



Children's Ministry Handbook
August 2017

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

The Children's Ministry of CCoF seeks to STRENGTHEN a child's relationship with God, DEVELOP Christlikeness in our relationships with kids, and to REACH kids in Northern Arizona with the message of Jesus Christ.

Our Core Values are to see children living lives filled with:

- WORSHIP
- FELLOWSHIP
- DISCIPLESHIP
- MINISTRY
- MISSION
- STEWARDSHIP

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADERSHIP STANDARDS

1. Growing in Personal Intimacy with God

A leader must be consistent and possess a desire to grow in his/her time spent in the Word. A leader must pray persistently while depending on and trusting in God for all things. Only through time spent in the Word and prayer can we maintain an attitude that is in alignment with God and leading young people in their walk with God.

(Jos. 1:8; II Tim. 2:15, 3:16-17; Jn. 14:21; Ps. 119:9; Phil. 4:6-7; I Thes. 5:17)

2. Living Above Reproach

A leader must be a role model, not merely a friend to those they lead. *Staff members must demonstrate a willingness to stop any activity that may cause their brother or sister to doubt their maturity or cause them to sin or stumble.* Life's choices are not always black and white, sometimes they are gray (i.e. alcohol, music, or movies). Live in the white part. It only takes one questionable choice to ruin a reputation. For this reason, **male staff are never alone with a girl and female staff are never alone with a boy.**

As leaders, we need to live such lives that we take away the opportunity for others to speculate on our character.

(I Cor. 6:19; I Tim. 1:5-6, 3:1-9, 4:12; Rom. 14:21; Titus 2:7-8; Rev. 3:15-16)

3. The Sacrificial Heart of a Servant

The heart of a servant is empty of self, not seeking glory or recognition, but considering others more important than themselves. A servant is willing to do the difficult, unpleasant, unrecognized things. We ask our volunteers to be willing to serve at least two holiday weekends per year.

(Jn. 13:1-20; Phil. 2:3-4)

4. Personal Purity

God calls us to be vessels pure and clean. Our culture today through various forms of media produces many unhealthy ideals; our staff needs to be healthy. We require our staff, if they date, to date followers of Christ.

(II Tim. 2:20-23; Matt. 6:22; Ps. 24:3-4; Eph. 5:3; I Pet. 2:11)

5. Teachability – Willingness to be Trained

Leaders must be life-long learners. This includes the willingness to continue in learning the Word as well as a desire to learn how to become a better leader, servant, mentor and teacher. We also put a high value on learning through reading; as reading is essential to spiritual growth.

(II Tim. 2:2)

6. Reliability, Availability, Flexibility

A leader must be faithful, dependable, and consistent in service. Inconsistency will tarnish even the greatest qualities of a leader. It is also important to be available and willing at inconvenient times.

(Lk. 16:10-11)

7. Commitment to our Leadership Team and Each Other

Open communication, honesty, submission to spiritual authority, respect and honor, are keys to longevity and effective long term ministry. In addition, we want our staff, if not a member, to strive toward membership at CCoF.

(Jn. 13:34-35; Eph. 4:2-3; Rom. 12:10)

EXPECATIONS FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

**A leader is a model of what it is like to be a
Christian in the real world.**

1. Be consistent in serving at your agreed upon serving shift.
 - If you are going to be out of town or unable to teach your class, please let us know as far in advance as possible.
 - Lorrie Yoakum 623-979-9673
 - Lindsey Shelp 928-607-6437
 - Please arrive 15 minutes early to your classroom.
2. Attend all Children's Ministry leader trainings and meetings.
3. While you are attending Children's Ministry events:
 - Be involved in the games, worship and the lesson. Please don't sit or stand in the back.
 - Focus on spending time with the kids rather than your fellow leaders.
 - Get to know new kids.
4. If you lead a Small Group:
 - Get to know the children in your small group.
 - Know their first name AND their last name.
 - Know what grade they are in and where they go to school.
 - Get to know their parents and understand their family situation.
 - If a child is absent, contact them!
 - Pray for your kids daily.
 - Watch your weekly lesson video
 - Write them "You're Amazing" cards
 - Take off name tags at pickup. This is a safety procedure!
5. Keep the Children's Ministry Pastor(s) informed about significant issues going on with your kids.
 - Hospitalizations/surgeries/major illnesses
 - Family problems
 - Emotional issues (eating disorders, suicide, depression, counseling, etc.)
 - Abuse situations

6. Please be sensitive when working with children, especially if they are of the opposite gender.
 - Do not be alone with a child in a closed room.
 - Do not verbally or physically degrade, humiliate, or emotionally hurt children in any way.
 - Do not physically touch a child in anger or discipline.
 - When possible, be aware of a child's background, personality and personal history when it comes to touching and hugging.

We reserve the right to remove a Children's Ministry volunteer immediately due to the severity of the infraction. Examples: use of illegal drugs, inappropriate relationships with children, inappropriate relationships between leaders, etc.

