

Wednesday Night Program Coordinating Team – Guidelines

Mission Statement

We believe that our individual and corporate relationships with God are nurtured in community. Our Wednesday Community Night ministry engages children, youth, and adults in experiences that include recreation, study, worship, and meals. We seek to create opportunities for friendships grounded in mutual respect and Christian discipleship. Nurturing those relationships, we bear witness to God's just peace in all the world.

Included in the theology and culture of the United Church of Christ in New Brighton is gratitude for the diversity present in all creation which reflects the generosity, wonder, and mystery of God. Christ is the center of our ministry, but the edges of the circle of our fellowship are expansive and inclusive.

We have chosen to not use the word family because despite our best intentions and even with the adjective church, it remains a word that some feel is exclusive. And, we want to be welcoming of those who may be new and not yet feel they are part of our church family.

Purpose

1. To create and support a program on Wednesday Night that includes meal time, study time, recreation, and worship skills.
2. To provide leadership throughout the entire congregation in matters concerning the Wednesday Night Program.
3. To guide and support the Director/s of the Wednesday Night Program.

Responsibilities

1. Advocate for Wednesday Night Program concerns and issues within the church.
2. Encourage attendance at Wednesday Night Program events.
3. Provide job descriptions for the Wednesday Night Program including teachers, coordinators, dinner deans, and table parents.
4. Recruit and train program volunteers.
5. Assist the Director/Co-Director in planning and implementing the Wednesday Night Program.
6. Establish policies for the Wednesday Night Program.
7. Operate a balanced budget.
8. Convene at least monthly with extra meetings as needed.
9. Designate the Wednesday Night Leaders which may include: Director, Assistant or Co-Director (if needed), Record Keeper, Publicity Coordinator, Children and Youth Comforter, Church School Liaison/Children's Bible Study Coordinator, Adult Study Coordinator, Worship Skills Coordinator, Recreation Play Coordinator, Family Time Coordinator(s), and Dinner Dean Coordinators.

Wednesday Night Program – Coordinating Team Member Job Descriptions

Position

This job description is for members of the Wednesday Night Program Committee of the United Church of Christ in New Brighton.

Purpose

Participating on the Wednesday Night Program Committee provides some sense of belonging and fellowship with other members of the group and links committees with the whole congregation. This committee:

- Provides opportunities for many church members to share meaningfully in the life and mission of our congregation.
- Keeps democratic channels of decision-making open and continues to link with other committees so that the congregation's life is not determined by a small group of people.
- Helps decide policies of the program
- Shares in the important ministries of the church.

Type of Work

For specific information about the responsibilities of the Wednesday Night Program Committee see the Guidelines and Job Descriptions.

Terms of the Position

1. Directors and Coordinators are chosen by the previous years Directors and Coordinators, taking into consideration recommendations and input from Council and linking committees. Members serve for one-year terms that begin in June. Members can serve as many times as they are willing. Members may decline continuing service or resign. Non-returning members are expected to attend the June meeting and help carry out their group's responsibilities through June.
2. When a term becomes vacant, the Wednesday Night Program Committee may fill the vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term.

Wednesday Community Night Covenant

The mission statement for our Wednesday night ministry says, *We believe that our individual and corporate relationships with God are nurtured in community.*

Living in community is not always easy; everyone brings different expectations, needs, hopes and gifts to the community, and how we can best live together, even for just an hour or two at a time, can be challenging as we share all these things with each other, intentionally or unintentionally. Therefore, it is important for us to be clear with each other how we will seek to nurture and be nurtured in this particular expression of community.

A guiding principle is that we are all children of God, and that we can expect to treat others and be treated accordingly. In addition, each person has their own understanding of and relationship with God. That makes each of us unique, and so each person can also expect to treat others and be treated with respect as we learn what it means to live in a community of unique individuals gathered for the shared experiences provided by our ministry.

Each area of activity will benefit from establishing their own covenants, as each area of activity requires a different level and nature of participation and will have different leaders with unique interests and skills. No one covenant can encompass each relationship and experience within our community, but at least these things can be affirmed about the relationships we will seek to nurture in our ministry:

- 1) Teachers, leaders, etc. can encourage positive participation by being on time and prepared, including lesson plans, classroom space, supplies, and knowing the names of each participant and greeting each one by name.
- 2) All participants and leaders can choose to cooperate with each activity and respect all other participants. Respect includes refraining from aggressive and/or inappropriate verbal or physical behavior toward persons and property.
- 3) Teachers, leaders, etc. can encourage positive participation by stating clearly what their goals are for each activity and how participants can help meet those goals.
- 4) Children and youth who choose to opt out of a given activity may do so, but stay with the group, while allowing others to participate as they choose.
- 5) Children and youth who choose not to respect others or otherwise disrupt the group or activity can expect to be asked to spend the remaining program time in the care of a volunteer who will provide an alternate, less-stressful environment.

Simply put,

We take care of each other.

We take care of our things.

We keep our schedule.

We have fun together.