

FGCC

Jr. High

FUSION & DIVE

2009

Junior High WHERE IT STARTS



Dear Potential Junior High Youth Leader,

Thank you for showing an interest in the lives of our Junior High students. Thanks for being willing to prayerfully consider just what the Lord has for you. I am pumped at the possibility of adding you to our team.

As a Church we are constantly searching for people who are passionate and excited about serving the youth in both our community and in our church. It is so necessary for youth to have healthy and positive relationships with adults in their life as they go through their critical decision making stages. That's where you come in...

To help you better discover whether working with youth is something that you want to do please read over the following pages. Included are pages about Fusion, Dive (small groups), the expectations of a Jr. High leader, our leadership structure, an application form, the MB Confession of Faith, plus a few other pages of information for you. It looks like a lot of info, but will be very helpful in helping you understand the ministry and whether you would like to be part of it. Should you have any questions please contact me at 933-2266, ext. 225.

The first step to becoming a leader is reading over this information. Next, let me know you are interested in committing to the team by handing in your application and attending a Junior High night so that you can learn more about what it all entails. Then, once you have made your decision, you will need to have a Criminal Record Check done as well.

It is always my desire to see young people serving in the areas where they are gifted and most passionate. If you at any time you begin to think that maybe serving in our Junior High ministry isn't for you, I'm very cool to chat about that and see if there are adjustments we can make or if there are other areas of our church which you can serve in. Please feel free to dream up areas where you can express your worship through your own means at youth. I love the potential that a youth group has to allow be to be exactly who they are.

Thanks again for being excited about working with the youth of today. I look forward to walking along side you as we discern where we go from here.

In Him,

Chandra Styles
Interim Pastor of Junior High Ministries
Forest Grove Community Church
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Jr. High

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Our Mission:

To lead grades 7&8 students closer to God through providing a positive and safe church experience, an atmosphere of love, and guidance in seeking Jesus Christ.

What is Fusion?

Fusion happens twice a month, with the focus of gathering all Jr. Highs together for a night of fun games and activities. It is a great night for youth to invite their friends for a "positive church experience." One Fusion every month will include a short small group time.

What is Dive?

Dive happens twice a month with the focus of encouraging healthy friendships and guidance in seeking Jesus Christ. Youth are put into "Dive Groups" where they can connect on a deeper level.

What we talk about:

At Fusion & Dive we teach 7 Basic Truths to all our youth:

Genuine Faith

God is trustworthy

Spiritual Priorities

God wants us to put Him first in our lives

Basic Confidence

God has created me the way I am in His image

Wise Choices

We are able to make choices that keep us from harm

Moral Boundaries

True freedom can only be experienced within God's boundaries

Healthy Friendships

My relationships can determine my direction in life

Unselfish Love

God desires me to serve others selflessly

WHAT WE DO	WHY WE DO IT	IF WE'VE SUCCEEDED:
Welcome	To create a safe environment where youth feel welcomed	Youth are excited to enter into the group and are called by name as they enter
Games & Activities	To creatively connect youth with peers & leaders/to establish a team unity mentality	Youth get involved, include each other, and began to feel connected to their peers and their leaders
Announcements	Communicate information	Youth are planning for and bringing friends to events
Worship	To express worship to God through different mediums	Youth respond by feeling comfortable with worship in different styles/discover theirs
Bible Talk	To present the Truth contained in the Bible and create questions/discussion	Youth are discussing things they've learned further in small groups and are applying it to daily situations
Small Groups (Dive)	Ensure each youth is connected to a smaller, intentional spiritual community	Youth feel safe to be open to share their feelings and emotions and are accepted for where they are at
Outreach (Dive Out)	To challenge youth to look beyond themselves and help others.	Youth are willing to engage in an activity where others "win" rather than themselves.
Snack	Continued time to connect	Youth desire to pursue ownership of their community by talking to others

Jr. High EXPECTATIONS

At Forest Grove Community Church we desire to have high quality people who realize that working in youth ministry is a calling that is a privilege. It is often a difficult job and can seem unrewarding at times, but the moments in which you are able to see the fruits of your labour are extraordinary. Here are some of the things we expect:

- ★ Be committed to the Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life
- ★ Striving to love Junior Highs and be excited about building relationships with them
- ★ Living in the disciplines learned in a personal pursuit of a relationship with God
- ★ Attend Jr. High youth events – arriving on time and staying for our debrief meeting (usually 6:30 – 10:45).
- ★ Attend the Leadership Team retreat (dates TBA) to the best of your ability
- ★ Attend Forest Grove Community Church's Sunday morning services or talk to Pastor Chan about where you are attending
- ★ Live a life above reproach – If there is something in your personal life that you think might be an issue for others please come and talk to Pastor Chan.

