Associate Pastor

Next Generation Development | YpsiFree
Ypsilanti Free Methodist Church • Ypsilanti, Michigan • Full-time

Church Contact

Church: Ypsilanti Free Methodist
Contact: Steve Glei, Lead Pastor
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How to Apply

Submit a résumé, cover letter, references, and links to teaching to Steve Glei at steve.glei@ypsifree.org.

Application deadline: Thursday, December 31, 2026

The Opportunity

YpsiFree is seeking a pastor who will love God, love all people, follow Jesus together and can help middle school students, high school students, young adults, and emerging leaders become disciples who make disciples. This is not simply a position to run programs for younger people. It is an opportunity to cultivate a generation that is deeply connected, continuously formed, and missionally engaged.

The Associate Pastor will devote approximately 50% of ministry time to Next Generation Development. The remaining time includes preaching approximately 12 Sundays each year, congregational pastoral care, and collaborative church leadership. The pastor serves the whole church while protecting the Next Generation priority.

Position

- Reports to the Lead Pastor; works closely with pastoral staff, ministry leaders, parents, and volunteer teams.
- Scope of Next Generation work: middle school, high school, young adults, and emerging leaders.
- Regular Sunday presence, relational ministry throughout the week, and some evenings or special events are expected. Specific schedule and time-off arrangements will be agreed upon during hiring.
- Success is measured by discipleship, relationships, leadership multiplication, and healthy teams – not attendance alone.

Core Responsibilities

1 | Next Generation Development – 50%

Provide vision, direction, and practical leadership for an integrated, relational pathway of discipleship that connects younger generations to an intergenerational family saturating Washtenaw County and the world with the love and life of Jesus.

- Develop and execute an annual Next Generation ministry plan aligned with YpsiFree's mission, vision, values, and disciple path; establish priorities, milestones, and an appropriate ministry calendar.
- Build meaningful relationships with students and young adults; create environments where they become deeply connected, continuously formed, and missionally engaged.

- Strengthen transitions from middle school to high school, from high school into adulthood, and from participation into meaningful service and leadership.
- Recruit, screen, train, coach, and care for adult volunteers and emerging younger leaders; establish clear roles, healthy team rhythms, and leadership succession.
- Partner with parents and caregivers of students through consistent communication, practical resources, and opportunities to follow Jesus together.
- Equip students and young adults to serve alongside other generations in worship, hospitality, mission, community groups, and leadership.
- Collaborate with existing ministry leaders rather than personally leading every gathering; clarify ownership, expectations, safety practices, and volunteer coverage.
- Build relationships with local schools, campuses, families, and community partners as appropriate; encourage students and young adults to be missionally engaged beyond church programs.
- Review progress along the disciple path, participation, leadership development, and team health regularly; use feedback and attendance trends to refine ministry.

2 | Shared Leadership and Ministry Stewardship

- Participate in staff meetings, strategic planning, churchwide ministry initiatives, and periodic evaluation.
- Collaborate on budgets, communications, ministry calendars, volunteer systems, and responsible use of resources.
- Communicate proactively with the Lead Pastor; make decisions within agreed authority and raise issues early.
- Respond to other pastoral needs without allowing unplanned assignments to routinely displace the 50% Next Generation focus.

3 | Preaching and Biblical Teaching

- Preach approximately 12 Sundays annually in coordination with the Lead Pastor and church-wide teaching calendar.
- Prepare biblically grounded, compelling messages that speak with grace and truth to an intergenerational, multi-ethnic congregation.
- Contribute to sermon planning and teach in discipleship and leadership settings as mutually agreed, with preparation time recognized in workload planning.

4 | Pastoral Ministry and Congregational Care

- Provide prayer, pastoral conversations, hospital or home visits, follow-up, and spiritual guidance as assigned and as needs arise.
- Participate in baptisms, communion, weddings, funerals, and significant congregational moments as appropriate to credentialing and church practice.
- Help people take next steps toward becoming Deeply Connected, Continuously Formed, and Missionally Engaged; maintain confidentiality, healthy boundaries, and appropriate referrals.

Qualifications

Essential

- A growing relationship with Jesus, clear pastoral calling, and a life marked by prayer, integrity, humility, and spiritual maturity.
- Commitment to Scripture, the work of the Holy Spirit, Free Methodist doctrine and practice, and YpsiFree's mission, vision, disciple path, and values of Pray · Live · Love · Partner.

- Ability to build trust with teenagers, young adults, parents, volunteers, and people of other generations.
- Demonstrated skill in biblical teaching, volunteer development, collaborative leadership, and following through on plans.
- Sound judgment in safeguarding, confidentiality, conflict, and pastoral boundaries.
- Bachelor’s degree and willingness to pursue Free Methodist credentialing if not already credentialed.

Preferred

- Seminary or ministry-related training; experience in pastoral or Next Generation ministry.
- Experience developing leaders and the Disciple Path across transitions into young adulthood.
- Capacity to preach to a diverse congregation and collaborate effectively across ministry teams.

Accountability and Evaluation

The Associate Pastor reports to the Lead Pastor, with regular one-on-one conversations and periodic ministry-priority reviews. Evaluation will consider spiritual and relational health, biblical faithfulness, growing quality of preaching, leader development, student and young adult engagement, collaboration, safeguarding, and progress on agreed goals. The 50% allocation is a sustained ministry priority across seasons.