

Westwood Church in Saint Cloud, Minnesota is seeking a Student Ministries Pastor to help provide lead a vital ministry the next generation (and to our church) under the direction of our board of Elders.

OVERVIEW

Pre-pandemic, Westwood is a congregation of about 1200 who call our church home with over 700 in attendance each week. Westwood has a solid reputation in our community and is a welcoming place to worship. We're still imaging what life will ultimately look like post-pandemic.

We understand the landscape of ministry is changing, and we embrace that ministry needs to look different than it did even a decade ago...maybe even a year ago. We are committed to 3 core values that inform our ministry efforts: 1) We believe authentic, **transformational relationships** hold the greatest opportunity for spiritual growth and encouragement—essentially, discipleship. 2) We believe God has designed each person with purpose and **empowering** that giftedness for the good of others and ultimately God's glory is vital. 3) We believe **engaging** in the things that matter to God in our spheres of influence changes lives, communities, and the world.

In addition to those core values, we believe decentralizing our church, demonstrating shared leadership, and prioritizing engagement throughout our community really matters. Decentralizing our church means Gospel impact happens when we don't occupy our building, and we desire to equip our people in a way that challenges all of us to influence the places God has us for His glory. Shared leadership means we don't simply follow a top down model of leadership; rather, we together shape and own the things God is calling us to under the direction of our board of Elders. We highly value open and honest dialogue and collaboration. Prioritizing engagement means our community, within our church family, and locally should experience the love of God through our presence through serving, a kind word, a neighborhood gathering, and other intentional efforts. We don't exist to fix people, we exist to show love and compassion as God's Spirit does a work we cannot. How we talk about spiritual things is as important as the truths we hope to communicate. While we've experienced some bumps over the last couple years as we've committed to these values, we have a strong staff and board moving together toward a bright future.

Saint Cloud and the surrounding area hosts a population of 80,000 +/- and has growing multi-ethnic population, largely because of an influx of Somalia refugees. We are located just over an hour outside Minneapolis, MN. Westwood is one of the larger churches in the Saint Cloud area and it's fair to say we're growing in our ability to connect with our community. Historically we have sometimes been slow to adapt but prayerfully that is changing. We understand our leadership needs to diversify and better reflect the richness of our community. Our Mission Statement is, "We're unlikely people pursuing an uncommon good."

Westwood's staff consists of 6 full-time staff (Community Pastor, Family Ministry Pastor, Executive Pastor, Worship Pastor, Children's Director, and Connection Pastor) as well as several part-time staff.

Financially, Westwood's annual budget is just under \$1 million, and our church is debt free.

OPPORTUNITY

The right Student Ministries Pastor will effectively equip leaders in significant ways and be a conduit of connecting families to each other without losing sight of providing creative, sound, and inspiring ministry/programming to students grades 5 to 12 in line with our values. We don't want to be passive; rather, we hope

to be compelled by God's Spirit to make a difference in the lives of those who call Westwood home and the amazing and diverse community we live in.

FUNCTION

The Student Ministries Pastor will:

- Serve as a member of the Family Ministry team to provide excellent ministry to the students and families entrusted to us under the leadership of the Family Ministry Pastor.
- Recruit, train, coach, remind, and encourage an inspired team of volunteers in all aspects of ministry to students. Investing and equipping leaders to flourish is central to the role.
- Help our ministry to families and students keep advancing, adapting, and improving not only during Sunday mornings and Midweek opportunities, but also throughout the year through strategic opportunities (e.g., missions, outreach events, retreats, etc).
- Shape environments that engage students as well as providing accessible resources to empower parents via technology, instruction, coaching, and encouraging.
- Present engaging, gospel-centered teaching that inspires, instructs, and creatively compels our students and families in ways that reflect our values and priorities.
- Help foster, defend, and encourage a healthy leadership culture which ultimately leads to a healthy church culture...we fight against silos.
- Promote a team/collaboration value among our leadership (paid and unpaid).
- Value respectful, open feedback, honesty, and interactions that build trust, camaraderie, and growth as fellow leaders.
- Help oversee current PT Middle School role and any future Student Ministry hires.

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