

# 2018-2019 OICC Youth Ministry Vision

## Alignment with Overall OICC Vision

4 Missional Goals

### **PURSUING GOD IN THE COMPANY OF FRIENDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WORLD**

#### **1) Outreach**

*We will reach every person on Orcas Island so they can learn of God's love in word and deed in a language and way they can understand.*

The following aspects of OICC's Youth Ministry helps to fulfill the overall goal of Outreach. High School Summer Camp, one-off outreach events, participation in the community coalition, youth director and volunteer involvement in local schools, seeking the one-on-one visiting of students outside of the church walls.

#### **2) Worship**

*We will accommodate a broader range of worship, musical and learning styles. We will also offer unitive opportunities that celebrate them all together.*

The following aspects of weekly programming fit into the overall goal of inclusive worship. Worship music and youth band development in youth group, strategies for increase Sunday morning church attendance by students, different forms of teaching (through lecture, small group and experiential based learning environments), addition of a Sunday morning small group Bible study (going through the same material as the Sunday service).

Part of our mission as a church is summed up in the following statement-

*Because OICC is on a small island with only a few churches, we chose to become a community church so we could serve people from a wide variety of backgrounds. In essentials unity. In non-essentials liberty. In all things charity.*

Because of this philosophy we will be structuring our teach in such a way as to allow for students and parents to explore the breadth of Orthodox protestant expressions of faith in an open and honest way. To aid in the dialogue between parents, students and youth ministry staff we will be including guidance for parents on what we are teaching every week and ways they can dialogue with their students within the theological distinctions parents believe is most important for their families.

### 3) Congregational Life

*We will strengthen our local congregation so that under Christ we can more effectively build up our body to maturity as we speak the truth in love and serve each other and our community.*

We will seek as the youth ministry at OICC to offer the following to fulfill the call to deep congregational life within our youth: service opportunities within the church and local community, small group discipleship, one-on-one mentoring, small focused spiritual retreats, parent meetings and parenting classes as well and partnering more with activities and organizations that share those goals.

### 4) Stewardship

*Under Christ's Lordship, we will be good stewards of our resources all of which come from God and belong to God.*

We will be good stewards of our resources at OICC youth ministry by having accurate budgeting and potentially reallocating funds into areas of need and priority, volunteer development (human resource) and a redesign of our facilities to better accommodate overall programming goals.

## Structured Programming

Organized events or programs that are recurring, weekly, monthly or annually

### Youth Group

Wednesday nights from 6:30pm-8:15pm, optional dinner served at 6:00pm. Middle School and High School will meet on the same night with some overlap in programming.

Time	Middle School	High School
6:00-6:30	Dinner (FC or FH)	Dinner (FC or FH)
6:30-6:50	Worship (YR)	Worship (YR)
7:00-7:20	Teaching (YR)	Game/activity (Outside or FH)
7:20-7:40	Small groups (SG Room/FC)	Teaching (YR)
7:40-8:05	Game/activity (Outside or FH)	Small groups (SG Room/FC)
8:05-8:15	Hangout	Hangout time/finishing SG

\*FC: Family Center, SG: Small group room, FH: Fellowship Hall, YR: Youth Room)

## **Rational**

We are pursuing these changes for many reasons. As we begin the year we want to create some momentum within the program and momentum is easiest to accomplish with an increase in numbers. We can accomplish this most effectively through combining Middle School and High School for some of the elements of the evening.

We do not, however, want to sacrifice teaching for the sake of momentum as this can have a reverse effect. As numbers increase, focus and teaching can suffer as the social, emotional and learning levels between students increase. A 6th grade student and a senior in high school have different learning needs.

These changes will also help us to define specific roles for volunteers, helping to place them in areas of strength and need.

## **Sunday Morning Small Group (Sunday School)**

Sunday morning 10:45am-12pm in the youth small group room. This will be complementary to the sermon during that Sunday morning service, which we will encourage youth to attend 2nd service as a group.

## **Parental Component**

Parents spend more time and have the potential for more direct influence on their students spiritual lives than any other person in the students life. Because of this it is vital that our role as the Youth Ministry of OICC that we support and communicate with parents effectively.

