

## Student Ministry Organizational Proposal - Dianne

These ideas and suggestions were proposed to help facilitate some necessary changes and improvements to the Student Ministries at Grace Church in 2011.

Key Components:

- 1) Strong small group structure
- 2) Some “all youth” opportunities for worship and teaching
- 3) Meetings for high school and junior high that will meet the needs of each age group
- 4) High quality social activities as opportunities to invite friends
- 5) Opportunities to participate in meaningful service projects/short mission trips

### Small groups

- meet **weekly** in homes
- lead by adult leaders/mentors who are able to train small groups of students to gain wisdom from their **individual study of the scriptures**, teaching them the “how to”
- groups for junior high girls, junior high boys, 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> grade girls, 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> grade boys, 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade girls, 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade boys,
- leaders could plan small group social activities, as they are able, for the purpose of building relationships

### “All youth” worship service

- held only **once a month** so each event can be well planned and high quality
- each service has a strong theme with all elements supporting that theme (forgiveness, encouragement, friendship etc.)
- incorporating great creative elements geared toward youth – music drama, media etc. (there are fabulous resources available so everything doesn’t have to be created from scratch, possibly receiving support from the creative arts team in the planning and ideas)
- great speaker – addressing youth topics
- a “living the word” challenge
- no competitions necessary

### Separate high school and junior high meetings

- held **twice a month**
- more of a mid sized group format
- possibly meeting in homes
- incorporating some fun game type activity, worship, teaching (age appropriate) and prayer time

### Social activities (pure fun)

- held **once a month on a Friday or Saturday night**
- high quality, well organized event that kids would love to bring their friends to
- scavenger hunts, broom ball, camera wars, masquerade hunt, Night of Champions, concerts, etc.

### Service projects

- **two or three times per year** do events like a 30 hour famine, feed or blanket the homeless, Mexico outreach trips, service project for an inner city church, fund raiser for World Vision, etc.

### Monthly calendar : could look something like this

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday - Youth Worship Service
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - High School Group and Junior High Group meeting separately
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week - Social Activity on Friday or Saturday night
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday - High School Group and Junior High Group meeting separately

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – months when there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday plan a service project  
small groups meet on a weekday night every week

### **Leaders:**

- adult leaders/mentors – responsibilities would be to teach in the small group settings
- student ministry interns – youth ministry majors from APU (non-paid, ministry hours credit)
  - o 1 intern for junior high
  - o 1 intern for high school
  - o would help plan high school and junior high meetings
  - o would help plan and execute monthly youth service
  - o could help lead small groups
  - o benefits of having youth ministry college students – resources, ideas, receiving training in ministry
- student ministry volunteers – help plan fun social activities, service projects, and participate in monthly youth service

### **Student Ministries Leader:**

- cast vision and oversee all of Student Ministries
- be the student's pastor (handle all difficult situations)
- mentor and oversee all leaders-meeting regularly with them to assure quality leadership is happening at all levels
- speaking / teaching
- spending time on the school campuses hanging out with students (community exposure)
- possibly lend support and work with the Children's Ministry Director on some aspects of children's ministry (moving toward a Family Pastor role)

### **Communication:**

- **must be clear, concise, consistent**
- determine your method of communication and ALWAYS communicate to parents that way
- monthly newsletter (preferred)
  - o email (pdf) plus follow-up hard copy mailed home last week of the month for the following month
  - o simple 4 page format include: note from Student Ministries Leader, something about last months activity, small group information with contacts and locations, 3 month calendar (next month larger), details about the next big social event / worship service / service project with as many details as possible for parents
- NO info sent to parents via facebook or texts except maybe a last minute reminder or invitation to students

### **Important notes:**

- large events (monthly worship service, social activities and service projects) are carefully planned and are very high quality
- students should want to bring their friends because they are GREAT and they don't want to miss them
- high school and junior high need separate meetings most of the time
- if you try to meet the needs of too wide of an age range you will meet the needs of no one