We also request that you:

- ★ *Strive to have a relational ministry with the youth*
- ★ *Establish relationships with parents of youth as best is possible*
- ★ *Encourage, support, and pray for the youth, other leaders, and the Youth Pastor*
- ★ *Participate in the activities with the youth (unless you are leading the activity).*
- ★ *Help out wherever you see a need (from incorporating outsiders, to directing the group, to clean-up)*
- ★ *Alert the Jr. High Pastor about any events you need to miss with as much notice as possible.*

Jr. High RELATIONAL MINISTRY

It is our desire to see each youth acknowledge that they are valued and loved by God and by us and that they have worth. To do so, we **MUST** engage in relationship ministry. Here are some practical ways to make sure we are doing our job the best we can:

- ★ Make an effort to connect with each person in your small group at least once per week (either at a youth event, at church, or through email/phone/Facebook).
- ★ Follow all of the “Safe Church Policy” guidelines
 - ★ Guys have a relational ministry with guys - girls have a relational ministry with girls
 - ★ Stay in public places.
 - ★ See policy guidelines sheet.
- ★ Ensure that youth are all being connected with
- ★ Each leader has a budget of \$50 per year to use to build a relational ministry with the youth.
 - ★ Please use this to take youth for coffee, lunch or to attend sports games, etc.
 - ★ To be reimbursed hand in a receipt with your name and the youth's name on it.



Jr. High DIVE GROUPS

As youth culture moves toward technological advances more and more that youth desire meaningful contact in their lives. Because of texts and Facebook, community and vulnerability take one very different shapes to our youth today. This year at Junior High we want to create more of an emphasis on our small group times during DIVE. It is an integral part of allowing each youth to know where they are accepted and where they belong and where they have a safe place.



You, the Small Group Leader, are the most important person we have in our ministry.

Last year, when Small groups were introduced into Junior High, they were often only had twice a month. This year we want to begin the transition to meeting in your small groups during each youth event. We want the youth to get used to the idea of building into that community and getting excited for that part of each evening.

So often the teaching that youth hear on a Friday night can slip so quickly from their minds. Especially for the youth from our community that do not have parental encouragement or support on a spiritual level, it is imperative that our efforts as small group leaders are to help the youth digest the Truth that they hear taught and then transmit that into practical applications in their own world and to assist them in be a support system to one another.

A relationship with God was never meant to be lived out alone, yet so many youth feel alone. We believe that if youth come alongside of each other, with the guidance of a mature adult, they will be more equipped to life a life for God, because they are doing so as a community, not an individual.



As a Small Group leader we ask you to help create a community. Some of the things that you will need to do will include:

- ★ Get to know the names of the youth in your small group and use their names every week
- ★ Attend one of their events each year (sports, music recital, musical, talent show)
- ★ Meet each youth in your small group for a coke/ ice cream once this year (outside of a youth night)
- ★ Send one email a month to your group (just to say hi and remind them about whats coming up next)
- ★ Pray for your small group regularly
- ★ On Friday Nights: encourage personal sharing and dialogue related to the Bible Talk using suggestions/ questions from the speaker.
- ★ Plan a creative Small Group Night for one Friday one a "semester" (You have a budget of \$50 per semester to use for the year.)

Some of the extra things that you could do that would really help build community would be:

- ★ Be creative and come up with one thing that makes your group unique/ unites your group (a thread on Facebook, make t-shirts, make Friday nights your own theme nights)
- ★ Send one email a month or text to each individual in your small group.
- ★ Remember each youth's birthday
- ★ Have one contact with each youth's parents so they know that you are their youth's small group leader.

The list on the right is not exhaustive, so be creative and add your own personal touches. If you have questions or want to learn more about how to be a better Small Group Leader please talk to Pastor Chan.

Jr. High

LEADERSHIP VISION

Think back to the journey you have had. I can imagine that there have been very significant people who have shaped who you are and how you see the world. We have a unique privilege to speak truth and encouragement into the lives of these youth. But we also have an opportunity to build up on another. These are my prayers for us as leaders together:

- ★ To build a spiritual community where WE are able to engage as those who spur each other on towards love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:25) in the name of Jesus
- ★ To encourage one another to dream and allow God to use us in our areas of diversity and strength; music, visual arts, sports, academics, language, etc.
- ★ To strive towards excellence and unity as a TEAM; to love each other selflessly, to serve one another, and to humbly seek resolution to conflict and issues
- ★ To rejoice with one another when hardships and struggles are defeated and to find forgiveness and acceptance when failures occur
- ★ To be a true, living example of the very community we are trying to encourage our youth to create amongst themselves

