



Where Hearts & Minds *Connect*
for Practical Ministry



“to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ”

— Ephesians 4:12 ESV

In my experience working with pastors, leaders, and ministry volunteers, I’ve seen the great value of practical ministry training coupled with the encouragement of an experienced practitioner. That need for practical training prompted CDM to seek and receive approval from the 2016 General Assembly to develop a training and certification program, specifically for non-ordained ministry leaders.

In designing the program, we basically asked a group of people who were DOING ministry: “If you could go back to the beginning, what topics would you cover? What are things people need to know to be fruitful? What have you seen to be sound principles and best practices?” Their answers shaped the program.

CDM is the Discipleship Ministries Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Our mission is to help leaders in local churches fulfill the Great Commission through ministry to children, youth, and adults. We strive to strengthen the church by connecting you to the people and resources you need for ministry. This program will equip leaders with theological training and practical skills to impact the next generation.



Stephen J. Estab

Committee on Discipleship Ministries Coordinator | Certification Faculty

What is certification?

Connecting the heart and mind for practical ministry.

CDM's Certification Program is theological and practical training for non-ordained staff or volunteers who are currently serving in children's ministry within the local church. Whether your church is 50 or 5000 people, this certification program will impact your church by developing and enhancing your Children's Ministry.

The 12-month program is progressive. It is a combination of webinars, readings, and projects that will provide training for every area of Children's Ministry.

All participants will be part of the CDM community that includes investment by two experienced mentors, a professional online cohort with others ministering to children, and attendance at two Children's Ministry training retreats. Once a student passes the 12 month certification training, he or she will receive an official Certificate of Training in Children's Ministry from the PCA denomination.



Scope and Sequence

MONTH	TOPICS
January	Foundations of Children's Ministry: Reformed and Covenantal Theology
February	Recruiting Your Team from the Top Down: Volunteer Recruitment and Training
March	Child Development and Learning Styles: Engaging Children at Different Levels.
April	Leadership Development: Yourself and Others. Children's Ministry Leadership Retreat
May	Choosing and Developing Curriculum: The Importance and How To's of Choosing, Developing, and Teaching Curriculum
June	Policies and Procedures: Protecting and Serving Your Families, Volunteers, and Staff
July	Nursery: Caring for the Littles
August	Coming Alongside Parents: Church and Family Connection
September	Special Events: Developing, Planning, Organizing, and Maintaining Events: VBS, Outreach, and Holiday Events
October	Special Needs Ministry: Starting, Implementing, Reaching, and Connecting
November	Families on Mission: Training for Service and Outreach
December	Worship Training: Equipping Parents and Training Children for Worship (Final Wrap-Up)

Testimony

I grew up a Covenant child. From the time I was too old to be in the Children's Ministry, I was serving in it. I love children. It isn't surprising that I graduated with a degree in Early Childhood Education or that the Lord steered my heart to work in Children's Ministry in my 20's.

Children are my passion, and I love the church, but when I began working in Children's Ministry it was immediately challenging for me. I realized that it's much more than holding babies or reading a Bible story to children on Sunday morning. It's providing a program that excites children and inspires parents with confidence. Most importantly, it's about discipling our children in the Lord.

In my experience, I learned my struggle was not unique. Talking with others serving in Children's Ministry, I quickly learned that most run into similar struggles. Even with a heart for children, there is often a lack of training in starting, developing, and growing a Children's Ministry within the church.

We have the great privilege and opportunity within Children's Ministry to invest in the next generation and train them up in the way of the Lord! But we need training too! We need people who have gone before us and are in the trenches with us helping us know how to think through a vision, train our volunteers, and have a healthy nursery ministry.

Children's Ministry can often feel so isolating, but participating in this program will help you know you are not alone. You will have community, you will have development, you will get to do projects that deepen and grow your ministry and your church. You will be blessed through this program, and at the end you will receive a Certificate of Children's Ministry and the confidence of being equipped.

I am excited about Children's Ministry Certification and look forward to working with those who will be participating in this training program!



Bethany Belue

Bethany Belue, *Former Children's Director* | CDM Certification Administrator & Faculty





CDM Certification Faculty



Jimmy Brock
(Princess Anne
Church Plant)
Virginia Beach, VA



Joseph Parker
(Village 7
Presbyterian Church)
Colorado Springs, CO



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(Great Commission
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Atlanta, GA



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(Perimeter Church)
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John Kwasny
(Pear Orchard
Presbyterian Church)
Ridgeland, MS

“I am excited and honored to be part of the CDM’s Children’s Ministry certification program. The people and resources of CDM have blessed me tremendously. The certification program will do so much to equip those who are called to Children’s Ministry, and I am eager to see how the Lord uses this program to further his kingdom!”

—Anna Johnson, Children’s Director Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church

Because God has blessed us with each and every child and what little children learn about God is life-changing...

Those who lead our children should be taught Reformed and Covenantal theology, and equipped to make sound theology compelling to the youngest learner.

Because children of believers are members of God's covenant community... those who lead our children should be mentored by experienced children's ministry leaders.

Because children bring parents and friends and neighbors to Christ... those who lead our children should be connected to all the best resources for teaching God's Word to children.

Because God's eternal plan and promise is to redeem children just as he has redeemed us... those who lead our children should be trained to instruct others in bringing the gospel to children and children to the gospel.

The PCA's Committee on Discipleship Ministry provides people and resources to aid you in the task of strengthening your church's children's ministry. This CDM twelve month certification for your children's leadership is designed to fit your leader's life and schedule, your church's size and needs, and your church's philosophy of ministry. We hope you will take advantage of this perfect opportunity to grow your church and its commitment to the children God has given you.



Sue Jakes

CDM Children' Ministry Coordinator | Certification Faculty



HOLY
BIBLE



To learn more about certification or apply for the program visit

www.certification.pcacdm.org

email cdm.certification@pcanet.org,

call: 678.825.1100



CDM strengthens the Church
by connecting people to people
and people to resources



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