



BETHEL
UNIVERSITY



Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program

Our perspective on youth ministry training centers on three areas:

1. The Person – cultivating a heart that loves God, a theologically-sound mind, and skilled hands
2. The Practice – training in Jesus’ model of ministry methods to build and equip future youth ministers
3. The Experience – providing a church-focused environment for implementation

PROGRAM GOAL

The goal of the program is for the apprentice to grow in the skills necessary for effective youth ministry while serving and working with a local church for 13-15 weeks (135 hours) applying heart, head, and hands to ministry.

APPRENTICE QUALIFICATIONS & EXPECTATIONS

Individuals who qualify to participate in the program meet these qualifications and expectations:

- Current full-time Undergraduate Bethel Student (CAS), minimum Sophomore standing, Good Standing, at least 18 years old
- A maturing believer who is growing as a Kingdom worker/shepherd. Therefore, committed to working with a church that accepts me as an apprentice in a manner consistent with that calling and a manner consistent with respect and honor due to the church.
- Dedicated to being a living example of Jesus Christ both in conduct and character.
- Willing to learn and participate in regular meetings with an on-site supervisor.
- Willing to complete a Background Check and participate in child safety training provided by the church.
- Willing to complete an evaluation of the apprenticeship experience at the end of the 13-15 weeks.
- Willing to serve a total of 135 hours over a 13-15 week period.
- Willing to be subject to the leadership of Bethel University regarding the Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program.
- Understand that failure to meet the obligations under the Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program may result in being dismissed from the program and being removed from service to the church that accepted me as an apprentice.

PROGRAM FEE

The total program fee for the church will be \$3,600 for 13-15 weeks (135 hours) of service. The following areas have been identified as expenses to conduct an excellent program: compensation for the apprentice and administrative time from Bethel University. Payment can be made in either one or two installments. Check is made out to Bethel University. Bethel will provide the apprentice with compensation. There is no cost to the apprentice for participation in the program. The apprentice is responsible to provide own transportation.

CHURCH PROFILE & CHARACTERISTICS

Local churches that align with the program have the following characteristics:

- Understand that the apprentice is a maturing believer that is growing as a Kingdom worker/ shepherd. Therefore, the church commits to work with an apprentice in a manner consistent with that calling.
- Communicate clearly with the apprentice in writing about the church's expectations for the apprentice and ask the apprentice to provide written responses regarding how he/she is seeking to fulfill the expectations in this experience.
- Assign an on-site supervisor to the apprentice and will provide regular mentoring to the apprentice with at least weekly meetings to provide feedback and advice regarding the work of the apprentice and examples of effective youth ministry services.
- Responsible for evaluating the apprentice, reviewing the apprentice's background check information, and is the ultimate decision maker regarding whether the apprentice should be placed with the church.
- Responsible for providing training to the apprentice on child safety based upon church policy.
- Voluntarily requests that the apprentice be placed with the church for its benefit.
- Understands that the program fee will be used to compensate the apprentice and the University for administrative/supervisory costs associated with the program.
- Understand that if the church fails to meet its obligations under the Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program the church may be dismissed from the program and the Youth Ministry Apprentice will be removed from service to the church.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY SERVICES

Bethel University will provide the following services as part of the Apprenticeship Program.

- Organize and conduct a search process for potential apprentice candidates
- Provide potential apprentice candidates to the church for consideration.
- Assist and coordinate the interview process between the church and potential apprentice candidates.
- Obtain and pay for background checks for potential apprentice candidates.
- Process the pay for the apprentice.
- Provide a program director who will meet bi-weekly with the apprentice to provide feedback and advice regarding the work the apprentice is doing for the church.
- Provide an evaluation form to be completed by the church and the apprentice.
- For those students who wish to receive educational credit, Bethel will create a structure to allow for such credit.

RELEASE FROM THE PROGRAM – FAILURE TO FULFILL OBLIGATIONS

A church not upholding its responsibility can be released from the program. An apprentice can pursue other opportunities while going through the Apprenticeship Program including other employment and/or higher education; however, an apprentice that does not uphold the agreement can be removed by Bethel University or by the church.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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