



FIRST FREE

YOUTH MINISTRIES

MISSION

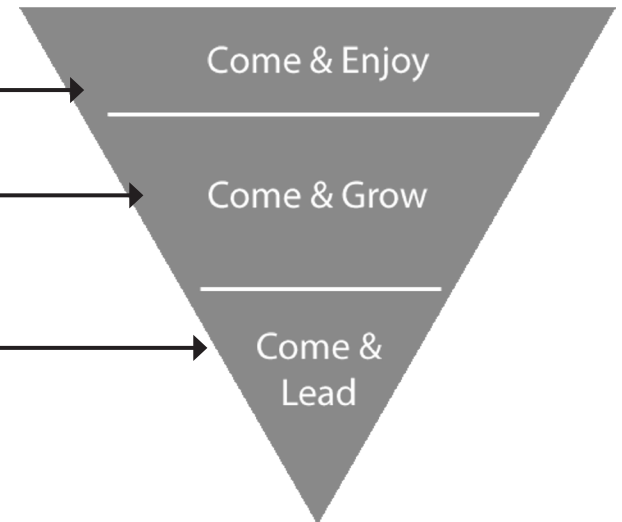
As a discipling youth ministry in a family context, we aim to:

Expose students to Jesus Christ,

Enable students to grow and mature in Jesus Christ, and

Equip students to serve Jesus Christ
so that they'll live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

(Ephesians 4:11-12, Matthew 28:18-19, Colossians 1:28-29)



MINISTRY EFFECTIVENESS

- **Built** on the truth of the Bible through prayer.
- **Developed** by a team of equipped disciples.
- **Communicated** through relationships.

We exist to glorify God by making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ to minister to the world with the Gospel by the Holy Spirit.

MINISTRY GOAL: DISCIPLESHIP

A LOVE FOR GOD

(Prayer, worship, fellowship with God, hunger for God's Word, attitude of humility and thankfulness)

A LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

(Communication, care, honesty, forgiveness, affirmation, fellowship, listening, selfless attitude, trustworthiness)

A LOVE FOR THE LOST

(Desire to share the Gospel, ability to share the Gospel, boldness to share the Gospel, acceptance of unbelievers, awareness of need)

Philosophy of Youth Ministry

Ministry Picture

We aim to...expose youth to Jesus Christ: Because there are many students without knowledge of who Christ is and what He's done, it is important to offer opportunities for exposure to the person of Jesus. Meetings are planned where youth group activities include a "focus time" led by a student or adult sharing what Christ has done, or what they've learned from personal study or experience. Fun is stressed so that relationship can be built and fellowship can occur.

We aim to...enable youth to grow and mature in Jesus Christ: Because some students are already in relationship with Christ, it is imperative to train them for growth and maturity. (Ephesians 4:11 ff). Bible studies and one-on-one discipleship help accomplish this in the lives of students. Sunday school classes fit into this level as would many ministry opportunities.

We aim to...equip youth to serve Jesus Christ: For students that are mature in Christ and show a willing heart for service, this area of exploration is appropriate. It is from this group of students that a leadership core can develop. Mission trips as well as on-going local ministries provide students with hands-on-ministry experience. Small group discipleship becomes vital as the process of spiritual growth and maturity continues.

Ministry Goal:

Discipleship and Impact: Following Jesus Christ is the desired goal for the hearts and lives of the young people. Philippians 2 summarizes the mature Christian life as one that reflects the life of Jesus Christ. Discipleship as a lifestyle can be identified by a deep passion for God, a real love for fellow believers and a sincere compassion for unbelievers. This love is seen by action (1 John 3:16-18)!

Ministry Effectiveness:

The goal of discipleship can only be realized in the context of a solid relational ministry. The relationship Jesus shared with his friends provides a clear life-example of what he calls each of us to be: disciple-makers (Matthew 28:19). Knowing where each student fits into the "exposing, enabling, equipping" model is also essential for its success. This is accomplished by a great deal of personal involvement in the lives of students. The effective youth ministry must be built on the truth of Scripture, empowered through prayer, developed by a team of equipped disciples and communicated to students through real relationships.



EFCA Statement of Faith
Adopted by the Conference on June 26, 2008

The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around these theological convictions:

God

1. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

The Bible

2. We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

The Human Condition

3. We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

Jesus Christ

4. We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

The Work of Christ

5. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

The Holy Spirit

6. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

The Church

7. We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Christian Living

8. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

Christ's Return

9. We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Response and Eternal Destiny

10. We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

YOUTH LEADER COVENANT

A youth leader will work alongside the Associate Pastor of Youth and Families and other youth leaders to carry out youth ministry by teaching the Word of God and developing in-depth, caring relationships with young people, and thereby communicating the love of Jesus Christ.

