

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.