



Thanks for
your interest!

Dear Potential Adult Minister,

We are so excited that you are checking out a possible leadership role in our student ministry! We have a HUGE need for adult leaders who want to make an impact for Christ in a student's life. We believe healthy youth ministry is built on healthy relationships—between adult leaders and students. Relationships are the key to students feeling loved and understanding God's love in practical ways.

The quality of our leadership team is very important. We are looking for men & women who have a deep commitment to Christ and a desire to care for students. Included with this packet is an application for our ministry. Please fill it out with much prayer and consideration.

Once we have received your application material, we will call to set up a meeting with you. All information will be strictly confidential and shared only with appropriate pastoral staff members. We look forward to meeting you. If you need to reach us, please feel free to call us at 849-1805 x421/422 or e-mail us at lsimmonds@fishersumc.org or trichards@fishersumc.org.

Liz & Troy

Inside this packet...

- ✓ WHAT STUDENTS NEED
- ✓ WHY WE EXIST AS A MINISTRY
- ✓ 3 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED
- ✓ TAKING THE NEXT STEP

What Students Need

Today's students do not connect to programs, they connect with people. The most effective way to impact students is through significant relationships with caring adults. One of the common roadblocks for adults getting started in youth ministry is a misconception about what it takes to be a youth worker.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ARE:

- >>You must be young
- >>You must have outstanding Bible training
- >>You must be a perfect example of a Christian
- >>You must be a captivating communicator
- >>You must feel secure
- >>You must be able to act like one of the students
- >>You must have plenty of free time
- >>You must have a twitter account
- >>You must know the 8 most popular videos on youtube
- >>You must be wild, crazy and dynamic
- >>You must be liked by all students
- >>You must own a 15-passenger van

Student ministry is not the easiest ministry in the church and it's normal and okay for you to feel inadequate about your skills. Your confidence will grow the more you're around students and see how God can use inadequate people (like us) to do great things.

Here's the truth about what students need. . .

STUDENTS NEED ADULTS WHO WILL

- >>Love God and live for Him
- >>Be interested in a student's life
- >>Take initiative to get to know students
- >>Pray for students
- >>Be real
- >>Say encouraging things
- >>Believe in students
- >>Laugh and have a good time
- >>Remember names
- >>Share God's love through personal experience
- >>Be consistent with attendance
- >>Be patient

Why We Exist As A Ministry

Every ministry is driven by something. There is always some guiding force that determines the direction and goals for the individual or the group. Unless the driving force behind a church is biblical, the health and growth of the church will never be what God intended. Strong churches are not built on programs, personalities, or gimmicks. They are built on the eternal purposes of God. That is the foundation of our youth ministry as well. Everything we do in our junior high ministry revolves around the five purposes of the church.

Our Core Values

FIRE

Zech. 13:9 God brings us into fire and refines us through Fellowship, Ignite, Refine, Equip

WATER

Ps. 95:6-7 Giving God our everything, living our lives completely sold out to Him / Worshipping

Eph. 1:5 We are more than mere acquaintances, we are family / Allying

II Tim. 3:16-17 God reveals Himself to us by His Word, we must study it to know Him more fully / Teaching

Ja. 2:14-17 We are to put our faith into action, serving others and showing God's love / Equipping

Mark 16:15 We are to tell the entire world the Good News of Jesus Christ / Reaching

Ministry Values

REAL

We value an environment that is transparent and genuine.

RELEVANT

The most effective way to reach students is to present the gospel in a relevant way. Ex: leaders and environment that reflect and respect the student life stage.

RELATIONAL

We purposefully build relationships with students and facilitate them building relationships with one another.

RELAXED

Students are under enormous stress. We strive to create a ministry that helps relieve the stresses of life, not add to them.

4 Ways To Get Involved

1. Refinery/Drink Deep Ministry Team Leader

(Sunday Evenings - 5:30pm-7:30pm)

Our weekend services are the FRONT DOOR for our ministry. Every week, students come to the Refinery and Drink Deep (our Jr. High and Sr. High Sunday Night Programs) looking for a friendly and warm place to find acceptance. At this service, we try to break the stereotype that Church has to be boring. Our Weekend volunteer ministers play a huge role in making students feel welcome and normally commit to attend each week, greeting and interacting with the students and with leading a short discussion in small groups.

2. Jr. High Bible Study

(Wednesday Evenings - 6:45pm-8:30pm)

Our Jr. High students meet every Wednesday in the Pier. Students experience going DEEPER in their journey with God as weekly they are challenged in their faith. Our volunteers build relationships with these students in a small group setting while teaching and building consistency.

3. Sunday School

(Sunday Mornings - 9:45am-10:45am)

We run a more discussion based curriculum for students every Sunday morning as part of their worship experience. Everything is web based and easy to use, we are always in need of adults who want to pour into students.

4. Special Events

Besides our weekend service, we plan many events to help students get involved! From conferences, mission trips, winter retreat and much more, there are many opportunities to connect with students!

Taking The Next Step...

Are you ready to take the next step toward becoming a student ministry volunteer?

