

Associate Minister, Children and Youth

Position Summary

Grace has a vibrant Sunday School with about 100 children registered who are taught by a dedicated team of volunteer teachers. Our Youth Ministry currently engages with 15 teens.

The detailed position description for this half-time ministry position is below but we thought it might be helpful to highlight some key attributes we're looking for:

1. An ordained minister in the Reformed tradition
2. A strong personal faith in Jesus Christ that guides your daily living
3. Specific training in Christian Education
4. Experience in and a clear passion for equipping children, youth and their parents/guardians to grow in and live their faith
5. A team player with strong interpersonal skills who can inspire, lead and collaborate well with children, youth, adult volunteers and parents/guardians involved in this ministry
6. An appreciation of the role and importance of integrating music into faith-building and worship
7. Ability to envision and prepare for growth and willing to take calculated risks
8. Enthusiastic about being part of a collaborative team with three ordained ministry colleagues under the direction of the Lead Minister

Please keep the above in mind as you prayerfully consider the detailed position description and whether God is calling you to this exciting children and youth ministry.

Detailed Description

Grace Presbyterian Church is seeking an Associate Minister, Children and Youth, who brings experience and demonstrated gifts for spiritual formation – especially with children and youth. As Grace Church works to live out our identity as a pro-active member of the community, this leader will equip and inspire parents, volunteers and the congregation at large to support the growth of this ministry.

Background – The Vision and Ministry Model

We are committed to a vision for Grace as a congregation that is meaningfully engaged with our surrounding community, known as a thought leader, and live our values of engagement, belonging, community, compassion, and service.

The new part-time (0.5) Associate Minister Children and Youth, is an important member of our ministry model. In addition to the Associate Minister, Children and Youth, the ministry model includes a full-time Lead Minister, Vision and Worship; a full-time Associate Minister, Engagement and Service; and a part-time (0.6) Associate Minister, Pastoral Care. The Rev. Dr. M. Jean Morris is currently called to a full-time role as Associate Minister, Pastoral Care.

As we begin to search for the individuals being called to fill these roles, there is tremendous energy and excitement in the congregation. The following outlines the primary areas of responsibility for this position, and the demonstrated abilities we view as necessary in each.

1. Vision: Preparing for Growth

Grace is blessed with a sizeable Sunday School (around 100 students) and dedicated volunteers (around 40) who teach children from nursery-age through High School. Our vision seeks to reach-out to the catchment community aged 25 to 35 who will become commuters as they get older and have children. Exciting and relevant programs for children and youth will be critical elements of our ministry.

Our new Associate Minister, Children and Youth, will be inspired by our current vision and able to embrace the challenge of:

- Integrating our Children and Youth ministry in the missional engagement strategy for Grace across all the aspects of life within our faith community in meaningful and age-appropriate ways;
- Equipping parents to model their own faith, recognizing that almost 50% of the catchment community currently check “none” when asked about their religious affiliation;
- Creating an environment that is open-minded and encouraging for youth to explore the big questions of faith and the relevance of religion in everyday life; and
- Engaging congregation members in a new vision for the faith formation across generations.

2. Teaching: Bringing the Word to the Children and Youth and their parents

Grace is a congregation that values a “thinking theology” and rich musical offerings. We’re eager to expand Children and Youth ministry in ways that excite and engage, enabling the discovery, development and maturing of personal relationships with the Triune God. The person called to serve as Associate Minister, Children and Youth, will be an ordained minister, with specialized training and experience in Christian Education. This person will:

- demonstrate a willingness to innovate and experiment with new opportunities to respond to the needs of our children and their parents;
- understand and respect the full diversity of Christian thought within the Reformed tradition;
- collaborate with the Children and Youth Committee to plan curriculum for classes and other learning opportunities;
- show warmth and welcome to both believers and seekers;
- work with the Music Director to incorporate music as a key element of spiritual formation;
- share real-life relevance and relatability of the Gospel message to a diverse, multi-generational community that includes people at all stages of faith development;
- possess intercultural ministry experience & sensitivity
- participate regularly in the leadership of worship.

3. Education and Training: Equipping the Saints

In addition to those in defined leadership roles, Grace has a contingent of dedicated and hardworking volunteers. The Associate Minister, Children and Youth will work with the Coordinator of Volunteers to acknowledge and affirm our volunteers, develop programming to equip them to feel confident in new service opportunities, and engage additional members of the congregation and the community in participating in these programs. The Grace Vision hopes to create a Faith Leadership Training Centre to help fill these needs.

Our new Associate Minister, Children and Youth, will have the skills and experience needed to develop strong relationships, and to identify:

- Effective approaches to build the capacity of leaders to share their stories of love and faith confidently;
- Opportunities for parents at different stages of faith development to deepen their theological and denominational knowledge, so that they may, in turn, teach their children;
- Ways to build an even stronger sense of family by connecting the Grace congregation with our children and youth.

4. Member of the Ministerial Team

For decades, Grace has been blessed with ministerial teams that mentor, support and encourage each other's gifts to shine as they provide leadership in the congregation and community. With four ordained ministers, the new ministry model contemplates our largest and most diverse ministerial team yet.

We are praying the person called to serve as Associate Minister, Children and Youth, will be a servant leader, able to balance the specialization needed to focus on this population with the commitment and communication required to remain an active member of the ministry team at Grace. They will embrace responsibility as:

- a collaborative colleague of the ministerial team;
- support to the Lead Minister and the other Ministers and committees in identifying and applying best practices in integrating children and youth across the wider ministry of Grace;
- participant in the overall life, development, and direction of the congregation;
- communicator and consensus builder; and
- collaborator with parents in the faith development of their children.