

<< BENJAMIN COOLEY



10/18/2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello, my name is Benjamin Cooley. I'm a 20 year youth ministry veteran, and a big believer in the church as God's strategy to impact the world for His glory. Everything from proclaiming the gospel, to the strengthening of individual families, to compassionately influencing our community gets accomplished through a healthy, called, and equipped church. I love God, and I genuinely love helping people take the next step of depth in their spiritual journey toward Christ-likeness. I have faith that when people are intentionally pursuing the Lord through prayer, Bible study, fellowship and service, that He will raise them to be incredible lights in a world lost in darkness.

I'm sending my resume to you because I can tell that you believe nobody is beyond saving, that everyone has been created in the image of God - packed with amazing potential - and that the Holy Spirit is actively developing the Kingdom through you. It also looks like you're focused and mature, interested in building dynamic spiritual relationships by seizing ordinary moments and turning them toward God. No matter where this conversation goes, I'm praying your faithful patience and humble intentionality will continue to result in more people and places changed and redeemed by the Lord's work in your midst.

Although we are currently established and in good standing at our current church, I'm starting to investigate what it could look like to serve in a different ministry capacity. God has orchestrated big changes in my family - we recently rose to the calling of foster care and subsequent adoption of our beautiful daughters - and my wife, Melissa, and I feel that God may be ready to use us in a new way. As we explore, the idea of returning home to Michigan has great appeal.

My professional and ministry experience give me insight into various facets of church ministry including youth, small groups, teaching classes, preaching, congregational care, connections, volunteer management, event coordination, and area networking. I am humble, servant hearted, and ready to pick up the next thing God has in mind for us; perhaps that next step is as part of your church team. I would love the chance to discuss that possibility, and have included my resume accordingly. Thank you for your time and prayerful consideration, I look forward to connecting soon.

>> **Much Grace,**

Benjamin Cooley

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About Me >>

I have extensive youth ministry and church experience over 3 churches, geographies, and 20 years. At each position I've ministered faithfully, and witnessed God working powerfully in the lives of the students and families in my care. I get really excited about the prospect of teaching and leading people into godly maturity. My track record displays spiritual fruit, meaningful relationships, a character-filled reputation, and several former students impacting the world for Christ. My wife, Melissa, and I are now prayerfully seeking to serve in a fresh way.

<< Ministry Experience >>

Springhill Baptist Church • Fernandina Beach, FL • Youth Pastor (Dec. 2020 - Present)

- Coming in the midst of COVID, I built a multi-level Youth Program in a small to medium sized church context from 4 students to a current average of 30, with a reach of several more.
- Along with youth groups, Sunday School, camp, occasional pulpit supply, managing the budget, and fostering community connections (ex Young Life), I also renovated the youth facilities,

Union Center Christian Church • Endicott, NY • Youth Pastor (2016 - 2020)

- Only 1/10 Upstate New Yorkers identify as Bible believing Christians, yet in the midst of a church undergoing tremendous changes, I served and grew a youth roster of over 60 students.
- Along with youth group, Sunday School, some pulpit supply, budget management, trips, and young adult small group, I also managed a team of 9 volunteers and renovated the youth facilities,

First Baptist Church • Spring Lake, MI • Youth Pastor (2007 - 2016)

- My first church; I built a healthy, multi-level youth ministry program to serve the family needs of a church of 200+. I practiced the skills a pastor needs, and created and oversaw many other aspects of church ministry including the children's programs, adult small groups, and various committees.

ROCK Youth Center • Midland MI • Activities Assistant (2003 - 2005)

- Gaining ministry experience as I finished my college degree, I created and facilitated various positive after-school activities for more than 200 youth such as Bible study, open gym, and more.

Ministry Skills >>

Biblical Teaching	Shepherding
Confidentiality	Connecting People
Budget Management	Servant-hearted
Leadership	Networking

Qualifications >>

2005 / Kuyper College, Grand Rapids, MI
B.S.- Christian Education/Youth Ministry

2009 / First Baptist Church, CBA
Ordination License for Ministry