****CONFIDENTIAL****

YOUTH/CHILDREN MINISTRY APPLICATION
Houghton Wesleyan Church

Thank you so much for your interest in serving God through Houghton Wesleyan's ministries to our children and youth! We are grateful for your willingness to give your time, gifts and attention to these young people dearly loved by God and made in his image.

We are committed to making our church a safe place for all of our young people. We are also committed to modeling for them adult lives shaped by a dynamic, growing faith, to avoiding behavior and activities that would distract us from loving God and our neighbors, and to seeking out relationships and experiences that will encourage our own spiritual growth and vitality.

With these commitments in mind, this application asks questions that may feel awkward or even painful for you to answer. We are sorry for any discomfort this may cause you, and we thank you in advance for partnering with us in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our young people. We are grateful for your honesty, humility, and your trust.

We take your trust and your privacy seriously. If you'd like to know what that means specifically, we've laid out our policies and procedures for maintaining the confidentiality of your application on the back of this sheet.

You can be assured that all the ministry leaders and pastors who may view your application acknowledge that they too are forgiven people, dependent on the mercy of God and grateful for his power to turn to good the various ways we have all failed to love him and our neighbors with our whole hearts.

Please feel free to reach out to any of the pastors or ministry leaders if you'd like to have a face to face conversation about anything in this application, or your faith journey more generally. God has given us to each other, and we are here to help each other grow in grace and in love!

Here's how we will guard your privacy:

All applications are kept in a locked filing cabinet at the church. Typically only your direct supervisor in ministry will read your application, though the four ministry leaders who supervise the children's and youth programming (Youth Pastor, Children's Pastor, Valley Preschool Director, and Nursery Coordinator) do have access to the cabinet. It is within the purview of the senior and assistant pastors to review any application, but this would be unusual. Your direct supervisor may seek the advice of one of the other four youth or children's ministry leaders about your application, and may ask a leader of your same gender to follow up with you about any sensitive questions. We expect this will usually make for a more comfortable conversation for you as well.

Aside from the responsibilities we accept as mandated reporters, or any other situation that might involve the legal demands of civil authorities, you can be confident that there will be absolutely no discussion of the contents of your application outside of the six above named people with access to it.

If you have any questions about any of this, don't hesitate to ask!

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YOUTH/CHILDREN MINISTRY APPLICATION

Houghton Wesleyan Church

Name_____
Last First Middle

Today's Date: Your Birthdate:

Current Home Address -

City State ZIP Phone ( ) - -

If you are a Houghton University student, please also list your HU PO box- Cell Phone ( ) - –

Email Address -

Please attach a clear copy of your government issued photo ID to this document. ☐

In what activities/ministries of our church are you presently involved?

Tell us a little about how you came to Christ and your faith journey since then.

What activities do you currently find most helpful and nourishing to your faith?

What kind of accountability structure do you have in your life? (small group, mentor, friends, etc.)

What people or experiences have been most significant in your growth as a Christian?

Why do you want to serve in children/youth ministries?

Do you have any other commitments that might make it hard for you to be available for the ministry you are interested in?

Church Information

Do you call Houghton Wesleyan church your home(for HU students, is HWC your church while you are at school?)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you a member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How long have you been attending Houghton Wesleyan church?

References:

List the names and addresses of other churches you have attended regularly during the past five years.

List your work history for the past five years:

List all previous church or non-church work involving youth or children (list each organization's name and city, type of work performed, and dates).

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Please give three references other than a relative. If you have served in another church within the last five years, please list at least one reference from there (e.g., pastor, ministry leader, etc.).

1.) Name Address -
Phone ( ) - - Email Address -
Relationship/Title Church Name

2.) Name Address -
Phone ( ) - - Email Address -
Relationship/Title Church Name

3.) Name Address -
Phone ( ) - - Email Address -
Relationship/Title Church Name

My initials here indicate that I am waiving my right to view the results of these references:

_____ _____
(initials) (Date)

Are you currently or have you ever used illegal drugs?
☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please describe:

Have you ever gone through treatment for alcohol or drug abuse?
☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please describe:

Have you ever been arrested and /or convicted of a crime?
☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please describe:

Have you ever had any sexual interactions with any minor after you became an adult?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any form of child abuse?
☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please describe:

What are your views/attitudes toward pornography and the use of pornographic material?

Have you ever viewed or used pornographic material?
☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please describe:

The Wesleyan Church believes in sexual abstinence before marriage and that marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman. Is it your intention to live within these guidelines?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Please list identifiers for any online presence or social media that you maintain (eg: FB, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, blogs etc):

Do you have anything posted online that would create a negative perception of Houghton Wesleyan church?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Given the very sad statistics on the prevalence of childhood abuse of various kinds, we expect that a good number of our volunteers and staff working with children and youth will have experienced some form and degree of abuse as children, and this breaks our hearts.

If you are a survivor, we hope you have already found many sources of help and support in your healing. Should you want it, we stand ready to add our love and support as well. We hope to be a safe place not only for this current generation of young people, but also for adults who are survivors of childhood abuse. The pastors and others in leadership are always available to meet with you, to listen, to pray with you, and to connect you with a counselor or other services. We pray that you will encounter God's healing love as you worship and serve at Houghton Wesleyan.

You can always reach out in the future – this is not your last opportunity, but we want to give you an easy way to ask for a conversation now if you want one.

☐ I would like to talk with a pastor or someone in leadership from the church. (If you like, you can specify the pastor/leader that you feel most comfortable with. _____)

☐ I don't have any abuse issues in my past, or I don't require any support at this time.

Regardless of whether the painful experiences you have had in your youth rise to the level of abuse, it is impossible to escape pain living in a fallen world. Working closely with children and youth can be emotionally demanding in a variety of ways, and sometimes it can remind us of the painful experiences of various sorts we have ALL experienced.

It is important to us, as we strive to be channels of God's love into the lives of these young people, that we be attentive to our own needs for healing and growth in the Lord, in love, and in ministry skills. We will learn and grow when we rest in the greatness of God and his resources for good (remembering that we are only a very small part of the picture), when we take adequate time for rest and renewal, when we seek the counsel of our ministry peers and those with more experience and wisdom, and when we benefit from books or other resources.

Will you affirm your intention to nurture your own growth and seek support from others in a variety of ways when you need it?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Will you likewise offer your own time, careful listening, insights, and support, when appropriate, to your ministry team members when they seek these from you?

☐ Yes ☐ No

APPLICANT'S NAME:_____

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT OF RELEASE

The information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I authorize any references, organizations, or churches listed in this application to provide any information (including opinions) that they may have regarding my character and fitness for work with youth or children. In consideration of the receipt and evaluation of this application by the Houghton Wesleyan Church, I hereby release any individual, church, organization, charity, employer, reference, or any other person or organization, including record custodians, both collectively and individually, from any and all liability for damages of whatever kind or nature which may at any time result to me, my heirs, or family, on account of compliance or attempts to comply with this authorization. I waive any right that I may have to inspect any information provided about me by any person, church or organization identified by me in this application.

Should my application be accepted, I agree to be bound by the code of conduct of the Houghton Wesleyan Church, and to refrain from unscriptural conduct in the performance of my services on behalf of the church.

I further state that **I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE FORGOING RELEASE AND KNOW THE CONTENTS THEREOF AND I SIGN THIS RELEASE AS MY OWN FREE ACT.** This is a legally binding agreement, which I have read and understand.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____