

Qualifications for Leadership

1. Leadership offers an opportunity for ***loving service, guidance and direction***. ***Convictions and courage*** guide a true leader, yet the rights of others to have their convictions is never denied.
2. ***Understanding and compassion*** are inner qualities; a willing leader receives and accepts understanding others offer.
3. ***Weaknesses*** are honestly admitted; the weakness of others are minimized.
4. ***Responsible*** to others, a good leader delegates responsibility and authority.
5. A good leader is true to that ***inner spirit*** that reflects a unique perspective.
6. A true leader has ***faith*** in something greater than appearances; thus others catch the vision of faith and find one whom they can trust.
7. ***Integrity*** inspires integrity, elevating the goals of the group so members may accept the challenge of following to reach new personal heights.
8. An educated heart inspires an ***ability to listen fully***, so others reveal their dreams and ambitions, knowing a trusted ear hears their words. A good leader looks at the masses to discover the wonder of individuals.

7 Ways to Contribute to Others Success

Adapted from: "Leading Ideas" by Alan Nelson

1. Improve Communication

Never assume that because something is clear to you that it is clear to others. Frequently solicit feedback to ensure that you're communicating clearly

2. Provide Adequate Resources

It is the leader's responsibility to make sure team members have the tools they need to succeed.

3. Accountability

It is very important to follow through on projects and check in with those you lead in order to ensure the success of the church and the long-term motivation of its people.

4. Team-Building

Make sure those you lead are a single-minded team not a group of individuals. There is a significant difference. The leader's job is to build teams, not just to recruit members.

5. Good Matches

There are no wrong people, just wrong positions. Ask yourself if you've put people in positions that match their strengths, gifts and passions, places where they can excel.

6. Great Trainings

People will excel with the proper preparation so make sure those you lead receive the right training before you expect them to accomplish a task.

7. Great Team Selections

Nearly as important as matching people with positions is creating unified, complementary teams whose members enjoy each other and get along.

Set Short & Long Term Goals

Adapted from: "Care & Feeding of Volunteers"

Every Day:

- ♥ Pray for the leaders/teachers in your ministry area.
- ♥ Pray for the individual classes
- ♥ Consider your lessons
- ♥ Stay actively involved in personal spiritual exercises.

Every Week:

- ♥ Do a random check for problems among classes.
- ♥ Make sure teachers are checking on absent students and/or meeting visitors.
- ♥ Encourage the leaders and teachers to watch for helps and tips in books and articles they are reading and share them with others.

Every Month:

- ♥ Specifically check for problems with each leader/teacher; students; space; curriculum; time; personal problems, etc.
- ♥ Distribute timely, helpful information you have gathered from your reading to all teachers, assistants, substitutes.
- ♥ At least one ministry group reports recent accomplishments in the church newsletter or bulletin.

Every Quarter:

- ♥ Hold some sort of "maintenance" training (brief sessions for discussing general business and for specific issues training.)
- ♥ Give general appraisal report to the church leader who is overseeing that specific ministry area (if the director is also a volunteer).
- ♥ Meet with church leaders to discuss general concerns and to pray.
- ♥ Plan for a way to recognize and encourage volunteers.

Every Six Months:

- ♥ Hold a community event to pray for the church, programs, students and each other.
- ♥ Update church leadership on progress and problems.
- ♥ Offer specific training for special teaching situations: VBS, education programs, electives, etc.

Every Year:

- ♥ Hold a major in-house training event for all leaders, teachers, assistants, substitutes, and helpers with a person from outside the church; perhaps gather with volunteers from another church.
- ♥ Give current volunteers the opportunity to renew their commitment; take a break; or quit.
- ♥ Recruit volunteers to fill empty positions, at least one quarter before the next year begins.
- ♥ Plan for next year's curriculum; evaluate possible replacements; select and order.
- ♥ Hold a major volunteer appreciation event.
- ♥ Evaluate teachers; complete at least in time to line up replacements if necessary.
- ♥ Hold a brainstorming session for expanding or improving education program.

Every Two Years:

- ♥ Evaluate entire ministry program.
- ♥ Evaluate relationship of director with volunteers.
- ♥ Evaluate recruiting procedures& volunteer training

CURRICULUM GOALS FOR YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Information taken from Unity's Youth and Family Curriculum Task Force, 10-21-90 and is still appropriate for today.

A. The learner will have spiritual knowledge.

1. Be Bible literate in scripture, in views, and in relation to others.
2. Understand the Bible in terms of Unity teachings.
3. Be knowledgeable in comparative religions and the use of the Bible by various denominations.
4. Understand and apply Truth principles.
5. Gain a sound understanding of Unity history, philosophy of theology and are able to articulate it.

Knowing that the above is just a beginning.

B. The learner will have a spiritual experience.

1. Know that which is changeless.
2. Understand and apply Truth principles.
3. Open the channel to the Christ self.
4. Grow in their ability to work with the inner guidance.
5. Understand and take action with the self as a mind/spiritual being.
6. Learn and use basic tools of Unity – affirmation, prayer, meditation.
7. Live a life of prayer.
8. Respect our oneness and diversity.

Experiencing the above provides a foundation on which...

C. The learner will enhance self development.

1. Develop self esteem.
2. Grow in emotional literacy by understanding and working with emotions.
3. Experience and incorporate joy and celebration of life.
4. Express the aspects in their uniqueness: Creative, intellectual, emotional, physical, and spiritual.
5. Know and work with their inwardly evaluated and chosen values (values clarification and communication skills.)
6. Live their respect for their healthy bodies.
7. Feel welcomed, safe, loved and appreciated.
8. Know and understand themselves.
9. Know, express and live in peace and harmony.
10. Accept responsibility – and work within a healthy system of responsibility – personally as well as in the family, church and community.
11. Experience positive role models.

With these goals accomplished there is a milieu and set of basic skills in place in which growth and further skills can be developed so that...

D. The learner will successfully relate in a family.

1. Develop understanding and tools to deal with change.
2. Effectively interact with families, peers, and community.
3. Have parents who feel supported.
4. Have parents who parent effectively.
5. Function effectively, healthfully, in diverse family patterns.
6. Communicate effectively with peers, family and spiritual community.
7. Develop skills to effectively manage conflict.
8. Accept responsibility – and work within a healthy system of responsibility – personal, family, church and community.
9. Understand and create rituals and rites within the family.

With these goals accomplished, an effective framework is established in which...

E. The learner is prepared for relating to life.

1. Know how to, and have tools for, dealing with change.
2. Express joy and celebration of life.
3. Respect, understand, and effectively interact with the Christ self in all ages, people, cultures, belief systems and appearance.
4. Effectively interact with other races, creeds and cultures.
5. Give and receive appropriately.
6. Relate Truth teachings to problems of today; e.g. drugs, sex, family differences, peer relationships, school, etc.
7. Cope effectively with conflict.