

BMPC Youth Ministry

2017-2018

*StudentServe*

*Application*



BMPC Youth Ministry  
2017- 2018 StudentServe Application

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## A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in the possibility of your student getting involved with StudentServe during the 2017-2018 church season! StudentServe provides a wonderful opportunity for youth to dig deeper into their faith, learn valuable leadership skills, and gain organizational/leadership experience. Life is busy. We recognize that busyness does not always equate to growth and that growth should not come at the expense of family time and commitments. At the same time, youth who have taken part in this program in the past have found it to be a life-giving part of their faith journey.

All high schoolers are invited to apply for this program. StudentServe members commit to attend Sunday morning Youth Gathering & Connection groups, Worship Together Sundays, StudentServe Gathering on Wednesday nights, and at least one youth special event. No one will be turned away because they are unable to make it to every Youth Gathering, Wednesday night meeting, or special event. Nevertheless, we ask that applicants think seriously about their level of commitment to the Youth Ministry at BMPC before signing up for the program.

Thank you in advance for your support and for creating space within your busy schedules to encourage your youth to join StudentServe.

In Christ,

**David B. Smith, M.Div,**  
Interim Director of Youth Ministry  
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

## Why Should I Do It?

### **StudentServe has three primary purposes:**

1. *Forming* the faith of BMPC youth
2. *Exploring* leadership principles
3. *Creating* space for youth to gain leadership experience

### **Forming**

- ✦ There will be weekly check-ins on life and faith.
- ✦ Youth will explore leadership principles through a theological lens each week.
- ✦ Youth will have personal time and interaction with BMPC Pastoral Staff.
- ✦ Youth are invited to attend Wednesday Night Dinners between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. in Congregational Hall for a time of fellowship before Student Serve begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Loft.

### **Exploring**

- ✦ This year's StudentServe curriculum will be divided into monthly segments, which provide a focus for the group's exploration of key leadership principals, theological concepts and Christian practices.
- ✦ The ultimate goal of this curriculum is to empower youth to take on active leadership roles in church and society.
- ✦ *See the following page for a monthly break-down of topics to be covered.*

### **Creating**

- ✦ StudentServe is not just another class, it is an interactive opportunity that seeks to create space for youth to get involved with the inner-workings of the youth ministry.
- ✦ As a group, StudentServe will be empowered to set measurable goals for Youth Gathering on Sunday mornings, and will evaluate their progress toward these goals on a weekly basis.
- ✦ Each student will have weekly ministry responsibilities.
- ✦ Students will work in leadership teams and will have the responsibility to dream, plan, develop and carry out a ministry opportunity.

*Food for thought; in addition to being an enriching faith experience, StudentServe will also look great on your college application or resume!*



## When/where do we meet?

Youth are invited to attend Wednesday Night Dinners between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. in Congregational Hall for a time of fellowship before Student Serve begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Loft.

## What Will I Learn?

Weekly discussions will be framed by monthly themes, which empower youth to think theologically about key leadership principals.

### September | Casting a Vision

#### Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):

- September 13<sup>th</sup>: Introductions/Reconnections & Reflections on the Summer
- September 19<sup>th</sup>: Who are we? Exploring the Intersection of Identity and Leadership
- September 26<sup>th</sup>: Casting a vision for the 2017-2018 church season

*Description:* Successful leaders dedicate themselves to the difficult task of casting a vision for their efforts. During the first month of StudentServe, our new group will Connect & Reconnect after a long summer apart. We will explore the unique web of identities that each of us bring to the table and think about the ways those identities impact our leadership styles. We will then build outward from our self-understanding to construct a vision for the youth ministry during the 2017-2018 church season.

### October | Leading in a System

#### Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):

- October 4<sup>th</sup>: No one is an Island
- October 11<sup>th</sup>: Building a supportive community: *New Mexico Mission Trip Presentation*
- October 18<sup>th</sup>: Crazy Triangles
- October 25<sup>th</sup>: Managing Anxiety

*Description:* Every family, organization and society functions as a system. Systems carry memories, passions, and even pain. They have the ability to impact the way we behave toward others who inhabit them along with us; even if we don't realize they are there. Leaders must understand the underlying systemic issues of any organizational structure if they are to achieve their missional goals. This month will provide an opportunity for youth to reflect on the youth ministry through the lens of Family Systems Theory.

