

Yale
DIVINITY

Yale
YOUTH MINISTRY
INSTITUTE

LUNCH & LECTURE SERIES

2019-2020

YOUTH MINISTRY IN A MODERN AGE

Yale Youth Ministry Institute
at Yale Divinity School

12pm Lunch, 12:30pm Lecture
Old Refectory, Yale Divinity School

The mission of the Youth Ministry Institute at Yale Divinity School is to promote adolescent faith and flourishing in a diverse and changing world by conducting scholarship, equipping leaders, and resourcing collaborative communities in and beyond Christian churches.

YMI is pleased to announce the 2019-2020 schedule of free lectures with leading practical theologians and youth ministers presenting on the challenges and best practices for sustaining youth ministries in a modern age.



PLANNING AND LEADING RETREATS THAT TRANSFORM

OCTOBER 9

Skip Masback

Founder, Yale Youth Ministry Institute

Youth long for experiences that will take them outside of the cramped, everyday patterns of their daily lives and connect them with something larger than themselves, with the unconditional love of God and neighbor. In this session we'll explore how the Christian tradition of pilgrimage can inform a vision of youth retreats that change lives. Our conversation will begin with theory, but our primary emphasis will be praxis: examining the nuts and bolts of preparing, organizing, leading, and integrating transformative retreats into the life of your youth ministry.



PROJECT NEXT GENERATION: CREATING A NURTURING COMMUNITY SPACE FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

NOVEMBER 6

Bill Mathis

Director, Black Church Studies and Lecturer in Divinity, Yale Divinity School

Sunday School... What is that? Youth Department... Where is that? Youth Ministry... When does that happen? Youth Engagement... How can we when they are not here? The church has reached a critical mass of departure of those who were once considered "the church of tomorrow." This leaves a void that is glaring yet ignored when we do what we have always done and/or by our willing disconnection from the realities of the present by hiding under the banner of "not conforming to this world." If there is going to be "the church of tomorrow" it will be one that is a living and moving organism that encounters, experiences, and engages the realities of the present so that we may yield a future generation of believers.

galeyouthministryinstitute.org

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YOUTH MINISTRY IN AN ERA OF OVER-PARENTING: MOVING FROM THE THING TO THE STORY

DECEMBER 4

Andy Root

Professor and Carrie Olson Baalson Chair of Youth and Family Ministry, Luther Seminary

Youth workers know what it is to watch parents and youth participate in multiple other activities. Most families have limited time and space for youth ministry activities or youth group. Often parent(s) (and youth) express desire to participate, but say they have no time. A parent might even say, “Sorry, we haven’t gotten her to youth group in the last six months, it’s just that gymnastics is kind of her thing; it’s really who she is.” This can be frustrating for youth workers. Some respond by contending that youth ministry needs to up the commitment level and move higher up the ranking of things. In this presentation we’ll together explore how this approach can’t work, because the decisions parents and young people make exist inside very deep conceptions of what makes for a good life. In a time of limited time and unlimited options, youth ministry can’t—and I’ll show, shouldn’t—compete in ranking of important activities. Youth ministry should not be just another thing (like basketball, violin, or debate club). Instead, we should turn toward story to reimagine what youth ministry can be for.



CARING FOR STORIES

FEBRUARY 5

Mary Moschella

Roger J. Squire Professor of Divinity, Yale Divinity School

Just what is pastoral care? Providing spiritual and emotional care for youth and for their families is a major part of a youth leader’s job, but many youth workers don’t have specific training in this area. How do you have a pastoral conversation with youth group members and/or their families? Active listening skills can enhance your ability to care for youth and the stories they share. Learn how to provide a safe and supportive environment for those entrusted to your care. We will also consider questions about referral: how do you know when to speak to a pastor or recommend the assistance of a health care professional? Join us for a discussion about the fundamentals of providing care and support to youth and their families.



SUSTAINABLE YOUTH AND CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

MARCH 4

Mark DeVries

Founder and president of Ministry Architects, the co-founder of Ministry Incubators and the Center for Youth Ministry Training, and the founder of Justice Industries

In the world of youth and children’s ministry, there are a handful of constant factors that allow ministries to thrive over the long haul. This workshop introduces children’s workers, youth workers, and senior pastors to those patterns that notoriously keep ministries stuck and to systems and strategies most likely to result in culture change. The thorny challenge of building healthy and engaged volunteer teams will be used as a culture-change case study for participants to workshop.



ALWAYS ON: SOCIAL MEDIA AND WORKING WITH YOUTH

APRIL 1

Angela Gorrell

Assist. Professor of Practical Theology, Baylor University, Truett Seminary

In a time when people feel like they have to be always on, what can we do? Angela will share tips for leading constructive conversations about social media with young people and practical things you can do to help teenagers use social media in ways that nurture their well-being as well as express their Christian faith.

All lectures are available on Livestream: livestream.com/yaledivinityschool/yymi and will be shared, along with interviews with guest lecturers on our website.