

St. Andrew Personnel Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to interview with you and present my vision for St. Andrew's Youth Ministry Program. I find myself excited about the opportunity to serve at a church that truly seeks to make a difference in the lives of students, their families, and their communities. Outlined below are my core values for a youth ministry program and more specifically, what those core values can look like at St. Andrew.

Contextual biblical reading skills is the first value I hope to instill in the lives of students. This particular skill equips students to understand and articulate why they believe what they believe. It encourages questions and creates space for discussion. Students should be set up for faith beyond their time in middle school and high school. As a church, we are responsible for giving students a strong foundation in biblical literacy. This has been part of my core values at every place I have served and it works well with students from sixth grade through college. Contextual biblical reading allows for real, honest conversations about faith that get to the core of our beliefs and values. This helps students make faith their own and sets them up to stay connected to the church community when they graduate.

Flexibility is a second value I hope to share with St. Andrew. Students' needs are always changing and evolving from year to year and we must be able to change with them. Creating an inclusive environment for students is a goal of mine. Whether a student with a disability or a student who is part of the LGBTQ+ community, the goal is to foster an environment where students feel comfortable being themselves. I want students to ask questions, explore their faith, and put their faith into action. Flexibility also means taking a look at what is working and what isn't. It means always staying open to the possibility of change and the changing needs of students, parents, and the community.

Empowering others is a third value that I find essential in a youth ministry program. Youth ministry isn't about the person who is in charge – it is about giving others the opportunity to share their lives with students. The more people who we can involve in students' lives, the better. The more students feel connected to the community, the more likely they are to stay involved when they graduate. Empowering people to make connections can involve volunteers, service opportunities, and other parts of life in the church. I value collaboration and working with others. The ability to make connections and build intergenerational relationships in the church is essential for students. Youth ministry should feel connected to the whole church.

I see a bright future for St. Andrew and its students. I am excited to watch the church grow and see these values and so much more come to life. I look forward to connecting with you all and working together to serve students.

Thanks,  
Matt Moore