



Community Connections Pastor

Background

The Upper Room Community of Minneapolis possesses a unique place in the church landscape of the Twin Cities. Started in the early 2000's, Upper Room began as a worship expression of Christ Presbyterian Church. As an early adopter and pioneer of a highly experiential approach to worship, utilizing ancient-modern forms, Upper Room attracted a large number of young adults from across the Minneapolis-St Paul metropolitan area leading to significant growth.

Since that time, Upper Room has stepped out and become an independent church with approximately 250 committed participants who now rents space for its staff offices and community gatherings at Colonial Church in Edina. In keeping with our history of re-inventing the way Church is done we've recently adopted a unique, 3-person leadership team model made up of a Teaching Pastor, a Community Connections Pastor, and an Operations Pastor. This trio is responsible for driving the mission and vision of the Church into the future. Due to personal circumstances, our Community Connections Pastor has decided to make a physical move to be closer to family. Thus, we're in search of someone to fill this position on the leadership team. This person will continue to create opportunities for our community members to connect with each other, as well as outside of our walls.

Upper Room is and always has been a community focused on loving God and others in the ways that Jesus did, being alive through the words, actions, and presence of Jesus. The core values that lie at the heart of the community are: Communal Authenticity; Outward Movement; Encountering Jesus; Intentional Relationships; and Humble Surrender. We embrace the reality that no person can fully understand the mystery and beauty of God, so we approach our statement of faith with humility and grace. Recalling Reformer Rupertus Meldenius, when he wrote "In the essentials we need unity, in the non-essentials we need freedom; but in all things we need love." Upper Room understands that love was Jesus' highest value, and therefore, must be ours.

Job Overview

Upper Room seeks to be a community of individuals alive through the words, actions, and presence of Jesus. With that end in mind, the Community Connections Pastor will be responsible for seeing the vision for how we do this well - fostering a sense of belonging and connection amongst community members outside of the Sunday experience. Additionally, they will provide primary leadership in developing strategies and tactics to facilitate a greater sense of presence and connection within our broader community and build collaborative partnerships with individuals and organizations beyond the church to work toward the good of everyone as we follow more closely in the way of Jesus.

The Community Connections Pastor is a 30-hour/week position, with full benefits, and is a equal member of the 3-person leadership team alongside the Teaching Pastor and Operations Pastor.

Responsibilities and Duties

Community Connections Strategy - 60%

- Oversee the vision and execution of **Community Connection activities**. Design and implement strategies and tactics to ensure community members feel a sense of connection and belonging within the Upper Room Community.
- Oversee the vision and execution of **outward movement activities** including establishing goals, designing opportunities to achieve goals, establishing key partnerships outside of UR and the coordination of volunteers to aid in connection, facilitation and implementation.
- Coordinate Prayer & Care efforts including leading/managing Prayer Staff.
- In partnership with the Lead Team, create and coordinate spaces for learning and connection on various topics, including anti-racism work.
- Partner with Lead Team to identify and execute a regular cadence of all-community events which align to the overall mission and vision of the church.

Organizational & Pastoral Leadership - 25%

- Leadership (Lead) Team - Co-lead the church's vision, mission, strategy, staff, volunteer leaders, and community alongside the Operations Pastor and Teaching Pastor
- Pastoral Care - Care for the church in partnership with community and staff, as evidenced by presence in both ordinary and monumental moments (weddings, 1:1 meetings, baptisms, etc.)
- Work alongside other Lead Team members to determine and establish operating policies, overall ministry goals and objectives (metrics), and plans and programs for their achievement.
- Implement and execute strategies to effectively monitor and ensure success of ongoing church programs.
- Participate as an active member of the church staff attending meetings, maintaining internal communications and paperwork, and responding to questions as needed.

Teaching - 15%

- Collaborate as needed with the Lead Team to develop, plan, and execute the worship experiences. Ensure each Sunday gathering consistently communicates the Upper Room vision and mission.
- Effectively, passionately, and creatively communicate Biblical truth to the community with Upper Room core values and mission ever present. Deliver thoughtful messages that are authentic, scripturally based, relevant, engaging and challenging to the community. (Speaking on Sunday's at Upper Room approximately 6-10 times per year, or as appropriate for the candidate).
- Provide a consistent presence on Sunday nights.

Qualifications

Experience

- Demonstrated ability to:
 - think strategically as a visionary,
 - develop and implement community building strategies and tactics - both within and outside the walls of the church.

- lead staff and volunteers
- serve as a relational touchpoint to community members
- Demonstrated experience or passion for pastoral care initiatives
- Experience participating in and/or leading cross-cultural learning and/or developing points of connection between interracial communities

Education

A demonstrated history and commitment to faith development, through traditional and non-traditional means

Desired Qualities and Passions

- Has a vital and growing relationship with Jesus Christ
- Ability to fully embrace the vision and values of Upper Room
- Passion for people, and creating opportunities for people to connect with one another
- Proven leadership skills utilizing a cooperative, collaborative leadership style
- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to maintain healthy relationships
- Strong verbal and written communication skills, including public speaking and presenting.
- Ability to embrace innovation and creativity while adapting to change
- Ability to use appropriate judgment, discretion, sensitivity, and confidentiality
- Skillful at managing time/setting priorities
- High degree of empathy and relational abilities, and desire to put those traits to use in developing relationships amongst, and caring for, the community
- A strong interest in leading anti-racism initiatives or creating spaces for these conversations

Relationships

- Supervised by Upper Room Board of Directors
- Voting member of the Upper Room Board of Directors
- Supervisor of key volunteers and staff, as needed
- Serve on Lead Team alongside Teaching Pastor and Operations Pastor
- Regular collaboration with Upper Room staff, volunteers, and community members

Physical Location

This position is expected to be located within the Twin Cities metro area. The individual will work in a combination of in-office and remote settings, depending on the current state of the pandemic.

Application Submission

We're excited to hear from you! To submit yourself for consideration, please send cover letter and resume to searchteam@urminneapolis.org including answers to the following questions:

- Please describe your faith journey: how you came to know Jesus, and the relationship you have with Him today.
- Please describe what excites you about the Community Connections role at Upper Room.
- Please describe your familiarity, if any, with Upper Room
- Anything else you'd like to communicate to us about your excitement and/or fit for this role