



Dear St. John Community,

It is with sincere humility, a grateful heart, and a joyful spirit that I introduce myself to you as the Next Generation Director at St. John. I am extremely thankful for the opportunity to serve in ministry at a church that has such a clear and committed mission of loving God and loving others. I am blessed to join a very gifted and passionate staff who are intentionally focused on both leading people to a deeper intimacy with our Father and reaching their community for Christ. Finally, I am so thrilled and honored to work specifically in a ministry that gets to love, engage, disciple and encourage the next generation!

I would like to offer a few brief words about myself by way of introduction. My name is Chris Toomey and I am coming to St. Louis from the mountains of East Tennessee. I am a graduate of King University, where I received a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Coaching. I continued my studies at the University of Tennessee, where I received my Master's in Sport Management. My career has been a journey of working with all ages of the next generation. God first led me to be a sixth grade teacher at Anderson Elementary School in Bristol, TN. That was followed by six years of service as Student Ministry Director at two churches, where I had the privilege of coordinating the youth ministry programs for middle school and high school students. Finally, seven years ago, God opened a door for me to return to my alma mater and lead college students as a professor and the Head Volleyball Coach. I am thankful for the platform God has given me in each of these positions to lead others and make Jesus known. It has been humbling to lead over 20 international/domestic mission trips and see middle school, high school, and college students experience the transforming power of our Savior in their own lives and in the lives of others. As I look back on my life journey so far, a common thread has been my (God-infused) commitment, love, and passion for the next generation.

And now, my journey brings me to this wonderful community of believers at St. John. It is with excitement that I present myself to you today. I know that God has great things in store for this church, this community, and this world we are striving to reach. In the coming months, I look forward to meeting you, building community, and sharing life/faith stories. I ask for your prayers as I leave my home and join the ministry at St. John. May God who has begun a good work in us bring it to completion!

Serving Him together,

Chris Toomey