There are three primary ways we will be accomplishing this task. The first is by having an up to date student/parent database that can also be used to update our Planning Center account The second will be to have quarterly parent meetings that not only share what is happening with the youth in the upcoming months but also feature resources for parents on youth culture and trends and parenting support. The third aspect will be a weekly email to parents to highlight the lesson for the week and ways parents can continue the spiritual conversations learned at youth group at home as a family.

## **High School Summer Camp**

Camp has historically been a space to reach outside of our walls as a church and bring students outside of their ordinary experiences. Sometimes those experiences were activities they can't normally engage in on the island (pro sports games, laser tag, meeting youth outside of the island etc.) Sometimes it meant deep spiritual reflection, worship and emotional connection with their leaders.

In that same spirit this coming year we are proposing a change to camp.

We will maintain the traditional dates, this year June 24-29th, but will shift from one static location to a traveling competition based road trip style experience. Students will be broken into groups and travel together as teams in RVs as they experience various activities. There will be lessons and worship along the way. We hope this will also be a great space for leaders and the church as a whole to serve as we will need to find the RVs for this to happen.

## **Midwinter Break**

We will be holding a winter retreat during Midwinter break this year. It will be 3 days sometime during the week of Feb 18th. Our goal is to make it fairly inexpensive to allow students to invite friends.

## **Mission Trip**

Helping our students to recognize the kingdom of God outside the walls of this church and even outside the confines of this island we seek to offer a mission trip in summer. We are working on the detail and will unveil them later in the fall.

## **Unstructured Programming**

Events or programs that are sporadic, flexible, often within a small group of between 2-8.

## **Monthly Service Opportunities**

As part of the congregational life piece of our vision as a church we would like to see our youth get involved in service related projects. These will be developed over the next few months and more may be added as opportunities arise.

## **Mentoring**

Individual students or groups of students who have been identified for leadership roles or because of specific needs will be discipled by the youth director and volunteers.

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## Roles and Placement

All of these changes require the support of many different people with many different roles. Below is an overview of what roles we will be looking to fill this coming year. Numbers and momentum will also dictate a lot of things. If we start the year with only a few students then we will not need as many small group leaders but as we grow that number will need to increase. Part of that will be filled, hopefully, with student leaders. What this means is that we may need less volunteers at the beginning of the year to facilitate a better student to adult ratio but **WILL** need many volunteers as we grow.

**Youth Director-** The youth director's primary roles will be to teach lessons, lead the worship team, create curriculum, mentor and train student and adult leaders within the ministry.

**Small Group Leaders-** These volunteers will lead guided discussions on the lesson topic as well as check in with students about their week and offer emotional support and mentoring. They will also help student leaders to develop their small group leading skills.

**Game/Activity Leader-** These could include people who help only occasionally, like camp or retreats, or someone who regularly leads the game time for youth group. They will be responsible for running the activities and occasionally helping to plan the events or activity with the guidance of the youth director.

**Dinner Volunteers-** These volunteers will help with preparing, serving and cleaning up after youth group night meals. They may rotate on a weekly basis (only serving once a month). We believe this could be a great way for older members of the congregation to interact with students on a regular basis.

## Expectations

All volunteers will need to fill out a Youth/Child worker application, have a completed background check **and** finish the online child protection training **before** they will be able to work with youth for the 2018-2019 school year. We take the safety of our students very seriously and also need to safeguard both our students and volunteers with this process as well as keep the church and ministry as a whole from undo liability and risk.

## **Fall-Winter Teaching Curriculum for 2018-2019 OICC Youth Group**

9/12-10/24 (7 Weeks)

What is the Bible?

We will be covering how the Bible was put together, historical context of scripture, literary types in the Bible as well as specific aspects of the Bible's literary form (narrative, poetry, design patterns, character, etc.). We will also be learning how to read the Bible for meditation and transformation.

10/31 Service project

Fall Festival

11/7-1/16 (9 weeks)

The Story Of God (using the book "God's Big Picture")

We will be studying the overall narrative story of God from Gen 1 through Revelation. Week 1: Image of God (creation), Week 2: Noah (Adam 2.0), Week 3: Abraham, Week 4: Exodus, Week 5: The Law & the Prophets, Week 6: Kings (Messiah 1.0), Week 7: Jesus. We then break for Christmas and start back up with Week 8: Resurrection, Week 9: New Heaven and New Earth.

1/23-2/13

Who is Yahweh? (4-8 weeks)

This will be a study into the character and nature of God.