HISTORY OF CHRIST'S CHURCH OF FLAGSTAFF

In 1979, God called Pastor Jim Dorman to the ministry - he attended Manhattan Christian College where he received his Bachelors in Bible Ministry. He has since received a Master's in Congregational Leadership from Hope International University. In 1984, while serving as a youth counselor at a summer camp in Prescott, he felt God was calling him to begin a new work in Flagstaff. He returned to Phoenix, where he served on the ministry staff of Christ's Church of the Valley, shared his thoughts with his wife and Don Wilson (pastor of Christ's Church of the Valley), and within a few weeks he was checking out the possibility in Flagstaff.

Working with a family he had met at camp, Jim and Vicki Higham, Jim met with other families in Flagstaff and shared the vision God had placed upon his heart. One family became two, two became four, and before long there was enough interest in Flagstaff to begin this new work.

On November 4, 1984, Christ's Church of Flagstaff was born. We started with a family of about 20 people in a storefront office/church on Milton Rd. By 1987 we had so many families that we couldn't fit in the Milton storefront and so we moved to the Knoles Elementary School Gym for services. The staff expanded and so we moved our offices to a Fourth Street location.

In 1991 we merged with First Christian Church and moved into their facility on Cedar Ave. Things got tight in that building and we knew we would need to find a bigger place for our family to live. We asked our people to help us finance the purchase of a permanent facility. They were faithful and we purchased the land on Soliere Ave. Having purchased the Soliere property prior to the merger, CCoF dedicated the land to God's purposes in 1993 and continued forward with plans for Phase I of our current facility.

In June of 1995 Phase I was complete! But in less than 5 months our new building was full. This was something that we had not anticipated happening as quickly as it did. Busting at the seams, we moved forward with the next phase of our facility. With the full support of our congregation we were able to begin construction on and complete Phase II of our building, which is where we are currently meeting.

In 2003 we went to our congregation with a model of the final Master Plan for this property (Phase III) and they committed \$1.2M to this project. However, God had other plans. Just before we began construction on the planned Phase III, our neighboring church, Canyon Chapel approached us with an offer to sell us their building. This was an answer to prayer. The twelve adjoining acres will allow us to expand this ministry to its maximum physical capacity.

God has continued to bless this ministry and we are now meeting in the second phase of our master plan. We pray we will continue to understand His will for our ministry and continue to partner with Him in reaching our Flagstaff community for Christ.

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF FLAGSTAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Christ's Church of Flagstaff
3475 E. Soliere Ave.
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

928-522-0462
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www.ccof.church

PASTORAL STAFF AND INTERNS

Chris Reed- Senior Pastor
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Steve Elowson- Worship Pastor
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Garrett Shelp- Young Adult Pastor
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Lorrie Yoakum, Lindsey Shelp, Chad Cramer- Children's Ministry Directors
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Dominic Puccio- Youth Intern
dom@ccof.church

Amy Rosi- Children and Youth Administrative Assistant
amy@ccof.church

DOCTRINAL GUIDELINES

At Christ's Church of Flagstaff we seek a unity of understanding in the essentials of our faith, yet we do not suggest that we must agree on all things pertaining to our individual walk with Christ. On many issues we have the freedom to disagree. In the essentials of our faith we must have unity, in non-essential beliefs we practice liberty and in all things we desire to show charity and love. Unity in the body of Christ (the church) depends on harmony and mutual trust in the leadership and complete adherence to these guidelines.

1. We believe that God is the Creator and Sustainer of our world and Father and Lord of our lives.
2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the one and only living Son of God and our Savior and Lord. Through Him, God opened the way of abundant and eternal life to all who would call on Christ's name, through Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.
3. We believe that the Holy Spirit is God Himself, encouraging, guiding and transforming us according to the desires of our Lord Jesus Christ.
4. We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. It is the authoritative rule of faith and practice for the members of Christ's Church of Flagstaff.
5. We believe that all persons of all races have been created in the image of God and stand in need of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. The church exists to serve the world—we want to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, offer hospitality to the stranger, clothe the naked, minister to the sick, and visit the imprisoned as Jesus has instructed.

Christ's Church of Flagstaff is affiliated with the [Christian Churches of America](#). This brotherhood comprises nearly 6,000 churches throughout America and up to 2,000 churches internationally. It is a movement which began on the western frontier of Pennsylvania in 1835 and has become the largest indigenous Christian movement in American history.

Christian churches are committed to establishing local congregations, which are overseen by local leadership, and are committed to adhering to the principles revealed in the New Testament. The [NACC](#), our national convention, is committed to providing times of national worship, preaching, teaching, and equipping God's people to be more effective in ministry, but is not empowered to establish local doctrine or policy. We are committed to remaining a member of the Christian Churches of North America and it is an essential element of our charter and by-laws.

In our local congregation, nearly 30 different Christian backgrounds have come together and are serving Christ in perfect Christian love and harmony.