



CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM

*Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life.
Proverbs 22:6*

*No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar or puts it under a
bed, but puts it on a lampstand so that those who enter may see the light.
Luke 8:16 (NRSV)*

THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE

Our Christian faith is not merely a belief in creedal statements, but a way of life, based on the ministry and message of Jesus. It is a lifelong journey, seeking the light of new knowledge. It is discipleship. This faith is grounded deeply within us and causes us to celebrate God's presence through teaching, guiding and inspiring all members of our Community of Faith (COF). We spread light in the world by providing opportunities for people, both inside and outside of the church, to grow in their Christian faith.

The Christian Development Team (Team) is responsible for providing inspiration, direction, encouragement, and oversight for all Christian education programs conducted by the Central United Church (Central) faith community. The Team devotes itself to the Christian nurture, discipleship, and development of faith in all members, adherents, Celebrate Life Recovery participants and any who call Central their faith home. The Team offers leadership and takes the initiative to implement new ideas and create meaningful ways of living out our Christian faith in an evolving and ever-changing world. The Team also seeks to build bridges of understanding between and among world religions.

The work of the Team includes equipping disciples for service, as Jesus did. The Team encourages the faith community of Central to actively participate in discipleship through education and leadership opportunities, thereby instilling greater confidence in each person.

The Team also recognizes that Central is part of The United Church of Canada (UCC) and seeks to reflect the ethos of our denomination in the educational opportunities provided.



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TASKS

The tasks of the Team include:

1. Developing guidelines and protocols for the conduct of Christian Development programming

- (a) Conducting a yearly planning session for Christian Development programming in collaboration with the paid ministry staff.
- (b) Developing educational leadership, drawing on the gifts and skills of individuals, both inside and outside of the COF.
- (c) Ensuring the Duty of Care Policy and Procedures established for vulnerable sector populations in the church are adhered to, recognizing that disclosure of adult misconduct with children or youth must be reported immediately to the appropriate church and legal authorities.
- (d) Filing an Incident Report with the Duty of Care Officer if any Duty of Care policies or procedures are contravened.
- (e) Inviting the participation of people, both inside and outside of the church, in educational opportunities initiated by the Team.
- (f) Preparing a report of the Team's activities for inclusion in the Annual Report.
- (g) Ensuring that the annual statistical reporting for Christian Development programming is submitted to the Office Administrator for inclusion in the Year Book of the UCC.
- (h) Evaluating the work of the Team on a yearly basis, using the following guidelines:
 - Setting goals for the Team (e.g. using one Team meeting for setting goals and another Team meeting for evaluation)
 - Setting goals for Team members (e.g. Development of leadership skills)
 - Developing questions/surveys/feedback opportunities that target and evaluate outcomes
 - Celebrating achieved goals, both of the Team and the Team members
 - Deliberating on areas of concern and providing positive solutions

2. Providing oversight of the Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministry programming

- (a) Offering age-appropriate programming for children, youth, and young adults, working in collaboration with the Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator.
- (b) Ensuring that, whenever possible, the curriculum recommended by the UCC is used for children, youth and young adult programming.
- (c) Ensuring that an engaging, scripturally based program for children (approximately 3 to 12 years of age) and youth (approximately 13 to 18 years of age) is provided for the Sunday morning worship service.
- (d) Providing educational and leadership opportunities for young adults (19 to 25), both at the morning and evening services.
- (e) Ensuring that children, youth, and young adults are invited to serve Holy Communion on a regular basis.

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- (f) Ensuring that Confirmation Classes for youth and young adults are offered on a timely basis.
- (g) Informing parents about Vacation Bible School opportunities offered by United Churches in Calgary.
- (h) Collaborating with the Ministry and Personnel Committee (M&P) in the hiring of a Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator when a vacancy arises.
- (i) Collaborating with the M&P Committee in the hiring of a Youth Worker.
- (j) Ensuring that the toys offered by the church for use by nursery-age children (1-3 years of age) meet federally mandated standards of safety and are cleaned on a weekly basis or more often as required.
- (k) Ensuring that the Youth Worker hired by Central is present at the Celebrate Life Recovery service, offering a warm welcome to the children, youth and young adults in attendance and seeking to meet the expressed needs of that cohort.

3. Promoting adult education programming and small group ministries

- (a) Ensuring that Membership Classes for adults are offered on a regular basis.
- (b) Exploring a variety of ways to engage adults in spiritual growth including, but not limited to, Bible study, book studies, comparative religion studies, co-dependency workshops and classes, movie discussion groups.
- (c) Encouraging the development of small group ministries within the congregation to strengthen the bonds of community (e.g. setting up cluster groups that meet to study scripture or engage in book studies while sharing a meal).
- (d) Setting fee schedules for adult programming initiatives, if warranted.
- (e) Ensuring that programming initiatives for Seniors is provided by the church.
- (f) Promoting the sale of subscriptions to the United Church magazine, The Broadview.
- (g) Providing oversight of retreats and any other off-site Christian development initiatives, working in collaboration with the Duty of Care Team.
- (h) Offering support for the Filipino Fellowship gatherings and the Sunday morning Bible study group.
- (i) Providing oversight of any adult education programming that may be offered at the Celebrate Life Recovery service on Sunday evenings.

4. Providing operational support

- (a) Appointing a Church Librarian who is responsible for maintenance of the John and Mary Brown Memorial Library, including the acquisition of new books and culling the collection on a regular basis.
- (b) Providing material and spiritual support to the Affirming Team for the duration of its mandate.
- (c) Purchasing supplies and resources (both print and digital) to meet programming needs for every demographic represented in the church.

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- (d) Ensuring that any Police Information Checks (PIC) required by our Duty of Care Policy and Procedures have been obtained for any person teaching, mentoring, supervising or generally interacting with our children and youth.
- (e) Ensuring volunteers are trained and recognized.
- (f) Ensuring that educational opportunities offered in locations other than Central are sanctioned by the Team and the Duty of Care Officer and covered by the appropriate liability insurance.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- The Team is accountable to the Board and shall report to the Board as required.
- The Chair of the Team is a Voting Member of the Board.
- The Team shall meet monthly, excluding July and August.
- The Team shall submit a written report of their activities to the Board whenever the Board meets. Such reports will be attached to the Board minutes.
- Approved minutes of Team meetings shall be submitted to the Office Administrator to be housed in the Church Office and made available to the congregation and other church bodies upon request.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The membership of the Team shall include a Chair, a Recording Secretary, the Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator, the Minister (s) and at least two (2) other people. The Team is responsible for appointing a Church Librarian who attends meetings at the request of the Chair.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The budget of the Team shall be prepared on a yearly basis, submitted to and examined by the Finance Committee as part of Central's budgeting process.

Budget items may include:

- Curriculum
- Craft supplies
- Workshop materials
- Books/videos
- Music resources
- Educational seminars/workshops

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This document is a living document and can be changed or revised with the approval of the Board.

*Written Wednesday, February 28, 2nd Draft April 11, 2018,
Revised June 13, 26, July 4, August 27, September 6, November 9, 21, 2018
Revised March 24, May 8, 2019
Revised July 18, October 12, 2021
Revised March 9, 2022
Officially approved by the Board on March 19th, 2022*

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Printed on Thursday, September 22, 2022

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