



Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church

Opportunity Profile: Director of Student Ministries

Palm Desert, California

Palm Desert CPC is a vibrant, Christ-centered congregation in the heart of the Coachella Valley with a deep commitment to biblical teaching, intergenerational discipleship, and community outreach. As the church continues to grow in mission and impact, we are seeking a **Director of Student Ministries** who will lead Middle School and High School students into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, equip adult leaders, and build a thriving, relational, Gospel-centered ministry.

The Student Ministry is a critical part of the mission and vision of PDCPC that is being planted and cultivated—one that supports students, encourages families, and integrates young people into the worship, service, and mission life of the church.

This Opportunity Profile outlines the church, the position, the expectations, and the attributes of an ideal candidate.

About Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church

Palm Desert CPC is a Christ-centered community of faith, joyfully rooted in the heart of the Coachella Valley. As the first church established in Palm Desert, we carry a rich legacy of spiritual presence and service in this community.

Today, we are a church called to live out the gospel with grace, hospitality, and faithfulness across all generations. God has given us a deep love not only to share the good news of Jesus Christ, but—as the apostle Paul wrote—“our very lives as well” (1 Thessalonians 2:8) with all generations. We are a multigenerational community of faith shaped by the gifts of a vibrant senior and seasonal population and the ministry of one of the valley’s top-rated preschools.

Our Mission

To connect with God, one another, and the world through Christ.

Our Denomination

Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church is a congregation in the

ECO: Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, committed to:

- Reformed Theology
- Missional Life
- Accountable Biblical Leadership
- A Flourishing Next Generation of Believers

Our Ministry Context

Located in the Coachella Valley, Palm Desert CPC serves a diverse and growing community of families, seasonal residents, retirees, and guests. The church has recently invested in expanding next-generation ministries, revitalizing worship spaces, and strengthening staff leadership for long-term mission and growth.

Student Ministry

Student Ministry exists to help Middle School and High School students encounter Jesus, grow in discipleship, and build meaningful relationships within a safe, welcoming, and Christ-centered environment.

The ministry includes:

- Discipleship and Contact Efforts
- Weekly Middle School & High School Gatherings
- Sunday Morning Worship and Gatherings
- Winter and Summer Camp Opportunities

The Director of Student Ministries will have the opportunity to plant and cultivate a relational discipleship approach, equipping volunteers and partnering with church leadership to nurture a thriving ministry that makes a lasting impact.

Worship Attendance

- Nov. to May = 349
- May to Oct = 170

Currently Active Students

- 10 middle school
- 15 High school

2026 Operating Budget

- \$1,752,000.00

The Opportunity

The Director of Student Ministries will have the opportunity to:

- **Shape the spiritual formation** of students during some of their most critical developmental years.
- **Design creative programs** that engage students with Scripture, prayer, worship, community, and service.
- **Build and equip a team** of volunteers and adult leaders.
- **Partner with families**, supporting parents as primary disciplers.
- **Integrate students into the whole church**, fostering intergenerational worship and mission.
- **Lead in a season of growth**, as Palm Desert CPC invests in its next-generation ministries across Children, Students, and Family Ministries.

Responsibilities

Ministry Leadership

- Provide vision and direction for Middle School and High School ministries.
- Cultivate a Christ-centered, welcoming environments where students feel known and valued.
- Plan, lead, and evaluate weekly programming, small groups, worship gatherings, retreats, and mission opportunities.

Teaching & Spiritual Formation

- Teach Scripture in a clear, compelling, and age-appropriate way.
- Develop students as disciples through mentoring, small groups, and leadership opportunities.
- Model a vibrant and growing personal relationship with Jesus.

Relational Ministry

- Build authentic relationships with students through presence, care, and consistent engagement.
- Support and encourage families, offering resources and ongoing communication.

Volunteer Leadership

- Recruit, train, shepherd, and empower adult volunteers and small-group leaders.
- Cultivate a team culture of collaboration, prayer, and spiritual maturity.

Administration

- Oversee ministry calendar, communication, registration, logistics, and compliance.
- Manage the annual budget for Student Ministries.
- Partner with the Director of Children's Ministries and church leadership for alignment and integration.

Church Involvement

- Fully participate in Sunday worship and church-wide events.
- Collaborate with staff, Session, and ministry teams for cross-ministry initiatives.

Requirements

Spiritual & Personal

- Mature follower of Jesus with a life that reflects the fruit of the Spirit.
- Strong alignment with ECO's Essential Tenets and the mission of PDCPC.
- Passionate about shepherding youth and helping them grow in their faith.

Professional & Educational

- Bachelor's degree required; ministry and theological training preferred.
- Meaningful experience and effectiveness in student ministry.
- Demonstrated ability to teach the Bible, mentor students, and build teams.

Skills & Strengths

- Strong interpersonal skills, engaging, and approachable.
- Organized, dependable, and able to manage multiple priorities.
- Strong communication skills (verbal, written, digital).
- Creative thinker who understands youth culture and trends.
- Team-oriented leader who can follow direction and collaborate well.

Personal Characteristics of the Ideal Candidate

The ideal candidate will exhibit:

- A servant's heart
- Emotional and spiritual maturity
- High integrity and authenticity
- Warmth and humor
- A pastoral presence students trust
- Creativity with a grounded theological core
- Flexibility and resilience
- Joy in ministry

Leadership Culture

Palm Desert CPC leadership operate within a culture defined by:

- **Christ-centered unity**
- **Prayerful discernment**
- **Healthy communication and collaboration**
- **Reliability and excellence in ministry**
- **Support for one another professionally and personally**

The Director of Student Ministries will be welcomed into a supportive, team-oriented environment led by the Senior Pastor–Head of Staff.

Working Relationships

Reports To:

- Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

Works Closely With:

- Director of Children's Ministry
- Ministry Support Staff
- Volunteer Small-Group Leaders
- Parents and Families
- Session & Staff

Compensation & Benefits

- Salary: \$70,500 to \$71,500 based on skill and experience
- Benefits including:
 - PPO and HMO Medical, Dental, and Vision Insurance Options (100% for employees and 50% for eligible family members)
 - Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan
 - Paid Vacation, Sick Days, and Paid Holidays
 - Employee Tuition Discounts for Academy Preschool
 - Professional Development
- Committed to support and offer seminary level scholarship after the completion of one year of employment.

Application Process

We are excited to get to know you! To help us gain insight into who you are, please provide one to two paragraphs in response to each of these questions:

- What aspects of this community of faith and profile interest you?
- How would you describe your teaching and ministry approach with students?
- In what ways do you ensure that every student, irrespective of their background or personal challenges, will feel seen and belong with the community of faith?
- How do you collaborate with church staff and volunteers to advance the church's overall mission?

To apply, please email the following materials to Human Resources at HR@pdpresby.org:

- Cover Letter
- Resume
- Typed answers to question (word doc or pdf)

Applications will be reviewed as they are received. The position will remain open until the right candidate is selected.