

Interim Director of Christian Formation For Children and Youth

The First Congregational Church of Ridgefield, Connecticut is seeking an Interim Director of Christian Formation to construct a program that helps children and youth grow through stages of emotional, intellectual and spiritual development from the cradle to the point where they can own and embrace their own faith as a living and vibrant expression of their emerging identity. This is a part-time position averaging 20-25 hours a week and reports to the Senior Minister. The position is immediately available. This is an Interim position in which the person selected will have an opportunity to apply for the permanent position. We currently anticipate the Interim position will remain in place for at least one year.

We are located in historic Ridgefield, CT, a beautiful quintessential New England town located 55 miles outside of New York City. Our Church is an active faith community located “by the fountain” on Main Street Ridgefield. We are a vibrant congregation with meaningful programs in Christian ministry, missions, music, outreach and fellowship. We view our Children and Youth programs as a critical part of our church’s mission.

We are currently in an interim period with respect to all of its major program staff. With the added crises of the Covid-19 outbreak, the congregation finds itself in an extraordinary position to rethink its ministries and programs across the board, to experiment with new models and adapt to the new world that is forming around us. Re-visioning Christian Formation will be a vital component of this endeavor.

Key Responsibilities

Christian Formation in General:

- Support Christian Formation/Education for Children and Youth, including review and development of curriculum to build continuity throughout the church's program.
- Equip parents and other family members as significant partners in Christian formation at home.
- Advocate for ways Children and Youth can meaningfully participate in congregational worship.
- Provide opportunities for Children and Youth to participate in Mission opportunities.

Volunteers: Develop and resource teams of volunteers to support various aspects of Children’s Family and Youth Programming.

Christian Formation for Children and their Families: Direct Children’s programs, including Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, the church’s nursery, and the Children’s Message during worship on Sunday’s.

Christian Formation for Youth: Coordinate and facilitate Youth ministry, including Sunday School for Middle School, supporting attending worship for High School, and Youth Groups and events meeting through the week. Support and continue to develop the Confirmation program.

Collaboration with other Ministries: Partner with Missions, Music and Adult Ministries to facilitate developmental opportunities for mission activities, music programs, and faith formation.

Administration: Plan annual calendar, prepare annual budgets, work as integral member of staff team.

Professional Relationships and Development: Develop peer relationships and events with local Ridgefield faith communities, and with faith formation professionals and volunteers in other congregations in our UCC Conference.

Qualifications:

- Has at least a B.A. in Education or equivalent in a related field.
- Has at least two years of experience working with children or youth.
- Possesses a theological or extensive church membership background.
- Has an appreciation of the history, traditions, theology of the UCC and its historic antecedents in New England and is committed to its core Christian values.
- Has a compelling and creative vision for Christian Formation in the 21st Century.
- Demonstrates a desire to be an integral and inspiring presence in the lives of children and youth.
- Has the ability to work with diverse teams, both as a leader and as a team member.
- Demonstrates initiative and creativity.
- Can use information technology and social media effectively.
- Possesses excellent written and verbal skills.
- Possesses a high degree of organization and ability to multi-task.

Salary based on experience and education

Please email your resume to: David Montieth at dmontieth@icloud.com

Church address: 103 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

Church Website: www.firstcongregational.com