

Presbytery Youth Animator – Position Description 2023

Background

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- Matthew 28:16-20

Within digital culture, the way we come to know something has changed. How we come to understand ourselves and how we come to be in relationship has changed. Since God is known through relationships, the way we come to understand God has changed as well. To do ministry in digital culture, we need a better understanding of these changes.

- Mary Hess, professor of educational leadership at Luther Seminary

However we engage or choose not to engage in digital platforms, our youth and young adults are living in a world whose culture has been shaped by past and present digital tools, and they will continue to be shaped by them in the future. The Presbyteries of Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry are regional organizations of 19 churches and 23 churches, respectively, in Ottawa and surrounding areas looking for someone to help engage and re-engage youth and young adults in the region, primarily through the digital environment and by providing support for youth leaders at our churches trying to do the same.

This is a part-time (22.5 hours per week) position that could be held by an ordained or non-ordained person. It is expected that approximately 2/3 of the time is spent supporting Ottawa-based congregations and 1/3 of the time is spent supporting congregations in Seaway-Glengarry, with some activities that may benefit everyone.

Minimum Requirements

The individual should:

- Reside in Ottawa region
- Possess or be in pursuit of a certificate or degree in education and theology or equivalent experience related to this position,
- Give evidence of a clear expression of reformed Christian faith,
- Have a working knowledge of Presbyterian polity and ethos,
- Provide an up-to-date Vulnerable Sector Police Check and learn and stay in compliance with the Presbyterian Church's Leading with Care Policy
- Have a collaborative approach to working with people, including the ability to listen, communicate and to stimulate and work as a team leader with lay leaders and clergy
- Be able to form relationships with youth and young adults
- Demonstrate experience with current and developing social media and other digital means of connecting with youth and interest in staying up to date on the latest apps and technology for communication

- Have experience engaging meaningfully with people from different theological perspectives
- Be able to arrange for regular visits to congregations (often on Sundays)

Goals and Tasks of Ministry

We recognize that one person cannot reasonably be the primary contact for youth throughout the Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry area in the digital space. We are looking for someone who can provide initial engagement and positive, thought-provoking Christian content and interaction on various digital tools that will complement and feed into existing and emerging youth ministries in the Presbyteries. In particular, the role has been divided into the broad categories of: Communication with Presbyteries, Communication with Youth Leaders, and Digital Youth Engagement. Approximate hours per month in each category have been given as a guideline for where we believe effort and time will be appropriately spent and may vary from month to month.

Communication with Presbyteries (10 hours/month)

- Make connections with all congregations in the Presbyteries using the following:
 - Regular newsletter
 - Regular visits to congregations in the Presbytery of Ottawa (1 per month, estimated, with more visits in the first year)
 - Online consulting with congregations identified by the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry regarding the enhancement of their digital presence

Communication with Youth Leaders (16 hours/month)

- Promote cooperation among youth groups, including:
 - Engage with youth leaders and provide support, including as a member of the Youth Working Group
- Work with Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre to encourage youth in our Presbytery to participate in camp life
- Attend Presbytery meetings at least twice per year
- Regularly report to and meet with the Presbytery Oversight Committee

Digital Youth Engagement (60 hours/month)

- Engage with young people in our congregations and potential seekers of the Christian faith through social media and other digital platforms
- Create digital content to foster positive engagement and community and provokes conversation within the digital space
- Provide advice and training (as requested) on how congregations can connect with youth and others through various digital platforms
- Learn about existing and new youth ministries in congregations to be able to connect youth online with ministries that would be a good fit geographically and theologically, where appropriate

Interested applicants should send a resume and cover letter to animatorsearchteam@gmail.com.