

# City Reformed Presbyterian Church

## Philosophy of Children's Ministry

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**Vision:** *What is the purpose of our children's ministry?*

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, under the authority of church leadership, and in partnership with parents, we will faithfully teach the gospel and demonstrate the love of Christ to all children so that they will become disciples of Christ who trust, serve, worship, and obey Him now and into eternity to the glory of God the Father.

**Mission:** *Why do we exist?*

We exist because:

1. Children of believers are included in the covenant of grace and are part of our covenant community (Genesis 17:7, Acts 2:38-39)
2. God commands us to teach the scriptures to our children (Deuteronomy 6:7)
3. The scriptures make one wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:15)
4. Jesus commissioned us to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them all that He has commanded (Matthew 28:19-20)
5. Jesus calls us to bring our children to Him, and not to hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these (Matthew 19:14; Luke 18:15-16)
6. God commands us to tell the next generation of His glorious deeds and mighty acts so that they might set their hope in Him and keep His commandments (Psalm 78:1-7)

**Our mission distinctives:**

1. A serious commitment to our baptismal and membership vows
2. A curriculum that is gospel-centered and systematically teaches the scriptures as God's redemptive story
3. Catechetical instruction that fuels knowledge of biblical truth
4. Relationship-building and disciple-making opportunities for our covenant and community children that are intergenerational
5. Service and stewardship opportunities (at least once per term) in the context of our church, wider community, and world mission.

**Core Values:** *How will we accomplish the vision and mission of our children's ministry?*

The elements of our core values are the more visible aspects of our children's ministry that provide pathways in which our vision and mission are supported and driven. City Reformed Presbyterian Church is a gospel-centered church, which means that the person and work of Jesus Christ is at the center of who we are and what we do as a church. Our children's ministry core values are centered around the word GOSPEL to remind us that it is the essence of who we are and what we do.

God-centered environment

Ongoing, clear communication

Specialized discipleship

Prayerful intentionality

Equipping ministry

Long-term consistency

**God-centered environment:** to CREATE a safe, nurturing, and loving environment that glorifies God and reflects His love and heart for our children.

**Ongoing, clear communication:** to COMMUNICATE our vision and mission clearly and consistently to the whole congregation, especially to parents, volunteers, and children.

**Specialized discipleship:** to COME ALONGSIDE parents in the discipleship of their children to disciple their hearts, enfold them into corporate worship, and teach the scriptures in a way that is age appropriate so that they will hear and receive the gospel of grace for themselves.

**Prayerful intentionality:** to CULTIVATE a discipline of prayer that seeks the Lord in all that is planned and implemented for a well-ordered, faithful, relational, and intergenerational ministry.

**Equipping ministry:** to COLLABORATE in partnership with parents and volunteers, and to assist, lead, counsel, support, and train them for the purpose of knowing, loving, and discipling the children God has given them as part of the covenant community.

**Long-term consistency:** to COMMIT to all that we do with faithfulness for the long-haul, with the purpose of carrying forward our vision and mission to the next generation.