



CHRIST
COMMUNITY
CHURCH

INTRO TO YOUTH MINISTRY



Thank you for your interest in working with young people at Christ Community Church.

Please read through the following information and complete the following forms to enable and equip you to serve our church family.

At Christ Community we live to enjoy and declare the wonders of God's grace in Christ for the good of Brisbane, Australia and the World.

WE BELIEVE...

- ▶ That there is one God who exists eternally in three Persons — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one in power and glory.
- ▶ That the Bible is the written Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and without error in the original manuscripts. The Bible is our infallible and divine authority in all matters of faith and life.
- ▶ That Jesus Christ, as the eternal Son of God, became man, lived, died and rose again to pay sin's penalty for all who trust in Him alone for their salvation. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and mankind.
- ▶ That all people are sinners and are unable to save themselves or even cooperate with God in an effort to earn their salvation.
- ▶ That salvation is by God alone, who saves people by drawing them to Jesus by His Holy Spirit. He convinces them of their sin so that they abandon their present way of life and trust in Jesus Christ as their only hope.
- ▶ That the Holy Spirit gives Christians the daily strength and wisdom they need to joyfully walk according to His will.
- ▶ That Jesus Christ will return personally, visibly, and bodily to judge all mankind and to receive those who've trusted in Him.

The purpose of Youth Ministry¹ at CCC is to **partner** with parents to **share the Gospel** with their children and **grow Young Disciples** who **honour God** in all of their lives, **serve** as part of their church **community** and **reach out** to others.

Therefore, our core values are:

- ▶ **Partnering** with parents (and the wider church community) to shepherd the hearts of their children (Psalm 145:4, Ephesians 6:1-4).
- ▶ **Sharing the Gospel** (the good news about Jesus' death and resurrection) and all of God's Word, the Bible, for everything we need for life and godliness (Romans 1:16-17, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:3).
- ▶ **Growing** Young Disciples, in the context of life-on-life relationships between leaders and young people, establishing and equipping them for a lifetime following Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)
- ▶ **Honouring God** in all of life, joyfully following Jesus and practically depending on the Father in prayer (Colossians 3:17, Matthew 16:24-25, John 16:23)
- ▶ Authentic Christian **Community** (both as a peer group and the wider church) (Acts 2:42-47)
- ▶ **Serving** others in ministry as part of their church community (John 13:35, 1 Peter 2:5, 9-10)
- ▶ **Reaching out** to those God has already placed in our lives as we seek Christ's kingdom (1 Peter 3:15-16, Matthew 6:33)

In essence, our focus is discipleship i.e. investing intentionally in the lives of our church children that they may, in turn, make disciples. We seek to "build up as we reach out". We will endeavour to establish and equip Young Disciples to reach their friends and help them create opportunities for their friends to hear and respond to the Gospel.

Our hope and desire would be to see young people move through the following pathway of connection, growth and development:

1. Engaged in relationship and Christian community.

¹ 12-17 year olds (ie. Year 7-12 according to our education system)

2. Evangelised: presented with clear and relevant explanation of the Gospel and called to respond and follow Jesus.
3. Established in Spiritual Disciplines and encouraged to explore questions and doubts.
4. Equipped to enjoy, share and defend their faith in Christ and trained to lead others (entrusted with responsibility to match their maturity).
5. Exported: Challenged to live boldly for Christ as young adults serving in His church and mission.

We will structure our gatherings and curriculum to keep revisiting each of these steps so that Young Disciples can grow in their faith, share Christ with their friends and pass on what they have learnt to others.

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

We encourage Young Disciples and their friends to worship with their families at our intergenerational Sunday Church Services. These, and any related training and activities, will be regarded as the main 'church family' gatherings each week. Aside from the occasional activity or event, Youth-specific meetings will ideally be programmed before or after Sunday services. Furthermore, we encourage Young Disciples to take opportunities to participate and serve wholeheartedly in activities relating to Sunday Church Services as opportunity arises.

YOUNG DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Whatever the size and range of programs and activities for young people at CCC, the primary focus of our Youth Ministry at CCC is Young Discipleship Groups. These are gender-specific, small groups of three to six students meeting with a pair of adult leaders. The time and location of these groups may vary but they will meet regularly (at least once a week) for formal and informal times of intentional relationship-building, investment, service and mission together. Formal meetings will include time to connect and share, study the Bible and pray together.

CONNECT GROUPS

Wherever possible, we encourage our young people to initiate and organise additional social activities and events to facilitate connection across gender and year levels and to include their non-Christian friends. Youth Leaders will also organise activities or events to give opportunity for CCC Young Disciples to meet together for encouragement and also to engage their non-Christian friends.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

We may also take advantage of events and camps organised by other churches and parachurch organisations for outreach, fellowship and leadership development.

ROLE & EXPECTATIONS OF YOUTH LEADERS

Youth Ministry provides a fantastic context for developing people as leaders and, more generally, mature and equipped disciples. We will seek to engage enthusiastic, faithful, servant-hearted followers of Christ and develop them in their conviction, character and competence (skills and ability) as they lead our young people.

We will also seek to develop senior Young Disciples through an Assistant Leadership Mentoring Program. Selected year 11 and 12 students will be partnered with an experienced Leader, trained and given increasing leadership responsibility in their Young Discipleship Group and wider Youth Ministry activities.

Youth Leaders are generally expected to:

- ▶ Be responsible, trustworthy and committed to following Christ and growing in godliness (1 Timothy 3:1-7 & 1 Peter 5:1-5)
- ▶ Share leadership of three to six Young Disciples, sharing life and faith as they meet regularly together to make and grow followers of Jesus (1 Thessalonians 2:8-9).