We are the Body, unique as we

- ★ 1 Corinthians 12:14-19, 24-27
- ★ Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body....But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.
- ★ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Jr. High

VISION FOR YOUTH

As ministers of the Gospel we are challenged by the Word of God to ask for big things. We are the "labourers of the Harvest", one that God has promised to us. It is important to seek God for favour as we love these youth and challenge them to walk with Jesus. This is the vision I see for the youth:

- ★ To see them making positive and wise choices when it comes to harmful/sinful situations at school and at home
- ★ To gain a better understanding of the Word of God; why we read it, what it helps us understand, and how to communicate it to our friends
- ★ To desire to build authentic community with one another by living out a selfless and accepting demeanor
- ★ To desire to practise spiritual disciplines; prayer, fasting, reading the Bible, service, tithing/giving, memorizing the word and to encourage one another to do the same
- ★ To take risk in their faith by going out of their comfort zones; going on a short term missions trip, praying for a friend at youth, etc.
- ★ To live a life evident of the fruit produced when the Spirit is active in the heart of one following Christ



Junior High

LEADERS CALENDAR

September	October	November	December
13 (Sunday) Celebration Sunday	2 (Friday) _____/FUSION: Bible Smugglers	6 (Friday) DIVE IN: Birthday Bash (Operation Christmas Child)	4 (Friday) _____/FUSION: Creative Carnival
18 (Friday) FUSION: Kick Off Theme Introduction	9 (Friday) DIVE IN: Kick Off	13 (Friday) DIVE OUT: Small groups meet together outside of the church	11 (Friday) DIVE IN: Christmas Parties
20 (Sunday) Ministry Fair: 10 a.m. before church and after the service til 12:30	16 (Friday) FUSION: Whose fries are best?	20 (Friday) FUSION: Swimming? OR Leader's Retreat?	18 (Friday) No youth? School break?
25 (Friday) FUSION: Leader Intro Night Quite the Characters we have here...	23-25 (Fri-Sun) FUSION RETREAT @ REDBERRY	27 (Friday) FUSION: Swimming? OR Leader's Retreat?	24 (Thursday) Christmas Eve Service @ 7:00 p.m.
25 (Sunday) LifeTime Junior High Sunday School starts	30 _____/FUSION: Hallowe'en Olympics		25 & January 1 (Fridays) No youth - School break

Important things to think about...

NAMES OF EVENTS: Dive In, Dive Out, Fusion....is there something better?

LIFETIME: Would you be interested in helping out to teach Sunday School to a small group of youth on Sunday mornings?

MINISTRY FAIR: Would you like to be apart of helping create the booth? What kinds of things do we need to highlight?

LEADERSHIP RETREAT: Which weekend works better? Would you prefer to stay in the city or just outside? Would you prefer to stay at home?

SWIMMING: Is going to a large activity like that still a good Junior High event?

DECEMBER 18th: Are kids still in school after that? Should we have 3 Fridays off for the break?

SAFE CHURCH POLICY

The Safe Place Policy is a policy that looks intimidating to read through and understand. So we want to give you the "Coles Notes" version of what it means for you. Basically, the main reason for all of these rules to protect you from ever getting into a situation where a false accusation could occur. So here's your study guide to the operational procedures in the safe place policy:

The Most Important Rule:

Rule # 1: R_____ and H_____ F_____

Two Second-Most Important Rules:

Rule # 2: S_____ in s_____

Rule # 3: T_____ to have another a_____ with y_____ (if not, f_____ rule #_____).

Other Rules:

Rule # 4: P_____ are r_____ for their kids before & after the p_____.

Rule # 5: If someone gets h_____, tell the person in c_____ and r_____ what happened.

Rule # 6: When l_____ the church p_____, make sure the parents have c_____ and you have enough l_____. (Remember Rules #_____ & #_____).

Rule # 7: When in your v_____ with kids/youth, t_____ to have at least 2 p_____ with you.

Rule # 8: Be a_____ of every situation where a_____ or f_____ accusations could occur: W_____ others and M_____ yourself.

Mennonite Brethren

CONFESSION OF FAITH

www.mbconf.ca/believe/confession/sidewalk.en.html

We believe in God as eternal Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God created and sustains the universe. The eternal purpose of God the Father is to create a people who will bring glory to God forever. God alone is worthy of worship.

We believe that God became human in Jesus Christ. Jesus came to restore the world because humans have rejected God in disobedience. Jesus taught and modeled the way of God's kingdom. He died on the cross, making it possible for us to accept a renewed relationship with God. He rose from the dead, broke the power of sin and death, and frees us to live in obedience to God's will.

We believe that God the Holy Spirit invites all people to be reconciled with God and to join the global family of faith. Believers confess their faith, are baptized, and join in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and guided by the Bible, members of the church seek to live as followers of Christ and invite others to experience this new life.

