

**RESIDENCY IN CHILDREN MINISTRY**  
**Centenary United Methodist Church**

**Purpose:**

Effective children ministry has helped congregations discover resources of faith and understandings of children ministry that has led to vital congregational life for those unique and precious children of God ages birth through fifth grade.

A crucial question for the twenty-first century church involves calling, preparing and forming effective ministry leaders for congregations. When bright, capable persons respond to a call to ministry and are given the necessary tools of theological training, how do they develop the understandings, habits and practices that enable effective ministry leadership, especially in relation to children?

The primary assumption of Centenary's Residence in Children Ministry is that the practices of effective ministry leadership can best be learned in intensive involvement with a faithful, effective congregation and in sustained conversation with an experienced children's ministry leader.

The primary focus of the Residency in Children Ministry is to work under the direction of the Associate Minister of Children Spiritual Formation and Education to develop a comprehensive and holistic ministry to children and their families in Christian Education, spiritual formation, faith development, worship, evangelism, mission and outreach.

Centenary aims to provide an experience that will nurture the imaginations of newly graduated or soon to be graduate professionals in children ministry for today's church.

Centenary was blessed with the generosity of Mrs. Kathleen Cabaniss in 2000 with an estate bequest to the Board of Trustees to be used to establish a fund for worthy student leading to employment in vocational ministry. Funds from this bequest are approved by the Trustees in an annual application process to fund the Residence in Children Ministry.

### **Residency Program**

The Residency Program is a 1-year program with option for a second year renewal designed to nurture wise and fruitful young ministry leaders through intense engagement in a flourishing children ministry. Residents are active staff members within the life of Centenary. Beyond children ministry, residents will also have opportunity to engage in a variety of ministry opportunities and be encouraged to explore new ministries and practices.

The primary responsibilities of the Residency in Children Ministry, working under the direct supervision of the Associate Minister of Children Spiritual Formation and Education, are listed as follows:

1. Provide support and leadership to all areas of the Children's Ministry including but not limited to Sunday School, Events and Programming.
2. Assist the Associate Minister in the execution of the weekly Children's Worship Service.
3. In the areas of child care, assist the lead nursery worker, paid nursery staff and volunteers and assist with training as necessary.
4. Provide appropriate levels of staff support and guidance to lay ministry volunteers in the planning of seasonal children's activities and ministries, such as Vacation Bible School, Christmas Craft night, etc.
5. With the Associate Minister, promote information and communication about children's ministry with parents, children and the church.
6. Assist the Associate Minister and Children's Council with administrative tasks as needed.
7. Assist in Pastoral Care needs including but not limited to hospital visitation as directed by the Associate Minister.

8. Participate in staff meetings, leadership meetings and the general life of the church, collaborating with the other staff members to complement the Children's Ministries with all other areas of church ministry.

Furthermore, Centenary's program will offer residents the opportunity to explore congregational life that may include other ministry areas more in depth according to their own interests and their needs for growth.

### **Qualifications and Skills**

- To be devoted to the love and grace of Jesus Christ and be willing to share that love with the Children Ministry Leadership team, other interns, and children and their families.
- Undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university with preference for a theological degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school approved by the United Methodist University Senate.
- Experience in or desire to go into the field of Children or Christian Education ministry.
- Have a heart for outreach and mission work.
- Desire to relate with children in an age appropriate manner to assist in spiritual development.
- An enthusiasm and positive attitude to work within a well developed Children Ministry Leadership Team.
- Needs to have own transportation

## **Compensation**

- Annually at 40 hours weekly: \$33,500
- Benefits including Medical insurance, Disability and Life
- Paid Time Off in concert with Centenary's Personnel Policies
- Reimbursement for any Children ministry and event expenses.

## **Application Process**

The Residency Program will be advertised at undergraduate colleges and universities, seminaries, divinity schools and graduate schools of theology in line with United Methodist theology and tradition as well as other United Methodist advertising mediums.

The Centenary staff will review all resumes received and may make recommendations to the Board of Trustees and Staff Parish Relations Committee. Initial applicants will be contacted by the Associate Minister or their representative to schedule an interview. Interviews will be in person with travel costs reimbursed. After the candidate is selected, orientation and other scheduling requirements will be arranged.

Interested persons should send resumes to Centenary United Methodist Church no later than April 1, 2013.

Contact Info:

Rev. Kate May

Associate Minister of Children Spiritual Formation and Education

Centenary UMC

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