PLAN FOR MINISTRY TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH, 2019

OUR COMMITMENT

Fresno Christian Reformed Church values being a church that

- worships together,
- is knowledgeable in the faith,
- knows and loves one another, and
- serves together.

Therefore, we are committed to ministering to our children and youth—and to the children and youth in the community who participate in the life of our church—by

- nurturing their personal faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
- nurturing their faithful participation in worship,
- preparing them to profess their faith publicly, and
- equipping them to assume their Christian responsibilities in the church and in the world.

We promise to

- receive them in love,
- pray for them,
- instruct them in the faith—the Scriptures and the creeds and confessions of the church, especially the Heidelberg Catechism, and
- encourage and sustain them in the fellowship of believers.

GOALS FOR WHOLE-CHURCH MINISTRY TO AND WITH CHILDREN

Fresno Christian Reformed Church will pursue a whole-church ministry to and with children and youth with the following goals:

1. Children and youth will be encouraged to assume positions of leadership in worship and other activities. For 2019: Children and youth will be encouraged and equipped to join praise teams, lead portions of the liturgy, and serve according to their gifts on Sunday morning. Implemented by: the worship planning team in collaboration with the Director of Ministry to Children and Youth.

2. Church activities will be increasingly designed to be intergenerational—mixing different age cohorts together rather than segregating into separate age-specific ministries that inhibit cross-generational discipleship.
3. The church will celebrate **milestones** with children and youth as they make their way through important stages in life. Implemented by: the elders in collaboration with the Director of Ministry to Children and Youth.

4. Adults and children will engage in intergenerational **mentoring** and intentionally-formed intergenerational relationships. For 2019: Various adults will be invited to lead the Cadets through badgework so that the Cadets learn skills from and form relationships with a variety of adults in the church. Implemented by: the Cadet leadership in collaboration with the Director of Ministry to Children and Youth.

**CURRENT CHILDREN- AND YOUTH-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Children’s Worship**

- The objective is to prepare children to become active participants in sanctuary worship, praying, singing, giving, and being edified in union with Christ.
- The program needs to be developmentally appropriate, especially paying attention to the difference in ability between children who are and are not of school age.
- Balancing between these first two points means that children are in sanctuary worship from about 9:30-10:00 and then are removed for a developmentally appropriate program that will prepare them to engage in sanctuary worship once they age out of the program.

**Sunday School**

- The objective is to instruct children in the faith.
- A secondary objective is to create relationships between children and adults in the congregation who can disciple them.
- The program needs to balance the volunteer load, class size, and developmental differences between ages.

**Cadets**

- The objective is to disciple boys as they study God’s word, learn skills, and mature into servants of God.
- The program is directed by congregational volunteers, but integration into the life of the congregation needs to be coordinated with church staff.

**Vacation Bible School**

- The objective is to provide a one-week, half-day summer program for the children in our church and our community to learn about the Christian faith in a fun environment.
• A secondary objective is to help the adults in our congregation form discipling relationships with children.