

Jeremy Mark Hoover
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Philosophy of Ministry

My desire is to help enrich the life and fellowship of a church and effect outreach in the community. My goal is summarized by Ephesians 4:11-13: Using my gifts of preaching, teaching, and administration, and by developing the gifts of others, I desire to "equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ." I accomplish these goals through biblical preaching and mentoring other believers one-on-one and in groups.

Lately, I have been thinking and reading about the use of small, decentralized groups formed for mission and prayer around Jesus' teaching that "where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matt. 18:20) and Jesus' sending out of his followers two by two (Luke 10). Followers of Jesus must be empowered to follow his lead in their lives without explicitly seeking permission to do good works. Churches can form ministries, but individuals can often do ministry simply on their own or by partnering with an existing group.

An equipping church will meet this challenge by observing the fivefold ministry in Eph. 4:7-16, locating various leaders within that paradigm, and equipping church members to do ministry in their daily lives. The senior minister (preacher) should be a catalyst for this by modeling an equipping lifestyle and mentoring other staff member and church leaders to do the same. Through this, the body is released for ministry, which is the true gauge of spiritual growth (Eph. 4:12-16).

Ministry Gifts

I am a self-starter, creative, and an effective communicator with over ten years of preaching and teaching experience; eclectic in my study and able to incorporate diverse interests into ministry applications; able to build relationships with all types of people and help them see and move towards a goal; organized, knowing how to prioritize, meet deadlines, and follow a project through to completion; coachable.

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Current Work Experiences

Preacher, Horton Road Church of Christ, Jackson, MI, July 2006-present time

- Preach a weekly sermon and teach a Sunday morning Bible class, recently incorporating visual slides into lessons
- Mentor individuals to assist them in spiritual growth with a view towards greater service and leadership; such efforts have led to improvements in our greeting ministry, an after-worship coffee hour, and involvement with a local shelter
- Work within a congregational leadership structure to organize and execute projects and events to encourage greater church involvement among members; these include summer interns and greater involvement with a local shelter
- Teach a teenage bible study every other Wednesday night and have teens to our house every week for fellowship

Adjunct Instructor, Rochester College, Rochester Hills, MI, Fall 2006 and 2008

- Teach "Introduction to Youth Ministry," a junior-level course; requires keeping up-to-date in the youth ministry field in order to effectively communicate strategies of youth ministry to students

Other Relevant Experiences

Small Groups Minister (part-time), Westside Church of Christ, Windsor, ON, Fall 2004-Spring 2005

- Organized and implemented a small groups program from the ground up by researching and applying results in practical and creative ways
- Helped congregants see the larger picture of the small groups program
- Wrote the weekly small groups material each group used for discussion
- Involved people who weren't previously involved beyond Sunday morning
- Taught a weekly youth class and twice-monthly experiential-creative devotional

Youth Minister, Church of Christ, St. Joseph, MI, June 2001-July 2003

- Organized a youth ministry that involved both elementary and high school ages
- Taught Sunday School, led a Sunday evening session for teenagers and their friends, and coordinated and led a rotational VBS-style Wednesday evening session for children in kindergarten to sixth grade

Student, Harding Graduate School of Religion, Memphis, TN, 1999-2001

- Studied for two years and obtained a 4.0 GPA in my studies

Student, Rochester College, Rochester, MI, B.R.E., 1999

- Graduated summa cum laude with a 4.0 GPA and was Valedictorian