



GATEWAY'S YOUTH STAFF COMMUNITY

Covenant 2017-2018

THE GOSPEL

We believe that God himself has come to rescue and renew his creation that has been broken by sin (including me) through the work of Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL IDENTITY

We believe that we have been given a new identity in Christ through faith in him. In Christ, I am a dearly loved child of God, part of his family on mission sent to serve our world, and continually learn to walk in his ways.

KNOW CHRIST

Learners – We take responsibility for our own discipleship and the discipleship of others.

We will devote ourselves to...

- *Reading scripture regularly*
- *Taking the appropriate time to prepare for small group discussion (reading scripture, applying to personal life and talking about it with other leaders)*
- *Doing our best to regularly participate in monthly youth staff meetings and other training experiences.*

GROW TOGETHER

Family – We are children of God who live and care for each other as a family

We will...

- *Make effort to check in with and look for youth staff members at church on the weekends or after ministry events*
- *Meet an hour early as leaders at each house on Sunday Nights to pray for one another and encourage one another as leaders*
- *Do our best to go away as a youth staff twice during the school year to seek God, learn together, encourage one another, etc.*
- *Live with an attitude of grace and support toward other leaders. We will be careful and thoughtful about how we talk about one another to others making sure our talk reflects a commitment to God and to working together in unity.*

Team with parents – We are children of God and part of his family. We want to come alongside and work with parents as they take responsibility to lead their children toward Jesus.

We will...

- *Make a regular effort to talk with parents as we contact students*
- *Do our best to communicate to the parents of my students about any unique events and activities before they take place or before they go with us. (This includes when my small group decides to leave the meeting location on Sunday Night to go somewhere unique)*
- *Work at listening to parents as they talk about their children and regularly inviting parents to talk with us about their children.*
- *Respecting the privacy of students and not sharing with parents everything they tell you, but making a commitment to quickly make sure parents know anything they need to know about their children's life, behavior, etc.*
 - *As youth workers (Youth pastor and volunteers), we are not professional counselors but instead offer pastoral counseling: providing listening grace filled ear, truth of the gospel as it applies to all parts of life, as well as biblical advice, encouragement, and prayer.*
 - *Things we must report (to parents and/or CPS/police), with the help of the youth pastor, house leader, or youth staff coach:*
 - *Physical or sexual abuse, suicidal thoughts, repeated drug or alcohol use, sexting*
 - *Many gray areas exist in the relationship of students' disclosure and parental involvement. As a ministry, we seek to approach these on a case by case basis, seeking God's wisdom and considering all the factors we are aware of (parent relationship/dynamic, student's age, student's faith and frame of mind, etc.). Our hope is that parents can and eventually will be included in the healing process as a student is ready.*

- *Some of the gray areas include but are not limited to: pornography, sexual identity struggles, self-harm, depression, misdemeanor illegal behavior*
- *Including parents/reporting situations involves the following steps:*
 1. *Seeking advice/support from youth staff coach, house leader, or the youth pastor*
 2. *Telling the student first of the need for parents to know (student tells, leader helps student tell, or leader tells)*
 - *If student agrees to tell - Give a time period and then follow up with a call to the parent*
 - *If the student refuses to tell or resists the leader telling - leader should do his/her best to help the student understand this is because we care and we need to do this, then leader informs youth pastor, youth staff coach, or house leader.*
 3. *Leader should give the youth parents a brief written summary of the situation and parent response within a week from the discussion.*

SHOW CHRIST'S LOVE

Missionaries – We live actively as missionaries sent by Jesus to help others follow him. We believe we are sent to...

- **Middle School & High School students in Camas & Washougal**
- **The Group of Students & School I am called to give my greatest attention to is..._____**

Servants – We are servants of God who serve others as a way of life.

We are committed to serve by...

- *Taking the time to be prepared and come to Student ministry environments ready to think of students and serve them first.*
- *Never asking students to do something we would not be willing to do ourselves or have already done this.*
- *Contributing from our own resources to things we are asking students to contribute to (Example: Give money ourselves if we are raising money for World Vision, etc.)*

GOSPEL RHYTHMS: HOW WE LIVE

We believe that what Jesus has done shapes how we live our lives together.

Sharing Stories – We understand and have experienced God working in our lives. **Out of a desire to praise God and encourage others, we will actively share our own story and listen to others.**

We will...

- *Be ready to share the story of how Jesus is transforming me at any time, especially around students*
- *Inviting students to share about their lives and making a point to listen*
- *Speak up at staff meetings and other gatherings when I have a question, story, or opinion. I will make a commitment to make sure the things God is putting on my heart are shared with those who need to know.*

Speaking the gospel to each other – We will continue to learn and understand what God has done and share this reality with one another as a way of coaching, encouragement, and challenge.

We will...

- *Meet at least once a month with our youth staff coaches and share honestly about our lives.*
- *Watch one another's lives in and outside of student ministry events and speak up if I see any staff person making decisions or communicating things that does not reflect a submitted heart to Jesus. (Example: Behavior outside of youth group, social media posts, etc.)*
- *Be willing to invite others to give us feedback*
- *Realize that everyone on youth staff is at a different place in the process of sanctification. I will be patient and gracious and yet challenge others toward growth.*

Celebrate – We will regularly gather together to celebrate the many things God has done and is doing in our lives

We will...

