



Vision

OEC Youth seeks to make disciples of Jesus by bring in teenagers to hear the gospel, build them up to Christian maturity and train them to serve Jesus.

Purpose of the Role

Teenagers are vital members of the body of Christ across all four OEC congregations. Sunday Youth is a ministry that runs during the service at C@9/11/4 at various times during the school term. It enables youth to read the Bible and pray together, and discuss how to be active members of their congregation. Leaders facilitate discussion and build relationships with the youth.

Character Expectations

- Profess faith in Christ, an active member of their own congregation and Growth Group. They will seek to grow their own relationship with Christ through regular prayer and Bible reading.
- Model godliness for those they lead, setting an example in their speech, conduct, love, faith and purity (1 Tim 4:12).
- Youth Group Leaders will have a humble and teachable spirit, willing to listen to and learn from others in particular other team members, the Team Leader, Youth Ministry, and parents.
- Abide by the OEC Code of Conduct for Volunteers, Overseers and Ministry Workers.
- Support and respect the Youth Minister, Parents and the leadership (Overseers and Ministry Staff) of OEC.

Competency Expectations

- Genuine love for others; in particular teenagers and demonstrated relational skills.
- The ability to appreciate and understand the text of the Bible to communicate it with teenagers clearly, truthfully and relevantly.
- The ability to both challenge and encourage teenagers in their walk in the Lord.
- The ability to communicate with the rest of the team in a clear way with warmth and graciousness.
- The ability to share responsibilities with others.



The Sunday Youth Leader

The Sunday Youth Leader is a key disciple maker of teenagers during Sunday church. As they partner with parents, they are under shepherds of teenagers in the church. This is much more than running a few games or facilitating a gospel discussion when the group gets together. They seek to mature disciples of Jesus through teaching the Word and prayer. They are under the oversight of their Team Leader and the Congregational Minister in conversation with the Youth Minister.

The role of the Sunday Youth Leader is to prayerfully lead all the teenagers under their care, through the powerful and effective word of God. They lead all the teenagers of their congregation by encouraging them, speaking the truth in love, and modelling faithful discipleship.

All Sunday Youth ministries are led by congregation specific teams. Each team plays a vital role in helping to pastor, care for and grow each member of the group. Therefore, leaders must work hard in delegation, cooperation and serving together. How this will work will be different depending on the personalities and different giftedness of the leaders. This means the team will need to meet regularly (at least once a term) to pray and plan to help the group continue to grow.

Sunday Youth Leader – the role in practice.

Youth Leading is discipling young people; a Youth Group Leader will:

- Prepare for and pray for their group.
- Regularly lead, teach and lead in prayer during our regular Sunday Congregational Youth Meetings.
- Together with the team, attend quarterly training and planning meetings to train, plan and pray for the term ahead.
- Together with the team, engage in the raising up and equipping of teenagers to serve.
- Together with the team, partnering with parents, praying for teenagers to come to faith, welcoming new teenagers, and following up absent teenagers.
- Together with the team, teach, pastorally care and disciple the members of the group. Lead the group in caring for and discipling one another.



Appointment and Commitment

- Appointment: Sunday Youth Leader are appointed by the Congregational Minister. This is usually after a recommendation from the current Team Leaders.
- Commitment: Congregational Youth Leaders commit to leading their small group for no less than 1 year, ideally for three years.
- Training: All Leaders must complete Safe ministry Training.
- Code of Conduct: Congregational Youth Leaders are to abide by the Safe Ministry practices and code of conduct for people volunteering in ministry at OEC.

Leader Support

Sunday Youth Leaders are cared for by their Team Leaders and the Congregational Minister. If difficulties arise between teenagers such as bullying, unhelpful dynamics, or unchristian behaviour the Sunday Youth Leader should look for support from the Team Leader and Congregational Minister.

From time to time, teenagers may disclose abuse or Youth Leaders may have particular concerns about the welfare of certain children. These concerns should be raised immediately with a Safe Ministry Supervisor, who will support the leader as they care for any children in that situation, including assisting them to follow any official reporting obligations.

There will be times when the pastoral needs to teenagers require outside support. In these situations, the Youth Group Leader together with the Team Leader and Youth Minister will communicate the challenges of the teenager to their parents and engage outside services if necessary.

What to do next:

If you would like more information, please speak to our Youth Minister, Chris Holding chris@oechurch.org.au