

Uptown Youth & Families Pastor Role

Overall leadership of the Youth & Families Ministry, including Nursery, Children's, and Youth ministries at Uptown. Responsible for the successful implementation and execution of Uptown's philosophy of ministry across all age groups of infants to graduating seniors, with a primary focus of youth. This task mainly involves coming alongside parents to affirm and assist them in their role of raising their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The specific responsibilities that define the role are:

To **EQUIP**:

- Parents of infants to graduates to raise their children in the Lord
- Youth to grow in their personal faith/relationship with the Lord
- Children's Director & Staff to lead the Uptown Children's Ministry
- Nursery Coordinator & Staff to lead the Uptown Nursery Ministry
- Youth Interns to assist in all areas of Uptown Youth Ministry, and develop a personal philosophy of ministry

To **ENGAGE** Volunteers:

- As a ministry to youth and families (mentors, table leaders, teachers, nursery workers)
- Of children, youth, and families to the broader church (nursery workers, event volunteers, bagel team, roadies, worship)

To **LEAD** Outreach/Inreach:

- Coordinate all aspects of the Uptown Youth Ministry (SS, Communicant's class, mentor groups)
- Engage non-Christian youth and their families (evangelism training & events as appropriate)
- Coordinate Youth Special Events and Retreats

To **PERFORM** other Pastoral Duties:

- Preach and Administer Sacraments periodically
- Oversee other ministries as directed by session (ex. Missions Committee), serving as the liaison between committee and session
- Attend session meetings, Presbytery meetings, & General Assembly
- Participate fully in the life of church Staff (meetings, retreats, collaboration)
- Manage appropriate budgets
- Track and submit expenses
- Other duties as assigned

Uptown Youth & Families Pastor Characteristics

A servant leader whose spiritual maturity is marked by personal integrity, leadership and prayer. Our next Youth & Families Pastor must be able to embrace the history, theology, mission, and values of Uptown Church. At the same time, help us to define, build and grow a vibrant Youth & Families Ministry at Uptown. One that roots our children in the Gospel, wrestles with them through their faith as youth and as they start their next chapter in life, prepares them to be launched as a light into the world.

Educational + Experience Minimum Qualifications:

MDiv or equivalent degree

3+ years ministerial experience

Ordained (or eligible for ordination) in the PCA

It is important to Uptown that we have a Pastor who:

Emphasizes the message of the Gospel, not only by offering it to the lost, but also by offering it to the saved. We never want to assume the Gospel among the youth, children and families at Uptown, but will be diligent to make its power apparent to everyone indiscriminately.

Focuses on the reality of grace and its redemptive blessing. Given that adolescence can be a confusing season of life, filled with insecurity and self-doubt, we need a Pastor who will point our youth and children back to the saving grace of Christ. We desire a leader who will lay the foundation of faith in our Nursery & Children's Ministry which leads to helping our youth establish their identity in Christ rather than in appearances, successes, failures, or the opinion of others.

Is a thoughtful apologist to students and challenges them in growing their faith. Since students naturally wrestle with significant questions and are faced with significant amounts of uncertainty, they need a shepherd who does not step away from but towards their doubts. We desire a leader who welcomes the difficult questions of faith without questioning the faithful who have questions.

Possesses an active awareness of the spiritual lives of the students. We desire a leader who should have a general understanding of where each student is in the progress of their own faith. As a shepherd, he should be able to apply truth to their lives in specific ways, pressing them back to Christ for grace, strength and truth.

Has a heart for missions and church planting. The next leader should encourage our youth, children and families to get to know missionaries personally, desiring to engage with them in their mission fields or when they are visiting us, and having a heart to ultimately go into the field itself or be lifelong supporters of growing God's kingdom through missions and church planting.

Casts a clear vision for the ministry. The full-time staff, interns and volunteers under his direction should have a clear understanding of the ministry's mission, its core values, the purposes of each program and the roles of each participant. He must demonstrate flexibility in programming and a willingness to try new things so the ministry can change and adjust where necessary and according to need.

Thrives in a team environment. The Uptown Youth & Families Ministry is filled with gifted and competent staff, interns, leaders and team members. We need the type of leader who listens as much as he directs, allows others to fully contribute, delegates, influences and is able to motivate the entire team towards a common goal.

Comes along side Parents and support them in training their children. Parents are the primary teachers, but the church should be extremely robust in both teaching and equipping parents to spiritually develop their children as well as challenging the children themselves to go deeper.

Is as winsome a person as he is confident a teacher. The next leader needs to be attractive to all types of students and families particularly. He needs to be the type of leader who actively disarms those under his leadership so that he may love and lead each youth in personal ways. He needs to have the type of relational reach that breaks down the cliques that can often develop among youth.

Loves to be with kids. The next leader needs to be highly relational and possess a sincere desire to be present with the youth and children. He must be willing to get down on their level and have fun. While the responsibility to teach and lead remains, he must be willing also be in the lives of the youth in real and meaningful ways. He must be willing to open his own life to the youth in order to model the Gospel in real life.

Encourages community within and amongst the youth and families. A leader who will encourage youth and children to get to know each other so that they may spur each other along in the faith and support each other even as they attend different schools.