As Christians we are called to turn:

- from ignorance of God to a personal relationship with God
- from bondage of sin and past mistakes to freedom, forgiveness, and healing
- from individualism to interdependence with others in the local church
- from lifestyle choices that harm us, others, and the earth to choices that nurture wholeness, healing, joy and peace
- from hating enemies and ignoring neighbors to showing love and justice to all
- from loving possessions to sharing with all in need
- from aimless existence to a mission of representing and proclaiming God's kingdom on earth.

As Christians we look forward to the day when God will once again send Jesus to bring all things under God's eternal rule

CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK

Statement of Release for Criminal Record Check

Please fill out the attached form and bring it (***unsigned***) to the FGCC office during office hours (Mon-Fri, 9:00-12:00, and 1:00-5:00.) to be notarized. (Our Office Administrator, Delores, is a Notary.)

Instructions:

- 1) Fill out both sides of the form (Answer **yes** to question 3 about vulnerable people).
- 2) When filling in the “Reason for Consent” section:
 - a. The volunteer position is: Jr. High Youth Worker
 - b. The name of the organization is: Forest Grove Community Church
 - c. Details regarding vulnerable persons is: Youth in Grades 7-8
- 3) **Do NOT sign the form** until you are with the notary.
- 4) **Bring 3 pieces of I.D.** (Birth Certificate, passport, drivers license, SK health card, etc) including one with a photo to be viewed and photocopied by the Notary.

APPLICATION FORM

Your Details:

Full Name: _____ Birth Date: _____
 Address: _____ Postal Code: _____
 Phone No: _____ Email: _____
 Which method of information receiving do you prefer? Facebook: _____ Email: _____
 How often do you check that?: _____

Your Spiritual Journey:

(Please use a separate piece of paper or the back of this piece to answer the following questions):

1. How and when did you become a follower of Jesus Christ?
2. Describe your current journey with God.
3. What do you hope to contribute to this ministry? What do you hope to get out of this experience?

Your Experience:

4. Briefly describe any education or training or any of your volunteer or work experience related to working with youth, being part of a team, or in a leadership position:

5. What are your gifts & abilities that can be used in this ministry setting?

6. Is there anything in your past that might give reservations in you joining this ministry at FGCC? _____
 If yes, please explain: _____

Your Commitment:

Do you consider FGCC your home church? _____ How long have you been attending? _____

Do you agree with the Mennonite Brethren (MB) Confession of Faith? (See attached) Yes No

Are you willing to live a lifestyle that reflects the MB Confession of Faith to the youth? Yes No

Are you able to abide by the leadership values and expectations laid out in the attached sheet? Yes No

If no to any of these questions, please explain:

Your Covenant:

With my signature below, I declare my love for the Lord Jesus Christ. Trusting in the power and ministry of the Holy Spirit for guidance, I shall seek to live a consistent Christian life, honoring Christ in all my relationships. I will strive to live a holy life, setting an example for others and those I am leading. I promise to be a faithful leader in this church, supporting it through prayer, giving, regular worship participation, and servanthood.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Answer for the 8 Rules for Working with Kids/Youth

The Most Important Rule:

Rule #1: *Relax and Have Fun* – don't let this stuff stress you out; your most important job is to build relationships with the kids and youth your working with and lead them closer to Christ, God is looking after each one of you and will be helping you to make wise decisions.

Two Second-Most Important Rules:

Rule #2: *Stay in Sight* – do discipline in a public area; (not in stairwell); pray with youth in open area

Rule #3: *Try to have another adult with you (if not, remember rule #2).* – bathrooms – hall monitor; lunches – use your discretion (take a friend if you think there could be an issue);

Other Rules:

Rule #4: *Parents are responsible for their kids before & after the program.* – especially for young kids, don't stress about being alone with a child because his parent didn't pick him up; this message needs to be communicated to parents;

Rule #5: *If someone gets hurt, tell the person in charge and remember what happened.*

Rule #6: *When leaving the church premises, make sure the parents have consented and you have enough leaders. (Remember Rules #2 & #3).* – mainly for us as leaders; if you are planning an outside of church event just make sure parents are ok their kids leaving the church and don't take 30 kids with only one leader & don't invite one kid over to your house (take them to a public place)

Rule #7: *When in your vehicle with kids/youth, try to have at least 2 passengers with you.* – if you are dropping someone off after a program, take a friend of theirs or another leader; use discretion

Rule #8: *Be aware of every situation where abuse or false accusations could occur: Watch others and Monitor yourself.* - (i.e. watch for excuses from people to take a child/youth alone, out-of-place touching, too much attention, and monitor the touching/attention that you're giving to kids.)