**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (NORTHERN PROVINCE) TRUST LIMITED**

**Pioneer Worker – Children & Families and Young People**

**(St Columba’s URC North Shields**

**with a town centre and ecumenical focus)**

**Hours:** Part time (20 hours) to include some Sundays by arrangement.

**Salary:** £26, 800 FTE + pension contribution

**Contract:** Initial Contract for 2 years.

**Responsible to:** Northern Synod Youth & Children’s Work Advisers. In addition the post holder will work with a steering group drawn from the congregation.

**Job summary:** This new position provides an opportunity to work with St Columba’s United Reformed Church in North Shields and with ecumenical partners in the town to help them pioneer and develop new ministry with children, young people and families. The post also involves working as a member of the Northern Synod Field Team and contributing to Synod strategy for working with children, young people and families. The URC Northern Synod covers the area from North Northumberland t o Northallerton.

**Specific Job Description**

The post involves working with St Columba’s URC, North Shields:

* Discern opportunities for further developing Messy Church programmes. Support and resource leaders and volunteers in Messy Church activities. Engage with parents, guardians, and children about ways to explore faith in everyday life.
* Develop ways to work with youth who have moved on from Messy Church and engage them with ways to encounter God.
* Lead organisation of holiday clubs where the need and desire exists, helping volunteers fill suitable roles to achieve the aims of the holiday club.
* Connecting with those who attend parent and toddler groups to further develop mission opportunities
* Cultivate, develop, and lead pioneering youth ministry opportunities throughout North Shields inviting children, youth, and families to encounter God.
* Develop relationships with church leaders, local school and community leaders, parents, children, and youth, which will help inform and shape what pioneering ministry opportunities might be possible and successful in North Shields. This could include local schools, uniformed organisations, other churches and the local council.
* To work with other children and youth workers in the area around the church, for example with organisations such as the Diocese of Newcastle, reNEw NE, and Youth for Christ to achieve a co-ordinated approach.

**General Job Description**

* To work alongside the Synod Youth Work Advisor and Children’s Work Advisor to provide a co-ordinated approach to children and youth work across the Synod.
* To be part of a team who pioneer mission, share learning and reflect theologically and learn so that the Synod might grow in its connection with children, young people and families.
* To build networks and partnerships with others working with children, young people and families across local churches and community organisations.
* To promote, support and develop the Synod Youth Opportunities scheme.
* To encourage attendance of children and young people at Christian camps and events within Northern Synod and beyond.
* To ensure (in conjunction with the Safeguarding Officers) that safeguarding policies and procedures are fully implemented for all who work with children and young people in the Northern Synod.
* To participate in relevant training and be open to opportunities for personal development.

**Person Specification**

**Essential**

* Committed Christian
* Experience of Mission with Children, Young People and Families
* Ability to work as part of a team and on own initiative with minimum supervision
* Experience of helping children young people and families with no church connection to explore the Christian faith in creative and relevant ways
* Good communication and people skills
* Approachable to both young people and adults
* Sensitivity and pastoral understanding with the ability to establish positive and productive relationships with all ages
* To be computer literate
* Aware of the need for appropriate safeguarding policies and their implementation

**Desirable**

* Relevant educational qualification at FE/HE or post grad level
* Experience of working with schools
* Internet and social media “savvy”
* A full driving licence and access to a car (HMRC mileage rates paid)

**Additional Information**

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010: Part 1, Schedule 9, there is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian.

An enhanced DBS disclosure is required for this post. The successful candidate will be required to undertake URC safeguarding training as part of the role – both initially and on an ongoing basis.

The successful applicant must be able to provide evidence of their eligibility to legally work in the UK prior to appointment