not connecting with the High School youth program at Hillcrest, asks you to meet for coffee. During the meeting, this parent shares with you that their High Schooler has recently come out as gay. The parent is asking for your advice about how to walk with their kids through this reality. What questions would you ask? What counsel would you give?