

The following is the calendar of training events for the year along with the objectives and agendas of each meeting. If you want additional training or information on any topic, contact Maria Drews at 608-123-4567 ext. 89.

July

Last weekend of the month- Retreat at the Smith's cabin

We will leave from First Church on Friday at 6pm and return Sunday at 3pm

Objectives:

- To review the past year and make revisions so the ministry can more effectively fulfill its mission
- To re-cast the vision and mission to the volunteer team so everyone leaves clearly understand how every aspect of the ministry works towards accomplishing the mission and vision
- To build community among the volunteer team

Topics/Agenda:

- Spend time in discussion sessions doing the following:
 - Review the last year of ministry
 - Evaluate how we accomplished our overall mission and vision
 - Go through each aspect of our ministry, evaluate it, and brainstorm revisions
 - Make decisions as a community of how the ministry will change for the next year
 - Discuss weaknesses and gaps in our ministry, create plans to fix them, and commit, as a community, to do so
- Spend time in community
 - Share the highlights and lowlights of last year of ministry
 - New volunteers share their interests and passions in serving
 - Bonfire party Saturday night
 - Free time throughout the weekend
- Spend Sunday morning in worship and prayer together

Resources:

- The Journey Ministries mission, vision, values, and goals printed for every volunteer

August

Second Saturday of the month from 9am to 1pm at First Church

Objectives:

- To train leaders for their ministry positions throughout the next year so they leave the training feeling prepared and know where to find help if needed
- To review policies of volunteer leaders so they are clearly understood by all volunteer leaders

Topics/Agenda:

- Review the rules of the ministry and what to do in difficult situations
 - What does an appropriate relationship with students look like?

- Warning signs: when are you crossing the line?
- What do you do when you suspect abuse, self-mutilation, or suicidal thoughts?
- Break into small groups depending on volunteer jobs- the following topics will be taught by church leaders and veteran leaders within the youth ministry:
 - How to talk to youth
 - Leading small groups
 - Event Planning
 - Tutoring

Resources:

- “Would You Rather” by Doug Fields
- “Tough Topics” by Jim Aitkins
- “Tough Stuff” by Wendy Coy
- “Help! I’m a Small Group Leader” Laurie Polich
- “Leaders are Learners” CD training by Simply Youth Ministry
- “Youth Ministry Management Tools” by Ginny Olson, Diane Elliot, & Mike Work

September

First Sunday of the month between services (10-11am) at First Church

Objectives:

- To give volunteer leaders at least three practical ways they can care for students

Topics/Agenda:

- Listen to Doug Field’s “How to Care for Students” from his “Leaders are Learners” training CD
- Discussion of ideas of how to care for students
- Spending time together writing letters and making phone calls to students letting them know the ministry cares about them

Resources:

- “Leaders are Learners” CD training by Simply Youth Ministry

October

First Sunday of the month between services (10-11am) at First Church

Objectives:

- To give the volunteers the tools to build community with students over the internet
- That volunteers leave and create at least one connection with a ministry student over the internet
- That volunteers learn appropriate boundaries with internet relationships and guidelines for sharing information online

Topics/Agenda:

- Teaching time on student's internet use and why it is important to be online
- Learning how to use the following:
 - AOL Instant Messenger
 - Facebook
 - MySpace
 - Various blogging sites
- Teaching time on appropriate boundaries and sharing online

Resources

- A computer, projector, and internet access

November

First Sunday of the month between services (10-11am) at First Church

Objectives:

- To teach volunteers how to help students through the “tough stuff” of life
- Help volunteers identify when they are in over their head or when they are obligated to share what is happening in the student's life with the youth minister

Topics/Agenda:

- Teaching on following topics from a local high school counselor:
 - Depression
 - Abuse
 - Divorce
 - Alcohol and drug use (of students or parents)
 - Bullying, feeling like the outcast, being teased
 - Eating disorders
 - How to best help students through these issues
- A time of Q&A
- Discussion: When are you in over your head?

December

First Sunday of the month between services (10-11am) at First Church

Objectives:

- That volunteers know how to teach teenagers how to read the bible
- That volunteers leave with an understanding of what the bible is and how to communicate that with students

Topics/Agenda:

- The senior pastor of First Church will come and teach on:
 - What the bible is and how it was created
 - How to find out who the original audience of a text and its historical setting
 - How to identify the different genres of the bible and what that means about how we read and teach them

- Teaching on how to help students read and understand the bible on their own

Resources:

- “How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth” by Fee and Stuart

January

Second Sunday of the month between services (10-11am) at First Church

Objectives:

- All volunteers make a commitment to encourage multicultural community
- Volunteers learn at least two typical barriers to multicultural community
- Volunteers learn at least three tips to create cross-cultural relationships

Topics/Agenda:

- Spend time discussing personal experiences with race as a teenager, in the church, and in the youth group
- Teaching time about race and creating a multicultural community

Resources:

- “Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” by Beverly Daniel Tatum, PhD
- “Being White” by Harris & Schaupp
- “United by Faith” by DeYoung, Emerson, Yancey, and Kim

February

First Sunday of the month between services (10-11am) at First Church

Objectives:

- To encourage volunteers in their ministry
- To give each volunteer at least three practical tips for staying motivated and strong in their ministry

Topics/Agenda:

- Listen to Doug Field’s “How to Keep from Quitting Too Soon”
- Spend time discussing the things that burn us out in ministry
- Spend time praying for one another

Resources:

- “Leaders are Learners” CD training by Simply Youth Ministry
- “Courageous Leadership” by Bill Hybels

March

Second Saturday of the month- CORE training in Waukesha, WI
We will leave First Church at 7:45am and return around 2:30pm

April

First Sunday of the month between services (10-11am) at First Church

Objectives:

- To give volunteers a basic understanding of postmodernism
- To give volunteers at least three guidelines for ministering to postmodern youth

Topics/Agenda:

- Teaching on the following:
 - What is postmodernism?
 - How our ministry set-up to minister to postmodern youth
 - How you can better minister to postmodern youth
- Q&A time

Resources:

- “Postmodern Youth Ministry” by Tony Jones

May

Last Saturday of the month- End of the year picnic
Leave First Church at 1pm and return at 8pm

Objectives:

- To celebrate a great year of ministry together
- To spend time in prayer and fellowship
- To encourage the volunteers and let them know they are greatly valued

Topics/Agenda:

- A lot of eating, playing games, and spending time together
- A time of communal prayer for one another, the ministry, and the students
- A time of sharing stories
 - How have you and your students been transformed this year?
 - Where have you seen God work in the ministry or in the students?

June

First Sunday of the month between services (10-11am) at First Church

Objectives:

- To learn how to be an effective tutor
- To learn how to work with students who are differently-abled
- Learn how to encourage students of all abilities

Topics/Agenda:

- A local teacher will teach on:

- The top 10 reasons students struggle at school
- How to tutor a student
- How to encourage a student when struggling
- A local special ed teacher will teach on:
 - Learning disabilities, physical disabilities, autism, and ADD/ADHD
 - How to best work with these students and encourage them

ALL TRAINING EVENTS WILL BE PAID FOR