



TARRYTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AUSTIN, TEXAS

Director of Student and Family Discipleship Job Posting

Updated: 10/01/19

Tarrytown United Methodist Church is a vibrant, established and growing church located in the Tarrytown neighborhood just west of downtown Austin with a membership of 2,500 and an average worship attendance of around 500.

Position Summary

Tarrytown United Methodist Church is seeking a Christ-centered, relationship-oriented, team building, innovative, fun-loving, collaborative, communicator/leader to be our Director of Student and Family Discipleship. The Director of Student and Family Discipleship will be primarily responsible for developing and overseeing a ministry that leads middle and high school students and their families to grow in their faith by shaping opportunities for worship, learning, and service. The Director will do this by reaching out and connecting middle and high school students and their families to a relationship with Christ and one another, creating welcoming and safe environments where all students can belong and grow as disciples, and working with the Lead Pastor, church staff, the Youth Committee, and other church leadership to fully incorporate students and their families into the life of the church and to lead the church to be responsive to the lives of students and their families. The Director will be a leader of leaders, skilled at identifying, recruiting, developing and deploying staff and volunteers, building ministry teams, facilitating the development of small groups both in the community and on our campus, crafting ongoing gatherings for students to worship together, developing opportunities for students to serve here, near, and far and shaping student leaders for the present and the future.

Experience: The ideal candidate will have at least three years of leadership team or staff experience in a medium to large membership church, demonstrated excellence in leading ministries with students and families, proven ability to build strong volunteer ministry teams, and sound formation in the theology and practice of the United Methodist Church. Confident speaking ability and experience crafting and leading modern worship services a plus.

Education: The ideal candidate will have at least a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. A graduate theological degree and/or professional certification is a plus.

Church Participation and Vocational Development: The Director of Student and Family Discipleship will become an active member of Tarrytown United Methodist Church. The Director will be committed to personal spiritual growth as well as vocational growth. As such,

the Director will participate in a small group, be attentive to a devotional life and prayer, and will develop vocationally through participation in continuing education.

Hours: This position is full-time with benefits. A commitment of at least 40 hours/week is expected, with responsibilities on Sunday mornings/evenings, some Friday nights and Saturdays, and some weeknights. Travel is required for trips, retreats, and camps as scheduled.

Responsible to: Lead Pastor and Staff Parish Relations Committee

Works closely with: Lead Pastor, Student Discipleship Team, Family Discipleship Team, and Youth Committee

Qualifying Attributes

- A strong love of God and people and an active, growing, and mature relationship with Jesus Christ; dedicated to the spiritual growth of self and others.
- Clearly articulated call to ministry with students and families.
- Close theological alignment with the belief and practices of the United Methodist Church and the unique culture of Tarrytown United Methodist Church.
- Self-starter with a proven record of effectiveness on a church or other staff.
- Friendly and energetic personality with a contagious love and care for students and their families.
- Demonstrated experience building strong ministry teams and developing volunteers.
- Healthy self-awareness and ability to maintain appropriate boundaries with students, volunteers, staff, and congregation.

Core Competencies

- **Skilled Communicator:** Demonstrates excellence in both public speaking and written communication.
- **Relationship Oriented:** Demonstrates skill in building relationships with students, families, volunteers, and members of the congregation.
- **Community Facing:** Demonstrates an ability to see, connect with, and engage students who do not have a church home in a life of faith; leads the church to be in relationship with our neighbors, making Jesus' presence tangible beyond our campus.
- **Team Builder:** Demonstrates the ability to sustain and scale ministry by creating systems for management and multiplication with an eye toward recruiting and developing the staff and volunteers to make the system successful. Works with key stakeholders to bring into existence ministries that do not yet exist. Possesses strong skills for articulating vision and executing strategy to bring vision into focus.
- **Collaborative:** Demonstrates the ability to work with the Lead Pastor, Church Staff, Youth Committee, Youth Council, parents, and other church leadership to establish vision, strategy, and goals; actively and intentionally works to prevent ministry silos.
- **Innovative:** Demonstrates the ability to "think outside the box" in designing ministries; envisions and enacts new approaches for reaching persons who do not yet have a relationship with Christ while engaging lifelong Christians; entrepreneurial in spirit, not being afraid to fail, but seeing all failures and successes as an opportunity to learn.

Additional Competencies

- Self-directed learner; aware of trends in youth culture, stays current on issues important to teenagers and their families, and keeps up with emerging and proven practices in youth ministry and discerns their best fit application in the church.
- Strong creative gifts and the ability to share gifts as part of a team.
- Demonstrated expertise in social media, including (but not limited to) Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Key Responsibilities:

Student Ministry

- Develop students as Christian leaders for the church and world.
- Create safe spaces for students to gather by maintaining personal Safe Gatherings certification, ensuring every volunteer is Safe Gatherings certified before deploying them into service, teaching and leading others to follow our Safe Gatherings policy, and certifying that the required adult to student ratios are followed at all times.
- Recruit, develop, deploy, and support volunteers to lead in all aspects of student ministry (including, but not limited to, small group leaders, Sunday School teachers, meal providers, singers and instrumentalists who lead worship for students, and trip volunteers).
- Work with the Pastoral Team to more fully incorporate students into the worship life of the congregation.
- Design and develop regular and ongoing worship opportunities for students, with special attention paid to new and emerging Christian music as well as traditional hymnody played in a modern way.
- Develop, staff, and oversee small groups in which students will grow in their knowledge of God's word in community with their peers.
- Develop regular opportunities for students to be in service here, near and far in collaboration with the Director of Global Mission and Community Impact.
- Oversee all aspects of our annual pumpkin patch.
- Develop and oversee channels for fundraising to ensure that finances are never a barrier to any student's participation.
- Plan annual mystery trips and mission trips.
- Provide care to students and their families, keeping Pastors up to date on needs within the congregation.
- Establish vision, strategy, and goals for Student Ministry in conversation with the Lead Pastor, ensuring that the vision is connected to and flows forth from the vision and mission of the church.
- Work with Student Ministries Team to develop and maintain an annual calendar and communicate all events well in advance to students and their families.
- Work with the Youth Committee to plan, evaluate, and gain support/sponsorship for ministries.
- Ensure every activity is designed to communicate hospitality and welcome to new and diverse people.
- Plan regular events for students to invite their friends.
- Cultivate a culture of outreach to new students.
- Cultivate relationships with parents through conversations and regular gatherings for information and support.

- Cultivate relationships with students by showing up occasionally at their sports and activities as well as connecting with as many students as possible during gatherings.
- Develop relationships with key stakeholders in the congregation and community.
- Assist in worship as requested.
- Teach short-term Bible Studies, speak at retreats and in worship, and facilitate Sunday School lessons as needed.

Family Discipleship Team

- Participate in visioning and strategic planning work with Lead Pastor and Family Ministries Team.
- Provide day-to-day support for Student Discipleship Staff.
- Steward a strategy that partners with parents to disciple their students in the faith.
- Work with other Family Discipleship staff to provide support to parents in navigating various life stages in the life of their child/ren.
- Assist in the leadership development of students, looking for opportunities to more fully incorporate young people into the ministries of the whole church and to lead the church to more fully shape its life with the needs and dreams of students in mind.

To Apply, please submit the following materials to sprc@tumc.church:

- Cover letter, which gives attention to the following elements:
 - Brief personal introduction to interview team,
 - Brief statement of faith and call to student ministry,
 - Brief statement of vision for student ministry,
 - Brief statement of fit for Tarrytown United Methodist Church.
- Resume
- Three References