



February 24, 2017

Dear Redeemer Youth Parents (and Upcoming Summer 2017 Youth Parents),

It has been my pleasure and joy to oversee the development and implementation of our church's youth ministry these past four years. Each year we have grown and developed in leaps and bounds and 2017 is on a trajectory to do the same. Come June our student population will be over 30 students (that is only counting church members, not their friends or visitors) and I want to take a minute to let you know how we are intentionally planning to care for your family, your students, and to be a place where your sons and daughters can invite their friends.

Our three main goals for 2017 & 2018 are the following:

- 1 – Student Mentorship
- 2 - Pastoral Support for Parents
- 3 – Ongoing Ministry Development

As with the whole of Redeemer, we want a hallmark of our youth ministry to be student mentorship. We will be increasing our youth staff and volunteers and training them to intentionally mentor your students. For students to grow in their faith, it is important to not only have peers and parents who are Christians, but also have young adults who can be role models for them to look up to and be cared by.

All studies on youth ministry and student formation show us that peer relationships and mentoring relationships are highly important, but that the most formative relationships are those of the student to his or her parents. Thus, over the next two years (and ongoing) I am personally going to allocate more of my time to pastorally supporting you as parents as you discern how to disciple your sons and daughters.

Our student numbers are increasing and our ministry is in need to continue to formally develop for our own sake, and to be an inviting place for our students to bring their friends. In the fall of 2016 you saw the beginnings of this with the separation of Jr. High and High School mid-week gatherings. As summer approaches, you will see more intentional focus be placed on each age group, an increase of staff and volunteers to help widen our bandwidth, and continued efforts to develop our calendar and curriculum for this ministry.

As mentioned in our Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, the Session has wisely decided to delay the hiring of a full-time Youth Director until we can guarantee his salary for years to come. However, the Session still would like to heavily invest in our youth ministry so it can continue to grow and develop at its current rapid rate. Thus, instead of one full-time staff hire, we will have two part-time staff for youth ministry. Josh Cooper has agreed to stay on staff and increase his hours as the Pastoral Assistant for Youth Ministry for the next year. We are also going to hire a woman as a Discipleship Coordinator whose main focus will be on mentoring our Jr. High and High School girls, while also assisting me in the administrative work of the youth ministry. Both of these staff positions, along with new volunteers, will radically help move this ministry forward and assist us in achieving our goals.

Please be praying for youth ministry and exciting upcoming changes in the year to come! If you have any questions, please let me know. I would be happy to speak to you and/or share a meal so we can work together in caring for our youth students and their friends.

Cheers,

Pastor Adam Feichtmann