

# Youth Discipleship Team

## BOH Mission Statement

“Come as you are, grow in grace, go and serve”

## Youth Discipleship Missional Mandate

*The youth discipleship ministry of Bridge of Hope encompasses all aspects of the mission of this church body—come as you are, grow in grace, go and serve by...*

- meeting children’s spiritual development respective of their given age
- teaching them to be followers of Jesus, members of His church, and those who show love to their neighbors
- providing them with opportunities that teach them how to witness and serve in Jesus’ name

## Biblical Purpose

“Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”  
Deuteronomy 6:5-7

## Responsibilities

*The Youth Discipleship Team will be responsible for providing leadership and oversight of Bridge of Hope children and youth ministries by...*

- overseeing the scope and sequence of the curricula, ensuring a continuum of discipleship
- setting the calendar for the church education year
- identifying and approving strategies that will move youth programming toward the Vision
- ensuring that protocols, especially regarding the safety of minors, are in place
- praying regularly for Bridge’s children and youth

## Directives

*The Youth Discipleship Team will...*

- be composed of a nucleus consisting of the Sunday School Director, the Youth Director, the Council liaison, and at least two at-large members. The Abuse Prevention Coordinator and the Promise Lambs Coordinator are also voting members
- have members who serve for a term of 3 years with the option of a second 3 year term; members are to take a minimum of one year off before serving again
- Meet in a normal rhythm of four times a year.
  - The winter meeting will cover scope and sequence of curricula
  - the spring meeting will cover fall programming and set the educational calendar for the next year
  - the summer meeting will cover safety protocols and begin discussions regarding the Sunday School Christmas program\*
  - the fall meeting will cover spring programming and an update regarding the Sunday School Christmas program

The meeting times will be reported to the Ministry Administrator to put on the online calendar.

\*The Promise Lambs Coordinator and Abuse Prevention Coordinator are required to attend the summer meeting and give an update/report on their work. Other meetings for them are optional.

- designate a person to serve as chair for one year; this person will set agendas and lead meetings
- designate a person to serve as secretary for one year; this person will take minutes to distribute to team members; minutes of each meeting must also be submitted to the church office

- include 2 Council Liaisons who will be appointed by Council
- be overseen by Council

### **Abuse Prevention:**

Abuse Prevention falls under the direction of the Youth Discipleship Team. The Abuse Prevention coordinator/team exists to ensure that the children at Bridge of Hope experience a secure, loving environment as they learn about their generous and loving God.

They are to...

- Implement the “Principles, Policies, and Procedures for the Prevention of Abuse” at Bridge of Hope
- Review the abuse prevention document once a year and make updates annually. Updates will be reviewed and approved by the Council and are to be included in the Council Handbook
- Ensure that volunteers at Bridge of Hope fill out the volunteer application for children’s/youth ministries and facilitate a method for record keeping
- Meet once a year with the Youth Discipleship Team, Promise Lambs Coordinator and Nursery Coordinator
- Educate and inform the body of Bridge of Hope concerning abuse prevention annually
- The council is to be informed on work being done by the team. This is done via the report given to the YDT at the summer meeting and then conveyed by the Council Liaison

### **\*Junior High/High School Youth Ministry:**

Youth Ministry falls under the direction of the Youth Discipleship Team. The group’s name is Connect. They exist to **empower** students to be deeply rooted in Christ, **encourage** fruitful and meaningful relationships with one another, and **embolden** students to love and serve their community.

The main building blocks of Bridge of Hope’s youth ministry are:

- **CONNECT (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>):** They gather two Sunday nights each month for large group/small group time from 7:00-8:30pm. Each of these nights are structured very similarly, starting with down time to connect with everyone, flowing into 15-20 minutes of large group time discussing the lesson, ending with roughly 30 minutes of small group time. These small groups are broken up by age and gender with 1-2 leaders walking alongside each group.
- **UNITE (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>):** High school students gather twice a month on Wednesday evenings for large group time from 7-8:30pm at the Bridge of Hope Ministry Center. These meetings, similarly structured like CONNECT, begin with informal time to talk and enjoy snacks together before digging into the lesson for the evening, and ending with discussion among their peers and their leader(s).
- **Outings/Events:** At least once each month CONNECT and UNITE will get together to be young, wild, and free out in the world. Kidding. Each month they hope to have a fun event that will help build community within the group. These events will vary from “going out” to places like Sioux City or Sioux Falls to participate in fun/learning activities, to “staying in” at places like the Ministry Center.
- **Small Group Night:** This is an informal time that is scheduled by each small group's leader in order to spend time growing the community within each small group! Typically this outing will happen two times each semester, but can happen as often as the groups would like.
- **Service Component:** As their mission statement says, both CONNECT and UNITE want to be groups that emboldens students to love and serve their community, and in order to do that, the students are involved in service opportunities throughout the year. This happens once each semester in the community, and there are often little service opportunities along the way for students to be a part of! UNITE also participates in a summer mission trip to experience new places and learn more about what it looks like to serve as Jesus did in our world.