**Associate Pastor/Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries**

**Pacific Beach Christian Church:** Our church was founded in 1949 and has evolved and changed as our community and culture has evolved and changed. We are an inter-generational family of faith that strives to build bridges to transcend the generational gaps that so often exist within the Church and in the wider community. This means seeing our children and youth as an integral part of the current Church, not just the future of the Church. We are intentional about creating space for them to participate, serve and lead in our church. As an Open and Affirming congregation we are also committed to creating an inclusive faith community for all of God’s children regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, immigration status, politics, theology, age, or socio-economic status. We are also committed to engaging in shared mission and ministry with neighboring churches and interfaith partners. Our current senior pastor has served the church for 26 years and our part-time associate pastor was ordained in our church a little over a year ago and gives oversight to our small groups, outreach/marketing and technology. We averaged about 100 people in worship on Sundays prior to the pandemic and envision continuing an on-line worship presence even after we are able to open the church doors to our community again post-pandemic. We would welcome an opportunity to explore with you if you might be a good fit for our ministry team.

**Overview of Job:** The primary responsibility is to give leadership and oversight to all Children and Youth ministries and to help develop a more comprehensive ministry to families within the church and within the wider community.

**Vision:** We would like to help teach and equip our young people to be disciples of Jesus by providing them opportunities to learn, grow, share and serve. Our goal is that they would come to understand Christian faith as a way of living, not just a way of believing. A secondary goal is to address the spiritual needs of the parents and to provide ways for them to connect more deeply with God, with their children, with one another, and with other parents. We would also like to expand the scope of this ministry beyond our congregation into the surrounding community as we see an influx of young families with children in the neighborhood. Living into this vision will require us to focus attention in the following three areas:

1. **Spiritual Growth** (ie learning and growing)
* Bring the bible to life for them
* Help them to understand and experience God’s love for them
* Create an atmosphere where they are welcome to ask the hard questions
* Create an atmosphere where diversity in theology and biblical interpretation is both accepted and welcome
* Create an inclusive atmosphere where children and youth are made to feel welcome and diversity is celebrated (ie LGBTQ, immigrant, multi-racial, and special needs kids and their families)
* Create possibilities for adult mentoring
* Encourage regular participation and even leadership in worship
* Encourage regular participation in PSWR Camp and Conference program
* Teach the basics of our Disciples of Christ history and beliefs
* Partner with other churches in the community where possible
1. **Sharing** (ie fellowship/building community)
* Create a safe place to share with one another and to discuss real and relevant issues
* Create opportunities to have fun together
* Involve the children/youth in the life of the larger church
* Encourage participation in PSWR Regional events – Gatherings, YLT, camp, trainings
1. **Mission** (ie serving)
* Instill a sensitivity to marginalized groups and a passion for justice
* Meet and work with our ecumenical and interfaith partners in the wider community
* Engage in mission trips and experiences
* Provide opportunities to help mentor younger children
* Involve them in service opportunities both within the church and wider community

**Responsibilities:**

* Finding resources and curriculum that will enable us to fulfill our Vision as outlined above
* Recruit, equip and support a volunteer team to work with our children and youth
* Offer spiritual support and counsel to kids and parents while finding meaningful ways to minister to the needs of the whole family
* Make use of technology and virtual platforms where possible and necessary (ie during the pandemic)
* Plan and maintain a calendar of events utilizing various tools to communicate regularly with kids and families (ie social media, website, blog, e-mail, text, call, flyer, bulletin board, newsletter, etc.)
* Help to integrate young people into the life of the larger church, including worship and missions projects
* Help to develop and give oversight to a budget for resourcing our ministry to children, youth and families
* Take responsibility for implementing our Child Protection Policy. This includes conducting background checks on all volunteers and securely storing that information. It also includes training and orienting volunteers to work within the policy guidelines
* Creating ways to meaningfully connect with families in the wider Pacific Beach community

**Scope:**

* Hours: Half-time
* Salary: negotiable
* Two weeks paid vacation

**Qualifications:**

* Experience working with children/youth in either church or school setting
* Passion for working with children and youth
* Have a depth of faith and an ability to help others in their own faith formation
* Can create a warm and welcoming environment for kids and their parents
* Education: degree in education, child development, or ministry is preferable but not required
* Experience planning and coordinating group outings or events (mission trips, meet-ups, retreats, camps, etc.)
* Experience working with social justice-related issues and diverse communities like the LGBTQ community, varied races/ethnic groups, immigrants and special needs kids/families
* Comfortable holding space for challenging theological questions and faith exploration
* Can engage children/youth with varied and creative approaches
* Can think on your feet, be flexible, and adapt to changes as necessary
* Preferred working knowledge of Disciples of Christ (DOC) and/or United Church of Christ (UCC)
* Preferred experience training and coordinating volunteers