

Pastor of Family Discipleship
Langhorne Presbyterian Church, Langhorne PA
Langhornepres.org

SUMMARY

As part of the church's staff, provide oversight for Family Ministries, with a focus especially on families with children, birth through 12th grade. We are looking for candidates who have a love and joy for children and their families, as well as an informed commitment to LPC's theology of family discipleship. Creativity and innovation within our confessional framework are welcome and wanted.

RESPONSIBILITIES

In concert with LPC's overall mission and under the supervision of the Pastor and Session of Elders:

- Oversee coordination of the church's discipleship programs for children under 6th grade and youth in 6th-12th grades.
 - This ordinarily includes responsibility for recruiting, support, and training of teachers and volunteers, vetting instructional materials, and ensuring that the children of the church and the church's volunteers are safe.
 - Personally teaching, especially the teenagers of the church, is an expectation.
 - This shall be done in coordination with the church's overall discipleship efforts and in consultation with the other ministry staff.
- Oversee the church's program of equipping parents and guardians to disciple their children.
- Staff resource for the committees of the church regarding ongoing Christian education of children and their parents.
- Oversee annual events, especially VBS, that are directed at the children of LPC and the surrounding Langhorne community.
- Oversee regular and annually recurring events, such as youth retreats and youth events targeted at the teenagers of LPC and the surrounding Langhorne community.
- Oversee the family discipleship budget.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Ordained in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church or similar denomination.
- Able to sincerely affirm the Westminster Confession and Catechisms as containing the system of doctrine found in the Scriptures.
- Prior training and/or experience in family ministries, education, child development, or social work is preferred.
- Experience leading programs and events, working with volunteers, and/or coordinating church activities is preferred.
- Must be responsible, self-motivated, organized, and detail-oriented.
- A team player, able to take ownership of projects and pull in others for help as needed and to work in conjunction with the rest of the church staff.

COMPENSATION

- This is a full-time position with competitive compensation, commensurate with experience. Benefits are included.

Please email Melynda Boyle (applications@langhornepres.org) with your resume and cover letter. Please be sure to address your qualification in your cover letter. We will be accepting applications until the position is filled.

We have included a summary of our current practices and philosophy. The philosophy is a framework to which we are committed. The Pastor of Family Discipleship would be welcome to innovate, improve, and experiment with our practices and programs within the bounds of that philosophy.

LPC's CURRENT PRACTICES

LPC has age-graded Sunday School on Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45. These classes are currently taught by volunteers. The curriculum for children under 6th grade is the Gospel Project, published by Lifeway. The objective is to teach the contents of the Bible in a Christocentric way. Junior high students are being taught the Westminster Shorter Catechism, while high school students join the adult classes.

Our children are welcome and wanted in the worship service.¹ Prior to the sermon children under 6th grade are invited to the front of the sanctuary for an age-focused lesson drawn from the Children's Catechism. Before the sermon, these kids are dismissed to either their parents in the pews, or with parental discretion, to an age-focused time of teaching we call Covenant Kids, currently led by a mix of staff and volunteers. The bulletin in the worship service has kid-focused notes for sermon notes, and both kids who stay and go receive a clipboard with a sermon-centric activity sheet. Children in Covenant Kids are taught on the same subject or text as the sermon.

Wednesday evenings hosts the youth group for our teenagers, which includes games, a lesson, and breakout discussions. The youth group has social events together throughout the month. On Thursday nights we have a class for children that is currently going through the New City Catechism.

We have nursery during Sunday School, worship, and Thursday nights. Children's choirs currently practice on Sunday mornings and Thursday nights under the supervision of the Director of Choral Music.

LPC's PHILOSOPHY

Children of the church are part of the church. We are covenantal, and so we treat our children as being blessed with receiving the benefits of belonging to Christ. That means we cherish them, baptize them, worship alongside them, and catechize them. We also want to grow into better training and discipling their parents as the primary disciple-makers in the home, especially in family worship at home.

A few resources that summarize our approach to family discipleship include,

- *How Our Children Come to Faith & Understanding the Faith* (Stephen Smallman)
- *Parenting in the Pew* (Robbie Castleman)
- *Handing Down the Faith*² (Christian Smith & Amy Adamczyk)
- *Let the Children Worship* (Jason Helopoulos) & Paul Levy on children in worship³
- *Giving Up Gimmicks: Reclaiming Youth Ministry from an Entertainment Culture* (Brian Cosby)
- *Gospel-Centered Youth Ministry: A Practical Guide* (edited by Cameron Cole and Jon Nielson)

¹ A copy of a pew insert that we use to welcome children and families into worship can be found here: <https://www.csmedia1.com/langhornepres.org/lpc-childrens-pew-card.png>.

² An accessible article summarizing the book can be found here: <https://www.firstthings.com/article/2021/05/keeping-the-faith>

³ <https://ealinglevy.wordpress.com/2021/03/10/children-in-worship/>