

# YOUTH MINISTRY VISION

## OUR GOAL: *WHAT WE HOPE TO DO*

To help students become "self-starters." Self-starters are those who:

- Take initiative in pursuing gospel-growth and applying the gospel to every area of their lives (Gospel)
- Actively seek to participate in Christian community in a local church setting (Community)
- Act as a people "sent" by Christ into the world to make disciples (Mission)

## SIX FORMATIVE DECISIONS ABOUT *HOW WE GO ABOUT DOING IT*

### **CHRISTIAN GROWTH, RATHER THAN NUMERIC GROWTH**

We will seek first to develop spiritual maturity in those already in our group and will work and pray with them as they reach out to their friends.

### **RELATIONSHIP-CENTERED, RATHER THAN PROGRAMS-CENTERED**

Attendance and activity does not help nurture Christians, but rather relationships focused on the gospel.

### **GOSPEL-EMPOWERED, RATHER THAN MORALITY-DRIVEN**

While we will seek to apply our instruction in tangible, concrete ways, our focus will first be upon developing a deep understanding of and love for the gospel, both in terms of the redemptive story and in terms of a world-view shaped by the traditions of our church.

### **YOUTH AS CONTRIBUTORS, NOT JUST CONSUMERS**

We want our teens to "own" the ministry. This involves giving them opportunity freely to make sacrifices as part of following Christ (independent spiritual disciplines, service projects, coming to Bible studies on their own initiative) and a greater degree of responsibility for the group.

### **CHURCH CULTURE, RATHER THAN YOUTH SUB-CULTURE**

While we want to help develop relationships within our teens, our desire is also for our teens to be integrated into our church life and community—for them to be included in the church culture (rather than isolated), and for them to own and participate in the mission and commitments of church life.

### **A CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY, RATHER THAN A STAFF RESPONSIBILITY**

We believe that the church as a whole has a responsibility to help nurture the youth of the congregation. Individual(s) (staff and/or lay) may be deemed the leader(s) of the youth ministry, but this task does not fall squarely on their shoulders.