About AYME

Who are we?
The Association of Youth Ministry Educators (AYME) is a Christian faith-based organization and collegial gathering of professionals committed to developing the next generation of youth ministers.

- We affirm the tenets of the Christian faith as articulated in the Apostle’s Creed, and pursue unity while honoring the broad expressions of our faith. (Col. 2:2-3; 1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:15-16)
- Our membership includes teachers, scholars, researchers, and graduate students in the field of youth ministry. This includes those affiliated with institutions of higher education as well as organizations involved in non-formal education such as denominational and para-church organizations.

What do we do?
We gather in order to further the field of youth ministry education through cooperative networking, scholarly contributions, and critical engagement with the varied practices of youth ministry and other disciplines.

What core values govern our work?
- Service to Christ’s church
- Critical thinking and scholarship
- Collegial and collaborative relationships
- Dialogue with people from distinct backgrounds and contexts

Teachers of Joy: Grounding Youth Ministry Education in a Theology of Joy

Dr. Miroslav Volf is the Henry B. Wright Professor of Systematic Theology at Yale Divinity School and the Founding Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. He is author or editor of 20 books and over 70 scholarly articles, including Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation (1996) and Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace (2005). Dr. Volf is principle investigator for the Templeton-funded Theology of Joy & The Good Life project.

Dr. Anne Streety Wimberly is Professor Emerita of Christian Education at the Interdenominational Theological Center. She serves as the Executive Director of the Youth Hope-Builders Academy at ITC, a youth theology program funded by the Lilly Endowment. Her publications include In Search of Wisdom: Faith Formation in the Black Church and Soul Stories: African American Christian Education.

Dr. Wimberly will share Monday’s plenary with two AYME members who appreciate her joyful mentorship: Dr. Sarah Farmer from Yale Divinity School and Dr. Richelle White from Kuyper College.

Call For Papers
Please submit proposals by July 1, 2018. See details at www.aymeducators.org or contact Ben Espinoza (bdallasespinoza@gmail.com) and Richelle White (rwhite@kuyper.edu).
Teachers of Joy

Not that the value of joy has an expiration date in the adolescent marketplace, but our stress-saturated culture is tending the wrong direction. Young people, particularly susceptible to relentless restlessness, need wise guidance if they are to experience the joy intended for them by our good and gracious God. Our 2018 AYME theme is inviting and timely.

We will gratefully welcome noted theologian Miroslav Volf to kick off our conference in the same year we joyfully celebrate the 25th anniversary of AYME. Under the auspices of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture, Miroslav has convened collaborative scholarship to “restore joy to the center of Christian reflection on the nature of the good life…”

One wing of this ambitious effort has been dedicated to advancing joy for adolescents. Research efforts have undertaken to ‘examine adolescence as a uniquely opportune and consequential phase of moral and spiritual development with profound implications for long-term prospects of a life of joyful flourishing.’ After setting the stage for our time together by framing theological considerations about joy, Miroslav will launch us into the first of many conversations that will characterize this year’s AYME conference. “Joy is not a postcard present to win. Enhance your teaching. You must be present to win.”

#1 Make Your Hotel Reservation

AYME offers a block of rooms at the Union Station Hotel. (It is assumed that you are staying at the hotel please give them the name of your room and a possible roommate. Contact: David Odem, domod@nobts.edu. He will reply with the name of a possible roommate.)

1. Make your Hotel Reservation

Make your hotel reservation directly with the Union Station Hotel. The Union Station Hotel is within walking distance to the conference site.

2. Make Your Registration

Register online at www.aymeducators.org or send in the registration panel with a check payable to AYME.

3. Make Your Hotel Reservation

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