

OneWay Student Ministry

Philosophy of Ministry and Guidelines

Grace Community Church
Jacksonville, FL

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Philosophy of Ministry

Mission: To facilitate Christ-likeness and a deep love for the Lord and His Word through teaching, discipleship, and personal example.

Goal of Teaching: To help students know and enjoy God through the exposition and application of His infallible and relevant Word.

Goal of Discipleship: To be personally involved in the student's life to facilitate sanctification or salvation.

Goal of Example: To model the character of Christ and serve as a living illustration of the teaching.

Role of Parents and Students:

- Parents are first and foremost responsible to teach and train their children.
- Children are to obey and submit to their parent's authority.
- Parents and redeemed young men and women are privileged and responsible to use their gifts to actively participate and serve in the local body.

Role of OneWay Staff:

- To shepherd the students and minister to their families.

Philosophy of Ministry:

- *OneWay* is an extension of the ministry of Grace Community Church.
- *OneWay* is a resource for parents not intended to replace them in their God-ordained role.
- Biblically, there are adults and children. Students are young adults and are viewed and challenged as such.
- Salvation is never assumed for any student.
- Salvation and sanctification are the chief concerns of *OneWay*.
- *OneWay* staff desire to partner with parents in the ministry to their young men and women.
- The Word of God serves as the supreme blueprint for corporate ministry and personal living in relation to a holy God.

Guidelines

The below is a description of the structure in place at OneWay. The structure merely serves as a practical manifestation of an intended biblically-rooted ministry of Grace Community Church. OneWay simply seeks to glorify God through the ministry to students and family. The structure, while imperfect and always revisable, is merely a tool to help us be maximally effective in this ministry endeavor.

Junior High

- Defined by grades 6-8.
- If a student is home-schooled, grade level is determined by the grade in which they would be placed in a traditional school.
- Promotion:
 - 1) Incoming 6th graders will promote the 1st Sunday in June after the completion of 5th grade.
 - 2) The minimum age for the Junior High is Age 11 (must be 11 at or near promotion date).
- Ultimately, we will work with the parents to place the student at the appropriate grade-level.
- Students may join summer camps beginning the summer *after* their 6th grade year.
- Students may join all other summer events immediately upon promoting into OneWay.

Senior High

- Defined by grades 9-12.
- If a student is home-schooled, grade level is determined by the grade in which they would be placed in a traditional school.
- A student is considered a “high school” student until high school diploma is received. After high school is completed, a student is invited and encouraged to attend College and Career.
- Promotion:
 - 1) Incoming 9th graders will promote the 1st Sunday in June after the completion of 8th grade.
 - 2) Outgoing 12th graders may remain in the Sr High program until the September 1st after the completion of 12th grade.
 - 3) Maximum age: 19.
- Ultimately, we will work with the parents to place the student at the appropriate grade-level.

Staff Requirements

- Member at GCC for at least 1 year.
- Minimum age: 20.
- If a prior student, must be removed from Student Ministry for 2 years before returning as a staff member or intern.

- Must complete a background check and sign that you understand and will comply with these guidelines.

General Conduct Expectations (Staff)

- Seek to set a Christ-exalting example in all facets of life.
- Seek to serve and minister to the parents and students.
- Seek to develop relationships with parents and a team-approach to the ministry to their students.
- Pray for students and parents.
- Treat students as young adults.
- Seek to diligently shepherd the students through teaching (formal and informal), discipleship, example, and prayer.
- Seek to develop relationships with the students. Under no circumstances is this relationship to involve any activity or appearance which would raise propriety questions. Under no circumstances is a staff member or intern allowed to date a student.
- Seek to continually gauge the spiritual condition of the students through student interaction and parental feedback.
- Provide encouragement, discipline, and admonishment to students to grow them spiritually.
- If in a discipleship relationship with a student, ensure that the student has no expectations of “confidentiality.” In other words, anything they say may be relayed to their parent(s).
- If a student makes any overt or subtle inference to possible suicide, intent to injure self or others, etc., take immediate and appropriate action regardless of perceived intent. At a minimum, the parents and youth pastor must be immediately notified with such an occurrence.
- To the best of your ability, avoid engaging in “preference issues” that could negatively impact the spiritual growth of a student.
 - Due to the influential nature of leading and shepherding students, staff members are asked to not consume alcohol publicly.