## **November | Called to Lead, Called to Serve**

### *Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):*

- November 1<sup>st</sup>: Biblical Understandings of Calling
- November 8<sup>th</sup>: Call & Callings: Luther on Vocation
- November 15<sup>th</sup>: Prophetic Call & the Social Sphere
- November 22<sup>nd</sup>: *No StudentServe*
- November 29<sup>th</sup>: Becoming a Servant Leader

*Description:* The word “calling” has entered into common parlance, but it’s origins are religious. This month will provide StudentServe members with an opportunity to explore biblical conceptions of calling, while being introduced to the historical development of the term before and after the Protestant Reformation. Youth will then think theologically about the relationship between Christian vocation, and our commitment to justice in the social realm. This segment will conclude with an in-depth reflection on how each youth understands God’s call upon their lives.

## **December | Balancing Act**

### *Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):*

- December 6<sup>th</sup>: Practicing Self-Care
- December 13<sup>th</sup>: Balancing Rules and Real-life
- December 20<sup>th</sup>: Balancing Hopes and Practicality
- December 27<sup>th</sup>: *No Student Serve*

*Description:* Balance is a necessary part of every leader’s life. One cannot hope to lead others toward abundant life if they are not finding ways to meet their own spiritual, emotional and physical needs. This segment will provide helpful resources for emerging leaders who are learning how to practice self-care, while also struggling to balance their hopes and dreams with the challenges of real life.

## **January | Developing your own Theology of Worship**

### *Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):*

- January 3<sup>rd</sup>: *No Student Serve*
- January 10<sup>th</sup>: Thinking Theologically about Presbyterian Worship
- January 17<sup>th</sup>: Exploring key elements of a Worship Service
- January 24<sup>th</sup>: Creating a Liturgy for Youth Sunday
- January 31<sup>st</sup>: Creating a Liturgy for Youth Sunday

*Description:* There are reasons behind the things we do in church! This segment will provide youth with an opportunity to explore the lived theology of worship exhibited in our congregation as they develop

their own worship life. The foundational explorations of the first two weeks will empower youth to create their own liturgy for Youth Sunday.

## **February | The Hate U Give**

### Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):

- February 7<sup>th</sup>: Opening Discussion of “The Hate U Give” by Angie Thomas
- February 14<sup>th</sup>: Book Discussion, Intersectionality
- February 21<sup>st</sup>: Book Discussion, White Privilege
- February 28<sup>th</sup>: Book Discussion, Advocating *with* vs. Advocating *for*

*\*Books provided by BMPC Youth Ministry*

*Description:* In recent years, the ever-present realities of systemic racism have come to the forefront of public discourse. All people of faith, including youth, are called to respond to these realities by standing for justice and peace. While many of our youth are isolated from the visible ramifications of systemic racism, these realities are present in everyone’s lives regardless of our social location. “*The Hate U Give*” is a young adult novel by Angie Thomas. It explores many of the key themes of this discussion through the lens of its embattled protagonist, and will serve as the foundation for our discussion.

## **March | Mission First- People Always**

### Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):

- March 7<sup>th</sup>: Mission First
- March 14<sup>th</sup>: People always
- March 21<sup>st</sup>: Prepare for Good Friday Service
- March 28<sup>th</sup>: Prepare for Good Friday Service

*Description:* God has given us a mission and this mission is *people*. Great leaders understand the importance of balancing the monotony of daily life with our over-arching mission as a community of faith and or calling to always treat people as ends in themselves, rather than means to some other end. They work hard to care for people, while still reaching goals. Students will explore these realities and practice them in preparation for this year’s Youth-Led Good Friday Service.

## **April | Creative Leadership**

### *Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):*

- April 4<sup>th</sup>: *No Student Serve*
- April 11<sup>th</sup>: Thinking creatively about Youth Gathering Structure & Space
- April 18<sup>th</sup>: Thinking creatively about Youth Ministry Special Events
- April 25<sup>th</sup>: Thinking creatively about outreach

*Description:* God has given us the gift of creativity. While we express it differently, creativity is something we all have within us. Good leaders use creativity in all they do. Students will have an opportunity to explore their own creative potential while reflecting on the intersecting identities they discussed in September. The self-understanding they have developed over the past year will provide the foundation for creative thinking about key aspects of the Youth Ministry program and its mission.

