

Director of Youth Ministries

First United Methodist Church, a large-membership, downtown congregation of “Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors” in Cookeville, TN, a vibrant college town of 32,000, is seeking a Director of Youth Ministries to lead a comprehensive ministry of youth.

Position Summary:

The Director of Youth Ministries leads the youth to love God and one another in Christian community, empowering them to grow as disciples, and equipping them to live their faith boldly in the world.

Primary Qualifications:

- Sense of calling to youth ministry and the ability to work with youth.
- Ability to relate to and lead youth from different backgrounds and personalities in fellowship with each other, the community, and Christ.
- Excellent verbal and written communication, time management and budget management skills.
- Ability to plan, organize, lead, and guide regularly scheduled and spontaneous activities related to youth ministry.
- Competence in basic lay counseling and listening skills appropriate for youth.
- Willingness to work cooperatively with others, to maintain a positive outlook and disposition, and to be flexible in solving problems.
- Understanding of and commitment to United Methodist theology and practices.
- Weekly attendance at worship is expected.
- Bachelor’s Degree in a related field and 5-year experience in youth ministry is preferred.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Plan, conduct, coordinate, evaluate, select, and provide resources for the youth, including Sunday School, UMYF, Wednesday Night Worship, retreats, and other youth events.
- Supervise the part-time youth administrative assistant.
- Develop relationships and maintain regular communication with parents and youth.
- Coordinate all aspects of the 7th-12th grade youth group, ensuring there is opportunity to develop fellowship, spiritual formation, discipleship, and the experience of Christian community.
- Support and guide the work of the youth council in an annual process of evaluating the vision and goals of the youth ministry and directing monthly planning sessions.
- Secure all necessary funds, travel arrangements, leadership and adult chaperones, and provide Christian teaching, time for worship, prayer and scripture study for youth trips.
- Recruit and assist volunteer youth workers to develop mentoring relationships with youth and provide training for them aimed at leadership and faith development.
- Be an advocate for youth and educate the congregation about the hopes, concerns, and needs of youth in the local church and the community.
- Work cooperatively with the staff of FUMC, including the Director of Children and Families, the Associate Pastor and the Director of Music Ministries.
- Communicate all calendar information to the Membership Secretary, i.e. event dates, facility needs, van reservations, and event information to the Web Master for web publication.
- Attend regularly and specially called staff meetings, church council meetings, charge conferences and other meetings as requested.
- Prepare, submit, and administer a youth budget in consultation with the youth council.
- Conduct the ministry of youth in compliance with the FUMC Safe Sanctuaries policy.
- Other responsibilities as negotiated.

Salary is negotiable. FUMC also provides a stipend of \$2,200 to help purchase health insurance. To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to office@cookevillefumc.org. Eventually, if discussions become serious, FUMC will need references and a background check.