1. Prayerfully Consider Your Commitment

We want you to take time to pray and think through this commitment as well as seek counsel of family and/or friends about serving in Student Ministries.

2. Complete the Student Ministry Application

The application should be included with this booklet. If not, please contact Liz Simmonds at lsimmonds@fishersumc.org or 849-1805 x422 or Troy Richards at trichards@fishersumc.org or 849-1805 x421 and we will send one to you. Please take your time and fill out all of the enclosed forms.

3. Observe Programs (optional)

While you are still in the process of completing the application packet, you may want to observe one of our weekend services. This can be a great opportunity for you to get a feel for the ministry without having expectations or responsibilities.

4. Schedule an Interview

Every one of our leaders must be interviewed. During this time, you'll have the chance to get to know more about us, and we'll learn more about you. You'll have the opportunity to describe your spiritual journey, and discuss in more detail your gifts and desires for working in student ministries.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact us!

Liz Simmonds & Troy Richards
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Fire & Water Student Ministries
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Adult Leader Application

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. We want you to know that the following information will be kept confidential and will only be shared with appropriate pastoral staff. We are looking forward to knowing you!

Contact Information

Full Name: _____ date: _____

Name you prefer: _____ Gender: M ___ F ___

Email: _____

Address, City, Zip: _____

DOB: _____

Primary phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

General Information

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Work Status: part time ___ full time ___ student ___

Marital Status: single ___ married ___ divorced ___

Spouse name: _____ Anniversary: _____

Children: _____ Ages: _____

Education

High school: _____ year graduated: _____

College / trade school: _____ year graduated: _____

Degree: _____

Other education: _____ year graduated: _____

References

Due to the fact that this leadership position is in close contact with minors we are in need of 2, non family personal references. Please list 2 people that you have known for more than 2 years.

#1 Name: _____
Primary Phone: _____
E-mail address: _____
Relationship: _____
How long have you known this person? _____

#2 Name: _____
Primary Phone: _____
E-mail address: _____
Relationship: _____
How long have you known this person? _____

Personal Information

Write a brief testimony about how you became a Christian (include date).

Do you consider yourself to be a committed believer?

Do you feel like you are active in your walk with God?

How would you describe your spiritual journey now?

What kind of accountability structure do you have in your life? (small group, mentor, etc.)

What people or experiences have been most significant in your growth as a Christian?

Are there any issues or concerns that would have a negative impact on your commitment and involvement in student ministries?

Ministry Information

Please describe any past ministry or church experience you have been involved in. What did you do and who was/is the leader?

List the date and activities of other ministry experiences here at Fishers United Methodist Church, and the reasons for ending that ministry.

What spiritual gifts and strengths do you feel you have, and how would you like to use them in student ministries?

Do you have any fears/areas of weakness that might affect where you serve in the ministry? (Example: speaking in front of people, large crowds, inexperience, etc.)

What is one area you would like to grow in as a leader?

Why do you want to serve in student ministries?

Church Information

Do you call Fishers United Methodist Church your home? _____

Are you a member? _____

If not, what church do you call home? _____

How long have you been attending Fishers United Methodist Church? _____

Have you completed the Fishers UMC Membership Class? _____

Lifestyle and Legal Concerns

In caring for students, we believe it is our responsibility to seek adult leaders that can provide healthy, safe, and nurturing relationships. Please answer the following questions accordingly.

Are you currently or have you ever used illegal drugs?

Yes ___ No ___

Have you ever gone through treatment for alcohol or drug abuse?

Yes ___ No ___ if yes, please describe:

Have you ever been arrested and / or convicted of a crime?

Yes ___ No ___ if yes, please describe:

Have you ever had sexual relations with any minor after you became an adult?

Yes ___ No ___

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any form of child abuse?

Yes ___ No ___ if yes, please describe:

Have you ever been a victim of any form of child abuse? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, would you like to speak to a counselor or pastor? Yes ___ No ___

Do you view X-Rated movies, visit adult bookstores or clubs, read X-rated magazines, or look at internet pornography?

Yes ___ No ___

Are you willing to undergo a background check? Yes ___ No ___

This includes watching a short video entitled "Plan To Protect"

If single, are you pursuing a relationship that is honoring to God?

Yes ___ No ___

Are you currently maintaining a personal blog, website, facebook or other online account?

Yes ___ No ___

If yes, please provide addresses/URL: _____

Do you have anything posted on your personal site that would create a negative perception of Fire & Water student Ministry?

Yes ___ No ___

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of Indiana that the foregoing is true and correct. Troy Richards may contact my references and appropriate government agencies to determine my suitability as a youth leader. I understand that all this information will remain confidential by the church staff.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

What's Your Shape?

All leaders have a unique SHAPE that can be used to minister in the lives of students. Our team has a strong desire to place leaders in an area of our ministry where they feel passionate and gifted. By examining your SHAPE we can be sure to plug you into the ministry the fits who you are. Take a moment and fill this form out and return it with your application.

What do you feel are your spiritual gifts?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

In what areas have you been able to use these gifts in the past?

