

Children's Ministry Basics

Guidelines for Understanding Ministry with Children

WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR?

As Coordinator of Children's Ministries, you are "responsible for assuring that children are considered and included within the life of the congregation. The coordinator will lead the children's council, when organized, and will work closely with clergy and other program-related staff."

WHAT EVERY CHILD SHOULD EXPERIENCE: A GUIDE FOR TEACHERS AND LEADERS IN UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATIONS

This resource contains a comprehensive guide to scripture significant for children as they develop cognitively and theologically. It is meant to closely follow the three-year lectionary cycle.

CHILDCARE AND THE CHURCH

This is the official document of the United Methodist Church that outlines the church's responsibilities in initiating, encouraging, and participating in the highest quality of child care for children and families, not only in the local community but also nationwide.

SAFE SANCTUARIES – REDUCING THE RISK OF ABUSE IN THE CHURCH FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Practical guidance is provided in developing and implementing a substantive, holistic action plan of abuse prevention. *Available through Upper Room Books*

THE UNITED METHODIST TASK FORCE ON DISABILITIES MINISTRIES

Resources, support, and guidance on actively including people with disabilities in the life of the church. "Some people came in, carrying a paralyzed man in a chair. They wanted to bring him to Jesus, but they were not able to find a way in because of the crowd. So they went up onto the roof and let him and his chair down through it! — Luke 5:18

GUIDELINES FOR LEADING YOUR CONGREGATION: CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

This booklet concentrates of the basics of ministry that help children grow in faith. It is the beginning point for organizing for ministry and is designed to help congregations use their own gifts to respond to God's call to care for the children, on Sunday morning, through the week and for special events.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – A LEADER DEVELOPMENT GUIDE 2013 – 2016

In this guide, each job description includes: Result Expected, Spiritual Gifts and Qualifications Helpful for this Position, Responsibilities, Support to Expect from the Congregation, Getting Started, People and Agencies That Can Help, and Resources for Help.

Books and e-Newsletters for Understanding Ministry with Children

THE CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Children yearn to be noticed and recognized as individuals who have an important place in the church. Remember the vow the congregation takes at a baptism or dedication of a child? The church declares a commitment to be a part of the lives of the children in their midst. Senior pastors, church staff and volunteers, children's pastors — all will find a treasure trove of tested guidelines to help you effectively offer the presence of Christ to children. *Available through Upper Room Books*

REAL KIDS, REAL FAITH – PRACTICES FOR NURTURING CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL LIVES

Drawn from a three-year study of children's spirituality, as well as the best in theological tradition and literature, *Real Kids, Real Faith* provides insight and a variety of helpful tips for nurturing children's spiritual and religious formation. *Available through cokesbury.com*

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN E-NEWSLETTER

This free e-newsletter provides information, and a Christian perspective on current issues facing our children, and is made possible by World Service Giving.

Curriculum and Formational Resources

UNITED METHODIST CURRICULUM RESOURCES COMMITTEE

This site offers curriculum approved by the Curriculum Resources Committee (CRC) of the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship for use in the Christian education ministry of The United Methodist Church.

THE WAY OF THE CHILD

The Way of the Child is a formative study for children ages six through eleven that recognizes that children have an innate spirituality with a natural acceptance of mystery, an amazing capacity for awe, a vital imagination, a longing to be their unique selves, and an ability to be open to and receive God's love. Available through Upper Room Books

GODLY PLAY

Teaches young children the art of using religious language – parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action – helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

CHILDREN WORSHIP AND WONDER

Young Children and Worship is a program curriculum that presents a joyful way for children to worship God. It invites children and adults to experience the wonder and mystery of God through a unique storytelling format and multi-sensory materials.

POCKETS MAGAZINE

Pockets is the devotional magazine that helps children ages six through eleven learn more about God by encouraging them to read the Bible, practice spiritual disciplines, act compassionately, and exercise their creativity. Available through Upper Room Books

THE LITTLE CHRISTIAN MAGAZINE

The stories in this magazine are meant to be read by or with children, so the text is simple or rhymed. The art is vivid, bold and engaging. The stories are faith-based, so you'll be helping to nurture a child's spiritual awareness from a young age. Available through the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Training, Forums, and Educational and Formational Resources

GENERAL BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Resources, training, and support for leaders of children's ministries

UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE ON MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN (FORMERLY FOCUS)

Bi-Annual National Conference for those engaged in ministry with children; Offers cutting-edge workshops, certification classes, and experiences applicable in different ministry contexts.

UMC MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN FORUM AND GROUP

Teachers and Leaders in United Methodist congregations sharing resources, information, and ideas daily!

FIRST STEPS SPIRITUALITY CENTER

The Certification Course is designed by Rev. Leanne Hadley, using the skills and techniques used at First Steps with hurting children and teens

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN [NAEYC]

Annual training for educators of young children;
Ongoing professional development
Online community forums

ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL [ACEI]

Annual Training for educators of young children;
Radio/internet accessible lectures and discussions