



Position Description:

Youth Ministry Coordinator, Lake Forest Church – Davidson

- Do you love connecting relationally with all kinds of middle school and high school students – and investing lots of time in supporting adult leaders who feel the same way?
- Would you enjoy partnering with parents in the spiritual and character development of their kids?
- Do you take God seriously and yourself not-so-seriously?
- Can you confidently and successfully work with a church that includes people who are skeptical about faith, longtime believers...and everywhere in between?

An emphatic “Yes” to all four? If so, we’d like for you to keep reading and consider joining our team. Lake Forest Church is seeking a Youth Ministry Coordinator for its Davidson worship community – this person will love a growing group of imperfect people and help them discover and live out their role in God’s story.

Before we get to the real job description, here’s a little more about us:

Lake Forest Church is a vibrant family of churches, in total 1,800 - 2,000 people spread across three locations in the North Charlotte/Lake Norman, NC-area, specifically Huntersville, Davidson and Denver.

Started in 1998, LFC is a member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). The laser beam vision of LFC is reaching people who have ‘given up on church but not on God’ through a clear and engaging focus on Jesus, spiritual growth in small groups, and intentional deployment outward in mission.

Lake Forest Church – Davidson (LFC-D) began on August 21, 2011 thanks to the visionary leadership of Lake Forest Church and the sacrificial commitment of a 50-person Launch Team. While benefiting from the connections and resources of the family of Lake Forest Church, LFC-D is also cultivating its vibe as an authentic, simple church where Jesus Christ can change all kinds of Davidson-area people.

LFC-D worships on Sunday at Davidson Elementary School with an average attendance of 500, about 1/5 of those people being students from nearby Davidson College. Our people are all over the map spiritually - from those with totally secular upbringings to mature believers with 50+ years following Jesus. We are also in the third consecutive year of 15% attendance growth; this trend currently shows no signs of slowing down and is leading to equal parts excitement and growing pains.

Lake Forest lives by the mission and passions that God has given us (<http://lakeforest.org/our-story/mission-and-passions/>). We expect every staff member to be a 100% DNA match, meaning that she/he resonates deeply with our mission and passions.

About the Role:

Our Youth Ministry Coordinator (YMC) will have the opportunity to build upon the great work that his/her predecessor (Caleb White) and our Youth Ministry Team have done over the past 2 years. (LFC-D held off on having a formalized youth ministry until two years ago, when we determined that we had the staff and volunteer power to do it well.) Today we have approximately 55 middle schoolers and 35 high schoolers actively involved in one way or another, along with 8 leaders (4 focused on middle school and 4 focused on high school). Our middle schoolers and high schoolers are reminiscent of the movie *The Breakfast Club*, i.e. very different people who genuinely like each other. They are also, as a rule, eager to grow in their faith and help their friends do the same. At current, we have particularly strong participation in grades 6-9, and the YMC's greatest initial opportunity will be to build upon this strong foundation. (Translation: it is important to us that he/she really likes middle school ministry.)

We are looking for someone who prefers relationships to programs. We have worked hard to have a low-programmatic model of youth ministry, both because of the busy-ness of our families and so that there is plenty of room for relationships. Our current programmatic structure, which we want to keep generally intact, is:

- *Middle School – Pathfinders Bible Study (Sunday at 11am), Weekly Gathering (Sunday at 4pm)
- *High School – thePoint Bible Study (Wed at 7pm), Weekly Gathering (Sunday at 12:30pm)
- *Meal and Mission – Once a month mission opportunity for all students on Sunday at 4pm
- *Summer Activities – Weekly dinners and some fun special events
- *Summer Trips – One for MS, One for HS (currently in partnership with the other Lake Forests)

The YMC at LFC-D will have other Youth Ministry Coordinators (at Lake Forest–Huntersville and –Westlake) that she/he can confer with for mutual encouragement and idea sharing. At the same time, the YMC at LFC-D is primarily focused on what is best for shepherding and reaching

Davidson-area people. In other words, we have a de-centralized multi-site model, which we call a “family of churches.” As noted above, all Lake Forests currently go on summer trips together, and this decision is reviewed annually. LFC-D’s YMC, in conversation with LFC-D Pastors, will keep evaluating if this setup works best for shepherding and reaching Davidson-area youth.

Lastly, Young Life is especially strong in our Lake Norman region, and many Young Life leaders and staff actively participate at LFC-D. The YMC has a great opportunity to sync with Young Life staff (primarily Ben McDaniel) to see how our church can actively support the spiritual growth of youth that Young Life reaches with the good news of Jesus. Thus we seek a YMC who is non-territorial when it comes to kingdom work, someone who is willing to work alongside other Christians in making more and better disciples of Jesus.

If you prefer bullet points, **we are looking for a Youth Ministry Coordinator who:**

- (1) Recruits/Trains/Supports leaders:** We do not expect our YMC to do everything and be everywhere, but we do expect him/her to find and train and pour into the college-aged and adult leaders who are committed to loving and leading our youth. Through a strong team of leaders, our youth ministry will keep engaging an appropriate level of youth (10-20% of adult attendance) in our community.
- (2) Invests relationally in middle/high school students:** In other words, don’t be in the office all day. We are excited for our YMC to spend time directly with students – all kinds of students, not just the ones she/he “clicks with” – helping them grow closer to Christ while doing life together
- (3) Respects – and is respected by – parents:** Our church aims to partner with parents in the spiritual and character development of their kids. Thus, our YMC needs to be someone who sees parents as colleagues and not competition. He/She should have a track record of relating well to adults, keeping parents in the loop, and being willing to listen to their ideas (some of which are admittedly dumb).
- (4) Organizes programmatic parts of ministry:** It might be better to say “makes sure the programmatic parts of ministry are organized,” which implies the buck stops at our YMC, but she/he can solicit help from leaders and parents to make sure there is adequate structure around programmatic elements. We do not think “relationally-driven” has to equate to “completely disorganized.”

Reporting Relationships:

This person will report to the LFC-D Community Pastor Dr. Bud Brainerd. Additionally, the YMC will work closely with a number of LFC-D staff members to whom he/she has no direct reporting line. A collegial spirit is a necessity on our growing staff team!

Hours/Compensation:

This staff position is designed to be a full-time position, which would qualify for certain benefits in addition to salary. For the right candidate(s), though, we would be willing to split the position into two part-time positions, with one focusing on middle school and the other on high school.

Requirements:

- Growing faith in Jesus Christ
- Record of working well on a team
- History of being a self-starter who shepherds people well
- Eagerness to work with youth, leaders, and parents
- *Added Benefit: Previous exposure to LFC, and LFC-D specifically*
- *Added Benefit: Track record of working well with Young Life*