## **May | Creating a Community of Character & Year-in-Review**

### *Weekly Schedule (subject to alteration):*

- May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Creating a community of Character
- May 9<sup>th</sup>: Assessing outcomes
- May 16<sup>th</sup>: Year-in-Review, *last StudentServe*

*Description:* The final month of student serve will provide participants with an opportunity to assess the ways their efforts have helped to create and nurture a community of faith that embodies the character and values we established at the beginning of the year.

## StudentServe Leadership Teams Descriptions

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*All StudentServe members will participate weekly in various ministry teams.*

### **Social Media Team**

The goal of this team is to develop social media content for the Youth Ministry and explore new possibilities for connecting with young people in the communities we serve.

### **Hospitality Team**

The goal of this team is to provide hospitality leadership on Sunday morning by greeting and hosting other students.

### **Prayer Team**

The goal of this team is to participate in regular prayer for the concerns of students and families in the Youth Ministry.

### **Worship Team/Band**

The goal of this team is to provide the worship music for our Youth Gathering. Students will come early on Sunday morning to rehearse and prepare the stage.



## StudentServe

# Expectations of a Student Leader

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Leadership demands expectations. Leaders will be held to a high standard. As a result, the youth ministry insists that student leaders meet certain requirements. Fortunately, students are more than ready to be challenged.

A student leader will strive to:

- ✦ Be humble
- ✦ Practice self-care
- ✦ Remain Open to exploring their faith in challenging and thought-provoking ways
- ✦ Be Genuine and transparent
- ✦ Publicly support the efforts of the youth ministry
- ✦ Make visitors feel welcome at events and programs
- ✦ Participate in major events
- ✦ Look for opportunities to share their faith with others
- ✦ Create life-giving relationships with their peers

Leaders are present! Those participating in StudentServe are expected to be the most faithful and consistent participants in the youth ministry. While noting that there are times when one cannot be present, StudentServe leaders are expected to faithfully attend the following:

- ✦ Sunday Morning Youth Gathering/Sunday School.
- ✦ StudentServe weekly meetings on Wednesday nights.
- ✦ Key special events throughout the 2017-2018 church season

StudentServe

## How to Become a Student Leader

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1. Pray about this decision. Discuss it with several friends as well as your parents. We require your parents or guardian to sign the application stating they believe you are committed to this program
2. Attend introductory StudentServe Gatherings in September to get a feel for what the year will be like.
3. Complete the application. Please type or write clearly with blue or black ink and return your completed application to the Youth Ministry office.
4. Return the application to [AmyBauer@bmpe.org](mailto:AmyBauer@bmpe.org) by **Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**

# StudentServe Youth Application

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## Instructions

1. Please answer the following questions clearly using blue or black ink
2. Return this application to the Youth Ministry office

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Do You Text?      Yes      or      No

Email \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you attended BMPC? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of BMPC? (membership is not required) \_\_\_\_\_

## **Please answer the following questions**

- 1) Tell me about your faith? What has your relationship with God been like for the past few months?

- 2) Explain your leadership style.
- 3) Define the following terms: Servant, Humility. Name someone you believe exemplifies these qualities.
- 4) Tell me about what it means to you to be a follower of Christ.
- 5) List any extracurricular activities in which you participate, including clubs, sports, church, etc.
- 8) How does integrity effect one's reputation with others?
- 6) Do you currently have a job? If so, where?

- 7) Is there anything that would hinder you from consistently attending our Sunday morning Youth Gathering/Connection Groups and weekly StudentServe meetings?

*I commit to faithfully and consistently attend the programs and ministries listed on page 5 to the best of my abilities.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Parent Release Form

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I acknowledge that my student is applying for the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Youth Ministry StudentServe Team and give my permission and full support to them doing so. I will support my student in their leadership role within the Youth Ministry at BMPC.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