- ▶ Attend any Leaders' meetings or training, Youth activities and camps and Church commissioning service wherever possible.
- ▶ Youth Leaders will also be engaged in a small group or discipleship relationship, as their situation allows, for personal growth, development and accountability.

Our policy for all volunteers working with children at Christ Community Church is that they are followers of Jesus who have been attending the church for at least 6 months and who hold Blue Cards issued by the [Queensland Government](#).

To serve in children's ministry at Christ Community. Please read the following information and complete the following forms:

- CCC Children's Ministry application form: <https://goo.gl/iG8upa>

GUIDELINES FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN

At Christ Community, we value the safety of our children and want to do all that we can to protect them. As such, we have developed the [following guidelines](#). All children's ministry workers are asked to familiarise themselves with these guidelines.

RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

To provide a safe and accountable environment for the children we care for:

- ▶ Ministry Coordinators will be members of Christ Community Church and be well-known by the Pastor and/or Elders.
- ▶ Youth Leaders will be members of Christ Community Church and be well-known by the Pastors and/or Elders.

- ▶ All volunteers MUST hold a current Blue Card BEFORE they commence serving.
- ▶ Volunteers may be asked to authorize Christ Community Church to be notified of any changes to their Blue Card status.
- ▶ All volunteers MUST notify the Ministry Coordinator of any change to their Blue Card status (expired, withdrawn, etc).

INTERACTION GUIDELINES

- ▶ All children must be signed in AND out by their parents/guardians. Leaders must NOT allow the children to leave by themselves, with a sibling, or with another adult.
- ▶ Parents or guardians shall be asked to provide relevant contact, dietary and medical details as appropriate for the activity to ensure their child can participate.
- ▶ Two Leaders will always be present when working with or supervising Children.
- ▶ If leaving the designated place of the activity (e.g. to take a child to the toilet), the 'three person rule' must always be followed (2 adults and 1 child, or 1 adult and 2 children).
- ▶ When transporting children, Leaders should not be alone with a child in a car.

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT AND DISCIPLINE

- ▶ It is not the responsibility of the Church or its Leaders to discipline a Child.
- ▶ If a Child does not abide by the rules set down by the Leader, or is an obstruction to the care of other Children or may cause harm to other Children, the Child will be removed from the activity and their parent or guardian contacted.
- ▶ At no time will a Leader administer any form of physical, emotional or mental discipline.

- ▶ Prevention is the key to many discipline issues. If you are present and interacting closely with the children, the issues should be minimal.
- ▶ Separate a child who is unkind/disruptive to others. Instruct him/her to sit out of the activity for a time and then attempt to reintroduce them to the activity.
- ▶ After several times of consistent, defiant disobedience, the leader should call the child's parent or guardian and request they collect them as soon as possible. Give extra grace to first-time visitors.

Fire Safety and Hazards

- ▶ In the event of fire or other emergency, the leaders will take the children out through the closest exit into the ST IGNATIUS car park on the Grove St side of the building
- ▶ The Youth Ministry Coordinator or leaders will conduct risk assessments and prepare safety management plans for activities as appropriate.
- ▶ Any hazards or unsafe conditions/equipment are to be reported directly to the Pastor.
- ▶ Youth Ministry is a drug, alcohol and energy drink-free zone – natural highs only! These and any other inappropriate items (including those considered dangerous or distracting by leaders) will be confiscated from the child and handed back to the parent or guardian at the conclusion of the event.

First Aid

- ▶ A First Aid kit is located in the storage area at the back of the School Hall next to the art room. A First Aid kit will also be brought to all off-site Youth Ministry activities.
- ▶ Medicine must not be given to children without the consent of their parents.
- ▶ An Incident Report Form must be completed for any incident causing injury to a person. That person (or their parent/guardian) should complete the form and hand it to the Pastor.

Dealing with Disclosures of Abuse

A child or young person may disclose to a Leader that harm has occurred to them or another person, within or outside of Church activities. Should a Leader suspect harm or be told of an allegation of abuse or harm, he/she is to:

- ▶ Treat the allegation seriously, assuring the child that they are understood and are correct in disclosing the incident.
- ▶ Listen carefully; don't promise to not tell anyone.
- ▶ Ask non-leading questions such as "Tell me what happened", "What happened then?" to confirm the need for authorities to investigate the matter.
- ▶ Pass the details disclosed to the appointed independent person without delay. They will investigate the matter further.
- ▶ Notify the Pastor or Elder of the allegation.
- ▶ Complete a "Complaints and Sexual Misconduct Form" as soon as possible.
- ▶ Don't push the child to disclose further details or investigate the matter further yourself.
- ▶ Don't make contact with the alleged offender.
- ▶ Maintain confidentiality

If there are reasonable grounds to suspect a child has been or is suffering Abuse, the Police and the Church's Insurer will be contacted immediately.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Police	(07) 3364 6464
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Church Insurer (Ansvar)	1300 650 540
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If you have any questions regarding these guidelines or Children's Ministries, please don't hesitate to contact the Youth Ministry Coordinator, the Pastor or read the full guidelines here <https://goo.gl/w9meKk> and <https://goo.gl/jdVhy8>.

COMMUNICATION (WITH PARENTS)

It is crucial that parents and their children are kept informed about meeting times, event details and teaching content. The Youth Ministry Coordinator or Youth Discipleship Group Leaders (as appropriate) will email parents and young people at the start of each term with information regarding curriculum, regular meeting times and other important dates. Young Discipleship Group Leaders will also send a weekly text to parents and young people to confirm their meeting details. Young Discipleship Group Leaders are also encouraged to maintain healthy relationships with parents and make the effort to touch base with them (personally or over the phone) at least once a month to discuss their child's progress.