

HELP US WELCOME FORD'S NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR!



Ford Family,

Please see the following information introducing our new Ford Director of Youth Ministry, Adam Vanderwell!

This new position has been in the works for a long time, and we are excited to see the pieces come together for Adam to step into this role. For more than a year, Ford CLT, Elders, and staff have been discussing the need for a Ford based youth ministry position in response to the need to better serve (and serve alongside!) our growing number of middle and high school youth.

In September, LeMarr Jackson (the Square Campus Director of Youth Ministry), came to Ford to jointly announce this multi-site position with Pastor Brad and begin the search for applicants. After an interview process which confirmed in many exciting ways Adam's great fit for this role and the many strengths that he brings to the table, he was offered the position in the late fall. Adam and Maddie have needed some time to end their season in Chicago and transition to Grand Rapids, and he will formally begin his work with Madison in the next few weeks.

As the Ford based Director of Youth Ministry, Adam will help us enter into a new season of empowering youth to lead and to grow in discipleship at the Ford Campus. The position is also jointly funded by the Square campus as a multi-site position, and Adam will be partnering with LeMarr to run our multi-site middle and high school youth groups and other multi-site youth initiatives.

Please join us in welcoming Adam and Maddie to the Ford family on Sunday, February 3 in anticipating the work that God is going to do among us at Madison.

A letter from Adam and Maddie is on the back.

Greetings Madison Ford Family,

It is with great honor that my wife and I accept the call to partner with you as I serve in the role of Youth Director at Madison Church: Ford Campus. We could not be more excited to join in what God is doing through Madison in the City of Grand Rapids. This decision to join Madison was made with fervent prayer, and we could not be more confident that this is where God is leading us.

I grew up as a Pastor's Kid, the majority of my childhood spent in Northern California. I grew up with a love for sports, the outdoors, and adventure. In 2013 I moved to Chicago and attended Moody Bible Institute, studying Urban Ministry. At Moody I fell in love with the city. I spent my time living, learning, and serving on the south side of Chicago. Through relationships and the local Church, the Lord developed a deep heart and passion for seeing his kingdom come in city. More specifically, the Lord cultivated a passion for seeing the church engage issues of injustice in the city and doing life with those most often overlooked by society.

The Lord has given me a heart for fighting injustice, seeking racial reconciliation, and holistic discipleship. During my time in Chicago, I had the honor of serving and working in the church and for a few faith-based nonprofits in the city. These experiences confirmed that my heart is for pouring into the next generation of the city and the Church.

I met my beautiful bride, Maddie, at Moody and we were just married last June. Maddie grew up in Muskegon, Michigan with a love for music, theater, and the performing arts. She felt a call to ministry in 2015 and began her studies at Moody Bible Institute. She is most passionate about discipleship, spiritual formation, and worship. We have spent the first months of our marriage living in the city of Chicago and serving at Roseland Christian Reformed Church. In our free time together we love going for walks on the lake, exploring new restaurants, and spending time with friends and family.

As we said before, we could not be more excited about our new Church family at Madison. We are in awe of what God is doing through you and honored to join in that. We look forward to taking root in the community and getting to know you all.

For His kingdom,
Adam and Maddie Vanderwell