Youth Leader Responsibilities:

1. *Understand and agree with the Philosophy of Youth Ministry* as outlined in the FEFC Youth Ministry Mission Statement.
2. *Meet the following personal qualifications:*
 - Demonstrate a **personal commitment to Jesus Christ** as evidenced by spiritual maturity, Godly character and biblical lifestyle choices, both public and private.
 - Be willing to **turn in a "Background Check Authorization Form"** and develop relationships of accountability.
 - Fully **support the doctrinal statement, the general principles of ministry and the leadership of the FEFC** and regularly attend.
 - Commit to **humble servant leadership in Youth Ministry**. (Phil. 2:3-4)
 - Express a **genuine love and care for young people**.
 - Possess the **ability to be yourself and use your spiritual gifts and personality** among young people. They need to see the "real you".
 - Be determined to **learn and grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ**. (2Peter 1:3-9, 3:18)
3. *Serve in the following ministry areas:*
 - **Prayer** - For our young people, families and our fellow Youth Ministry Team members.
 - **Personal Growth** – Live out an honest and growing relationship with Jesus Christ with a willingness to develop your spiritual gifts for ministry. This includes personal and regular time spent in God's Word and in prayer.
 - **Relationship Building** – Develop an in-depth, honest and appropriate relationship with a select group of young people for the purpose of demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ.
 - **Consistency and Reliability** – Commitment to your ministry and monthly leader equipping meetings.
 - **Communication** – Honestly share frustrations, fears, plans, ideas, info, prayer requests, etc., knowing we are in this together as a team.

Your Commitment to youth through the youth ministry of First Evangelical Free Church:

- I've read and commit myself wholeheartedly to the three "**Youth Leader Responsibilities**".

YES NO

- I understand the importance of monthly **Youth Leader Meetings** and commit myself to attend all scheduled meetings or contact Pastor Kenny ahead of time

YES NO

- I am willing to commit approximately _____hours/month to Youth Ministry.

- I will focus my ministry attention on Middle School/High School (Circle one)

- My commitment will extend at least until _____. (month & year)

I, _____, commit my time, my skills, my spiritual gifts and my life to serving Jesus Christ as I minister within the context of the Youth Ministry Team of the First Evangelical Free Church of Maplewood, MN.

**FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
YOUTH/ CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEER
INFORMATION & BACKGROUND CHECK AUTHORIZATION FORM**

All information is to be completed by any individual wishing to be involved in children's or youth ministry at First Evangelical Free Church. It is our policy that we will perform a background check on all our volunteers that serve on a regular basis with children and youth. The information obtained from these checks will be used to help provide a safe and secure environment for all participants in our ministries. All information will be kept confidential and safely secured and shared only with the staff person in charge of the ministry in which you serve.

PERSONAL INFORMATION (please print)

Name _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone # _____ **(home)** _____ **(alternate)** _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ **Social Security #** ____-____-____

Drivers License # _____ **Expiration Date** _____

The information contained in this background check authorization form is correct to the best of my knowledge.

I certify that I have not engaged in, been charged with, and/or convicted of any behavior or crimes relating to sexual or physical abuse. I hereby authorize ChoicePoint Service, Inc., on behalf of The First Evangelical Free Church of St. Paul in Maplewood, MN to request the following reports in connection with my request to serve as a volunteer:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identity Verification | <input type="checkbox"/> County Courthouse Check |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Sex Offender Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Check |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Criminal File | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicle Check | |

I agree to be bound by the constitution, bylaws and policies of First Evangelical Free Church, and to refrain from unscriptural conduct in the performance of my service on behalf of the First Evangelical Free Church.

Signature _____ **Date Signed** _____

I ___ waive ___ don't waive (check one) any right that I may have to review the results of any background check requested above.

Signature _____ **Date Signed** _____



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Are you a member of The First Evangelical Free Church of Saint Paul? Yes No

If not, approximately how long have you attended First Free? _____

Please list other churches you have regularly attended within the past five years. (Name & Location)

Briefly describe when and how you became a disciple of Jesus Christ (testimony).

Please list any gifts, training, volunteer activities or other factors that may have prepared you for your ministry service.

Please describe the area(s) of ministry in which you would like to serve.

Please identify two persons that we may contact for a reference who regularly attend First Free and who are not related to you.

1. Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

2. Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____