

**1. Title:** Children's Ministry

**2. Purpose:**

To define the specific functions (responsibilities) of the Children's Ministry as assigned by the Discipleship Ministry Team. This includes:

- ⤴ Teaching and instructing children of ages birth-6<sup>th</sup> grade in the ways of the Christian faith. Our desire is to help children understand the gospel and bring them to saving faith in Jesus Christ.
- ⤴ Providing a positive Sunday School program where children can learn about the Bible, grow in faith, talk to God through prayer, and become part of the body of Christ.
- ⤴ Build community and fellowship for the children and provide the parents with resources to disciple their children.
- ⤴ Modeling God's love through Jesus Christ.

**3. Policy:**

The Children's Ministry is responsible for the following functions.

3.1 Sunday School for 3 year olds through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

3.1.1 Organizes or provides Sunday morning Bible study, or meaningful instruction utilizing related Christian curriculum.

3.1.2 Recruits Sunday School teachers [OPS 11.01] and [OPS 11.11].

3.1.3 Approves Sunday School curriculum [OPS 11.03].

3.1.4 Coordinates with the Children's Teaching Team

3.2 Wednesday Night Children's Program

3.2.1 Organizes or provides Wednesday Night lessons and activities, or meaningful instruction utilizing related Christian curriculum [OPS 11.05].

3.2.2 Recruits Wednesday night teachers [OPS 11.01] and [OPS 11.11].

3.2.3 Approves Wednesday night curriculum [OPS 11.03].

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### 3.3 Nursery for infants through 2 year olds

3.3.1 Oversees the organization and recruiting of Nursery workers.

3.3.2 Resources the Nursery physical amenities and schedule.

### 3.4 Children's Ministry Team

3.4.1 The Children's Ministry Team along with the Associate Pastor shall make governing decisions in regards to implementation and inner workings of the Children's Ministry.

3.4.2 The responsibilities include planning special events, teacher recruitment, reviewing and selecting curriculum, updating student information, sending out flyers, birthday cards, and other communications.

### 3.5 Sunday School - Children's Teaching Team

3.5.1 The Sunday School program is staffed by the Children's Teaching Team, which is a separate team from the Children's Ministry team although some overlap of members is possible. This team is made up of those who are currently in teacher rotation.

3.5.2 The Children's Teaching Team meets quarterly, at minimum, to review curriculum, discuss teaching strategies, and make schedules for each Sunday School class.

3.5.3 The Children's Teaching Team is broken into teaching pairs to comply with church's Child Protection Policy which clearly states that the church must always have two adults in a room with children. [Ops 10]

3.5.4 Each teacher and nursery worker shall undergo a criminal background check every two years to comply with state regulations. [10.04]

### 3.4 Vacation Bible School

3.4.1 The Children's Ministry Team and the associate pastor work together with many other volunteers to provide a week of Vacation Bible School every year, traditionally during the summer. VBS traditional schedule is a five weekday program held in the mornings from 9-12, with a family fun night on Thursday evening.

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3.4.2 The Children's Ministry is responsible to research, select, and approve the curriculum/program that the church will use for VBS. Ideally the curriculum and dates for VBS are selected before December to allow adequate time for planning.

3.4.3 The Children's Ministry works with the associate pastor and the volunteer VBS coordinator in planning, advertising, and execution of VBS.

3.4.4 The Children's Ministry helps in recruiting the many volunteers necessary, and supports any training events for the volunteers.

### 3.5 Children's Christmas Pageant

3.5.1 The Children's Ministry may organize an annual Christmas Pageant in the month of December for the entire congregation to enjoy. Children from Sunday School and PDS are invited to participate in the pageant.

3.5.2 The pageant shall be coordinated with the associate pastor, the fellowship committee, the music director, and the choir. The pageant tells the story of the birth of Jesus Christ and is interwoven with the singing of Christmas Hymns, and is usually followed by a reception with deserts and other seasonal foods and drinks.

3.5.3 The Children's Ministry is responsible for finding a pageant director/producer and for coordinating with the different ministries. The associate pastor oversees and helps with this coordination.

3.5.4 The date for the pageant shall be chosen early in the year in order to coordinate with the many other Christmas events of the congregation and its members.

### 3.6 Easter Egg Hunt

3.6.1 The Children's Ministry may organize and host an Easter egg hunt for the families of the congregation at Easter. This event is usually coordinated with the fellowship committee who helps purchase the eggs and candies.

**4. Definitions:** none

**5. References:**

5.1.1 Children's Ministry is an arm of the Discipleship Ministry and functions within the parameters set by Discipleship 04.04.

**6. Applicability:**

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This policy applies to the organization and execution of planning and events for the Children's programs for FPC.

### **7: Procedures:**

7.1.1 Any new event or ministry plan for Children of FPC must be introduced to the associate pastor and Children ministry teams and follow the organizational flow according to this OPS.

**8. Review Schedule:** The review date for determining if a revision of this OPS is necessary is the anniversary of the effective date.

**9. Approval:** Session approved this OPS on the above effective date.