WHAT ARE 3 THINGS YOU LOVE TO DO?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

MY STRONGEST ABILITIES ARE:

[A few examples might include: drama, writing, speaking, fine arts, photography, video, counseling, computers, music, tutoring, athletics, etc.]

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

THIS IS HOW I SEE MYSELF:

[Circle the one that applies to you for each comment]

Around others, I am more...	RESERVED	OUTGOING
My decisions are based more on...	FACTS/THINKING	FEELINGS
In my relationships, I tend to be more...	DEPENDENT on OTHERS	INDEPENDENT
My use of time is more...	DETERMINED	SPONTANEOUS

What was one significant experience you had in your teenage years?

WHEN I HAVE FREE TIME, I SPEND IT.....

The PURPOSE I am most passionate about is...

FELLOWSHIP	IGNITE	REFINE	EQUIP	
WORSHIPPING	ALLYING	TEACHING	EQUIPPING	REACHING
Why?				

What Students Need



After observing the ministry, praying, and discussing with my family the commitment involved with volunteering in student ministries, I choose to commit to the following:

- I acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ in my life, and I have a personal relationship with God through faith in Christ.
- I am committed to growing and maturing in my relationship with God through quiet times, active attendance at church, and involvement in accountability. I am committed to stop serving if, at any time, my personal spirituality becomes compromised.
- I am committed to a lifestyle that is both godly and above reproach. I commit to making wise choices. I realize that my lifestyle and decisions are a model for students.
- I am committed to attending the leader meetings throughout the year.
- I will not post any pictures of students on my personal blog, website, facebook, twitter or instagram.
- I will not post anything on my personal blog, website, facebook, twitter or instagram that would be damaging to the reputation of Fire & Water Student Ministries.
- I understand the philosophy of this youth ministry and agree with its purpose and commit to shepherding the students that God brings to me. I commit to rejecting divisive behavior. I commit to bringing my disagreements, concerns, or problems about the ministry to Troy and/or Liz without talking or gossiping to students, other volunteers, or church members.
- Because I am making a significant commitment and my presence is important, I agree to be consistent and timely to the program(s) I commit myself to. I also agree to communicate with Troy and/or Liz if I will be absent.
- I am making a commitment to one or more of the following programs: (Circle all that apply)
 - Small Group Leader
 - Office Work
 - Weekend Discussion Leader
 - Special Events

signature

date

full name



CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK AUTHORIZATION FORM

(Required for all Prospective Employees and Ministry Volunteers that will have contact with minors or vulnerable adults.)

Confidentiality Notice

This background check authorization form is to be completed as part of the Pre-Employment or Ministry Volunteer process. This form contains confidential information that will be secured and may only be reviewed in a controlled environment by Fishers United Methodist Church Pastors, Ministry Directors, and members of the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Persons who review, duplicate, distribute, or disclose any portion of this document without authorization may face one or more of the following consequences: 1.) termination of employment, if an employee, 2.) dismissal from any official positions within the church, if a volunteer, 3.) possible criminal liability, and/or 4.) possible civil liability.

All of the information requested below must be completed.

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

Any Other Names (i.e. Maiden): _____

Current Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Social Security Number

Date of Birth (00/00/0000)

Drivers License Number

State of Issuance: _____ **Expiration Date:**

Type of Position (Check 1) **Ministry Volunteer** **Paid Employee**

Have you ever been convicted of, or pled guilty or no contest to a crime other than a minor traffic violation, or are you now under charges for any criminal offense, including sex offense, or offenses against a minor? A criminal conviction will not necessarily disqualify you from consideration for employment. **No** **Yes** If yes, please explain: _____

Please List Two Personal References

Name	Phone Number	Relationship
1.) _____	_____	_____
2.) _____	_____	_____

Authorization and Release for a Criminal Background Check

*I understand that a criminal background and social security number check will be conducted on me prior to employment or volunteer service at Fishers United Methodist Church (Fishers UMC). Some positions will also require a financial and/or driving record check. **I hereby consent to such checks.** The information contained here, as well as that provided in my application, resume, and information provided in any conversation or interview with any representatives of Fishers UMC (including conversations with references that I provide) may be used in conjunction with such background checks to ensure the information is accurate. I authorize Fishers UMC and its agents to conduct a thorough inquiry into all areas deemed necessary to arrive at a hiring or voluntary service decision, and I release all employment, educational, driving and criminal public record information, and personal and professional references, from any liability so that they may freely and completely respond to any inquiry relating to my application for employment or volunteer service. I also understand that as long as I remain an employee or volunteer at Fishers UMC, the Criminal Background Check may be repeated at any time. I understand that I will have an opportunity to review my Criminal Background Check report if requested and a procedure is available for clarification, if I dispute the record as received.*

Signature: _____
 Printed Name: _____
 Date: _____

If you are less than eighteen years of age, a parent or legal guardian must also sign below:

Parent/Guardian Signature	Date	Relation to Applicant
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-----For Office Use Only ▼-----

Authorization Received on: _____
Date

Received by: _____ Title: _____
Date

Criminal History Check Record

Date(s): _____