General Conduct Expectations (Students)

- Electronic devices are not to be used in class (i.e. Don’t use your “Bible App”).
- Girls: Abide by the modesty check-list (see below).
- Accept that you don’t know as much as you think you do (none of us know as much as we think we do!), be sponges seeking to learn as much as you can, ask questions, and be teachable.

Student “Code of Conduct”

1. Be pleasing to Christ in all things
2. Put others before self.
3. Diligently seek to serve others.

4. Check your motivations.
5. Honor your elders.
6. Respect your peers.
7. Treat visitors like Christ treats you.
8. Think before you speak. Speak with grace.
9. Be courageous but gentle.
10. Smile. Have fun. Don't take yourself too seriously!

General Expectations (Parents)

- Advise staff on all issues germane to the physical and spiritual health of respective student(s).
- Provide constructive feedback to staff to help staff improve in ministry effectiveness.

Staff-Student Discipleship

- There are generally 3 formats at OneWay:
 1. Large-group discipleship (i.e. Sunday School, Wednesday night, Senior High Friday night, etc.)
 2. Small-group discipleship (i.e. small-group Senior High boys study outside of normal OneWay events, etc.)
 3. One-on-one discipleship
- **Goal:** Paul disciplined young Timothy who had received godly training from his mother and grandmother throughout his childhood (I Tim 1:5; 3:15). All discipleship conducted within OneWay seeks to facilitate greater Christ-likeness in the life of the student through personal involvement, teaching, instruction, prayer, and accountability. Any one-on-one or small-group discipleship (staff-student) is designed to supplement the training and instruction the student is ideally receiving in the home.
- Prior to a discipling relationship, involved staff members will make it clear to both students and parents that he/she will be communicating pertinent information learned about the student to the parents. *Pertinent* information includes anything that is useful or necessary to the parent's success in shepherding their own children.

Dating and Guy-Girl Interaction

- While the staff will challenge and shepherd the students in the area of relationships, the students are expected to abide by the following rules while participating in any OneWay event:
 - 1) No hand-holding or any other physical displays of affection to include all forms of physical touch in general.
 - 2) No rough-housing with the opposite sex.
 - 3) No "coupling." Coupling is defined as hanging out together alone, away from the group.

- 1) In short, while in attendance at any youth event, students who have their parent's permission to date will not act in any way that suggests to the group that they are dating.

Parental Involvement

- Parents are always welcome to everything we do!
- At times, there will be specific events designed to include parents and/or the whole family. This is **not** to suggest that for other such non-designated events, parents "aren't welcome."
- For major youth events, there are "Chaperones" and "Leaders." *Leaders* may be staff, parents, or members of the church. In general, OneWay will help cover any costs required for a Leader to attend the event, budget permitting. Parents who serve as Leaders for an event will be asked to do so by the staff. Any parent may attend any event as a *Chaperone*; however, due primarily to budget constraints, OneWay will generally not be able to cover the cost of parents serving as Chaperones.

Clothing Standards and Modesty

- It is difficult to list specific standards pertaining to a dress code. While, in many cases, what is deemed "modest" or "appropriate" is subjective, OneWay's chief concern is the attitudes and heart *behind* the clothes being worn.
- Girls are asked to abide by the Modesty Checklist by Carolyn Mahaney (can be accessed via www.onewaystudents.org.)
- If clothing is deemed clearly inappropriate by OneWay staff, the student will be asked to leave immediately and return with appropriate clothing. The staff will then discuss the incident with the parents.
- If clothing is border-line, and the student demonstrates a propensity for border-line clothing, the staff will first work directly with the student to help them evaluate their own heart and the consequences to others as a result of immodest dress. If the student continues to "push the envelope" with clothing, the staff will address the issue with the parents.

Music Participation

- Many of the students are musically gifted. If they desire to use these gifts in the arena of music at the Student Ministry level, they may follow the below procedure:
 1. Fill out a Music Application.
 2. Conduct interview with youth pastor. Regardless of the nature of their musical contribution, students helping to lead worship are doing just that - "leading worship." Thus, the basic requirements are that they have a testimony of salvation and a healthy level of overall maturity, specifically spiritual maturity.
 3. Conduct interview with designated music leader to determine aptitude. While it is wonderful that a student desires to use his gifts, he may be asked to develop his skills further before being incorporated into any student-led music.