- *Meet once at least once a month as an entire youth staff (2nd Monday of each month from 7-9:30 PM)*
- *Do our best to stay around after youth events to debrief with staff and share the things that we saw God doing.*
- *Be ready to answer the question, “What do you celebrate today,” and ask it to one another often.*

Bless – We understand all we have comes from God. We will use the things we have (possessions, spiritual gifts/talents, money) to bless others.

We will...

- *Do our best to finance things we do with students before we ask students to pay. (Example: I buy coffee for the student and me, pay my way to camp, give scholarship \$ if I have it)*
- *Be willing to invite students into our homes and enjoy the things and people God has given us.*
- *Consider inviting students along to serve with us whenever we are serving outside of youth ministry (example: helping with a Gateway event, helping a neighbor move, etc.)*

Invite others in – We are always looking to include others into God’s family and the work that he is doing to draw people to himself.

We will...

- *Regularly pray for God to raise up more people who like students, love Jesus, and have time to give to students.*
- *Be open to apprenticing someone in what I do with students and regularly look for someone to invite someone to participate with you in this way.*

Listen & Rest – We take time to rest, to listen to God, relate to others, play, and to be physically healthy as a reflection of God’s restoring work in our lives and this world.

We will...

- *Work hard to get regular sleep, eat healthy meals, exercise, and regularly evaluate about my schedule so that I am giving my best effort with students and others in my life.*
- *Communicate with my house leader or the Wednesday Night director in an appropriate amount of time when I am going to miss a given week.*
- *Be there on time for the events I am committed to attending.*

GOSPEL VALUES

What Jesus has done becomes a lens by which we view all of life through. It informs how we make decisions, lead students, and what we emphasize as we talk about our group of students. In all our decisions, we consider the following values as we are FOLLOWERS of Jesus: (See next page)

Value	Description
F irst is Christ	The truth about Jesus (who he is and what he has done) informs all that we do as a church. He is the leader of our ministry. Everything we do is to elevate and teach him to students. Every week no matter what the topic, we are going to teach the gospel of Jesus. (John 15:1-8, Col. 1:15-20)
O pportunity	One thing we see Christ doing is relating to everyone regardless of race, social status, etc. We want people to have that same "Opportunity" regardless of their grade point average, special needs, school attending, looks, etc. We are not asked to clean up as we come to Christ. Instead we are invited to respond to the gospel of Jesus. We want to learn to identify a next step for students with Christ & challenge them to take it. (Luke 19:1-10, Phil. 1:3-6, Rom. 14, Heb 10:24-25)
L aughter & Celebration	Healthy community as God designed is full of seriousness and transparency as well as laughter and fun. We understand the joy in our lives and our relationships comes from God and God should be worshipped because of it. (Acts 2:42-47)
L eadership Integrity	Leaders are notoriously bad at telling people the right thing to do but not doing it themselves. Before we ask students to do anything, we always ask, "Am I willing to do this?" We want to then through Christ to do first what we ask students to do. (1 Thessalonians 2, 1 Cor. 11:1)
O lder serves the younger	Community and friendship is given through Christ in his church. We all gain a benefit from the body of Christ but we also all have a role in it. We want to see every student and staff person in two kinds of relationships 1) he/she is being poured into, 2) pouring into or serving. (1 Sam. 3, 2 Timothy 2:2, 1 Corinthians 11:1, Titus 2:1-5)
W ord	God's Word...the Bible, is given to us by God and is an authoritative tool to communicate God and his will to people. We seek to make the teaching of God's word a priority in all venues. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
E ntering In	A key in sharing the gospel and loving a community, is entering into our community regularly. Students will often be encouraged to expand their "oikos" of influence by adjusting their lives so as to meet more people who don't know Christ. (Philippians 2:1-11)
R elationships First	Before programs, we have to be healthy with people. If we're going to do a program, the goal is to produce healthy relationships with people and know people. Gateway is a collection of small groups who celebrate and move together as a much larger group. (John 15:12, Matthew 22:34-40)
S tudent to Student	We celebrate the success of students ministering to students more than adults ministering to students. The biggest way to prepare students for success beyond high is to help them embrace God's plan for their lives today. (John 4:1-2)

GOSPEL REQUIREMENTS

I understand that the youth staff is a community formed by what Jesus has done and for what he is doing in the lives of students. As a part of this community, I will fulfill the following requirements and expectations to the best of my ability in Christ...

- Attend Discovery 101 to gain a greater understanding of what God has called Gateway Church to be.
- Pursue Membership at Gateway Church (Including baptism) to demonstrate my assurance that this place is where God has called me to give of myself.
- Complete the Youth Staff Application and Background check to communicate more of who I am to those who are leading this ministry. (The Background Check requires that you have regularly attended Gateway Church for at least 90 days)
- Never be alone in a vehicle, room, home, etc. with a member of the youth group under the age of 18.
- Not date or pursue a guy/girl friendship with a member of the youth group. (Exceptions may be made with the approval of the Youth Pastor, parents, and student involved).
- Only drive students as I am approved through Gateway's driver questionnaire and records check
- Members of the Youth Staff will not use marijuana.

Note: Multnomah University students are not required to attend Discovery 101 or Pursue Membership although it is highly recommended.

As a follower of Jesus and child of God, I covenant with Gateway's Youth Staff to live out the gospel in these identities & rhythms.

Name (Print)

Signature

Date