

**Children and Family Ministry Overview
(including Weekday Early Education)**

A. Mission

Connecting children and their families to God, growing them in the knowledge of Christ, serving them with compassion.

B. Vision

To connect children and their families to a Christian community so that they may go out and serve others in the surrounding community.

C. Values

- Excellence in programming for children and their families
- Plan for future and sustainability
- Be good stewards of financial and other resources
- Purposeful use of our facilities
- Faithfully keep lines of communication open between church programming and families
- Model how to serve with compassion
- Intentionally reach out to all children and families in our community

D. Primary objectives of ministry

Primary Objective	Resources Needed	Number of People Involved	Priority
Provide a safe, healthy, age-appropriate learning environment that accommodates all children	Storm shelter Asbestos-FREE building Handicap accessibility	Potentially 250-300 children and teachers	A
Expand CDO, Preschool and Sunday school programming	10 toddler/preschool classrooms 12 elementary classrooms 1 staff room 2 resource rooms Multi-purpose room for toddlers/preschoolers Auditorium Sound system Projector screen Sound board Mass seating options Mass storage to house indoor play supplies	10-15 children, 2-4 adults per room 20 children, 2-4 adults per room 20-30 teachers/staff 20 children, 2-4 adults 250-300 children & adult mix	B
Develop programming to meet the needs of the families we serve	Put children's facilities in close proximity to worship area Provide modern check-in system for nursery & children's classrooms Provide multiple monitors to highlight announcements & upcoming church events		C

Priorities – A – short-term, prior to 12 months

B – mid-term, 12 to 24 months

C – long-term, longer than 24 months

First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, KS

2010 – 2015 Strategic Plan

Children and Family Ministry (including Weekday Early Education)

I. Mission

Connecting children and their families to God, growing them in the knowledge of Christ, serving them with compassion.

II. Vision

To connect children and their families to a Christian community so that they may go out and serve others in the surrounding community.

Although the children's ministry has been blessed with healthy, sustaining numbers for the last three years; we see a glaring need for a simultaneous family ministry. Healthy families produce healthy children. Therefore we feel it is imperative to develop a family ministry that operates cohesively with the children's ministry. Our vision is to take a holistic approach in creating a family ministry. This ministry's purpose will offer programming that offers families tools to navigate in a climate where the culture demands so much from the family unit.

III. Value Statements

- We will strive for continuous improvements in connecting our children and families to Christ.
- We will make use of past studies as we plan for our future growth and stability.
- We will be good stewards of the financial and other resources we are blessed with.
- We will develop strategies that make the best use of our facilities.
- We will develop a communication plan for supporting our children and families.
- We will model for our children and families how to serve with compassion.
- We will reach beyond the membership to touch the lives of children and families in our community.

IV. Measuring Points

Children and Family Ministry:

- Number of children participating on Sunday mornings
- Number of volunteer staff participating on Sunday mornings
- Evaluation of small groups (i.e. # of participants, mission and purpose of group, regularity of meetings)
- Evaluation of planning teams (i.e. staffing of planning teams, clarity of teams purpose, delegated responsibilities and authority to planning teams, clear communication between planning teams and ministry leader)

Weekday Early Education:

- Number of children enrolled
- Number of families connecting to FUMC as members and/or active participants
- Retention and spiritual growth among teaching staff

**First United Methodist Church Manhattan
Children and Family Ministry
Action Planning**

Mission –connecting children and their families to God, growing them in the knowledge of Christ, serving them with compassion.

Person Responsible for Action: Children and Family Ministry Director and Children’s Council

Specific Action	Outcome	Resources Needed	Person Responsible	Completion Date
Provide a safe, healthy, age-appropriate learning environment that accommodates all children	Safety for all involved persons	Storm shelter Asbestos-free building Handicap accessibility	Children & Family Ministry Director	
Update & address technological needs	Use technology to connect children and families to the ministry and its programming	Modern check-in system able to accommodate forecasted 145 children in next five years (currently 100) Multiple monitors to highlight announcements & showcase upcoming events and post ministry needs Sound board and PA systems 10 computers with (secured) internet access	Children & Family Ministry Director Children’s Council	Fall 2011
Transform Education Center into a Family Life Center	Grow programming to include parents and children.	Large auditorium (used for auditorium Sunday school, children’s programs and other Christian programming) Counseling offices 4-6 Classrooms with ability to serve 30-40 adults	Children & Family Ministry Director Children’s Council	Fall 2011
Grow and re-structure current ministry opportunities	Expand and improve physical space to accommodate growing ministry	Auditorium with multi-media capabilities for new Sunday school model Storage for visual aids/props/play equipment Practice room for Children’s music/drama program	Children & Family Ministry Director Children’s Council	Fall 2013

<p>Nurture children's faith walk by offering after school and summer programming</p>	<p>Offer after school programming</p> <p>Offer summer camp opportunities</p>	<p>Modern check-in system</p> <p>Large auditorium</p> <p>Storage for visual aids/props/play equipment</p> <p>10 computers with (secured) internet access</p> <p>4-6 Classrooms with ability to serve 30-40 adults</p>	<p>Children & Family Ministry Director</p> <p>Children's Council</p>	<p>Fall 2013</p>
<p>Improve nursery and childcare programs</p>	<p>Create a warm, welcoming environment for newborns and their families</p>	<p>Modern check-in and paging system</p> <p>Build cry room into places of worship in order to facilitate parents keeping children in services should they choose</p>	<p>Children & Family Ministry Director</p> <p>Children's Council</p>	<p>Fall 2013</p>

**First United Methodist Church Manhattan
Weekday Early Education (WEE)
Action Planning**

Mission – connecting children and their families to God, growing them in the knowledge of Christ, serving them with compassion.

Person Responsible for Action: Weekday Early Education Director

Specific Action	Outcome	Resources Needed	Person Responsible	Completion Date
Expand preschool classrooms to 2 nd floor of Ed Ctr. to include teacher resource & break room.	More families being reached due to increased enrollment	4 classrooms 1 staff room 1 resource room	WEE Director	As soon as 2 nd floor opens up or new facility is built
Expand CDO classrooms on 1 st floor of Ed. Ctr. to include all purpose room	↓	4 classrooms 1 large all-purpose room	WEE Director	↓
Develop playground space that accommodates growing numbers	↓	Outdoor space adjacent to classrooms	WEE Director	↓
Offer parenting classes with a spiritual emphasis	More families actively participating in the life of the church	Large room(s) with video technology, preferably near nursery/ children's facility	Children & Family Ministry Director	Start offering with 2010-2011 school term

Support the teaching staff spiritually and professionally by using research based, age-appropriate curriculum	Good teacher retention due to spiritual and professional support	Lifeway/High Scope Curriculum	WEE Director	Introduced 2009-10 school term & is on-going
Create a liaison with the missions ministry area	Students and their families are provided with opportunities to serve others in need	N/A	WEE Board	August 2010

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