Richard Flory (PhD, University of Chicago) is senior director of research and evaluation at the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture. He is a sociologist whose research focuses on religious and cultural change, religion and urban life, and the religious and spiritual lives of youth and young adults. He has published several books, most recently, *Disconnected Souls: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults* (Oxford University Press, in press), which tracks the population (now in their mid-late 20s), studied by the National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR). Flory has been quoted by a variety of publications, including the L.A. Times, the New York Times, Buzzfeed News and NPR, and he has written for publications such as Religion Dispatches, The Conversation, Patheos and Zócalo Public Square.

Jenna Sethi (PhD, University of Minnesota) is a full-time Research Scientist at Search Institute (Minneapolis, MN). Her work informs program implementation and improvement in schools, youth development, and community settings as well as reporting to practitioner, policy and academic audiences. She has over 20 years of experience as a youth worker and over 10 years of experience conducting qualitative research. She is also a member of the Community Faculty in the Youth Studies program and teaches at the University of Minnesota. Her latest study explores how faith is formed in young people through their most significant relationships.
Faith Formation Trends that Impact Youth Ministry Education

Teenagers and emerging adults are actively navigating their rapidly changing relationships, education, and beliefs. Youth ministry educators must perpetually seek to understand young peoples’ support systems, influences, and experiences that shape the narratives they believe and by which they live. A crucial element within these narratives pertains to the ways young people discover, experience, and shift their faith convictions.

In light of these realities we are excited to host researchers from two, well-known research organizations who will help us explore current findings pertaining to teenagers, emerging adults, and faith. Dr. Richard Flory, USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture, will share with us the most recent research based on the cohort associated with National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR). This cohort, through studies led by Dr. Christian Smith (Soul Searching and Souls in Transition) has matured to their mid to late twenties. Flory’s research captures insights into this cohort’s faith trajectories. His book will be published in early 2020, and we will get a preview of this important work.

Dr. Jenna Sethi, is a lead researcher at the Search Institute. The Search Institute has provided years of research and insights that have informed social, educational, and religious organizations about young peoples’ support systems, influences, and experiences that shape the narratives they believe and by which they live. Sethi is currently leading one of the Institute’s newest initiatives that seeks to understand how young people’s relationships, education, and beliefs impact their faith formation. Their new research will be reported starting in the Fall of 2019, and our AYME participants will be one of the first groups to hear and interact with their findings.

Call For Papers
Please submit proposals by July 1, 2019. See details at www.aymeducators.org or contact Ben Espinoza (bdallasespinoza@gmail.com) or Richelle White (rwwhite@kuyper.edu).

Making It Happen

1. Register online at www.aymeducators.org or mail the registration panel to AYME.

Spouse Coming Too? There is no cost for registration. We do ask that spouses pay $30 for dinners, and $20 for lunch at the conference.

Refund Policy: You may request a full refund of registration fees prior to 9/15/19.

2. Make Hotel Reservations at the Minneapolis Marriott City Center directly through the AYME website or by calling: 866-315-9403. Request the special rate of $129/night for single or double occupancy. The cut-off date for this room rate is October 2, 2019, as long as rooms are available. Room rate includes complimentary guest-room Wi-Fi service.

Need a Roommate? Email David Odom at: dodom@nobts.edu. He will reply with the name of a possible roommate. When contacting the hotel please give them the name of your roommate. (It is assumed that you are staying at the hotel both Saturday & Sunday nights.)

3. Airport to Hotel Transportation

The Minneapolis Metro provides rail service from the Airport (MSP) to the Nicollet Mall Station for about $2.00 one-way. It is a short 5-minute walk from the Nicollet Mall Station to the hotel. See AYME website for details.

Super Shuttle provides shuttle service from the Airport (MSP) to the Hotel for $14.40 one-way with the AYME discount code: GMJ3C.

General Conference Questions? Contact: Mark Cannister mark.cannister@gordon.edu

Schedule

Saturday, October 19
1:00 p.m. Registration and Exhibitors Open
2:00 p.m. Welcome Reception for Newcomers
3:30 p.m. Plenary Session with Dr. Richard Flory
5:00 p.m. Break & Exhibitors Open
6:00 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Plenary Session with Dr. Richard Flory
8:30 p.m. Exhibitors Open and FreeTime

Sunday, October 20
8:00 a.m. Breakfast & Personal Reflection on your own
10:00 a.m. Plenary Session with Dr. Jenna Sethi
11:30 a.m. Break & Exhibitors Open
12:00 p.m. Lunch and Business Meeting
1:15 p.m. Break & Exhibitors Open
1:30 p.m. Plenary Session with Dr. Jenna Sethi
3:00 p.m. Academic Presentations #1
4:00 p.m. Academic Presentations #2
5:00 p.m. Academic Presentations #3
7:00 p.m. Dinner @ Rock Bottom Restaurant
8:30 p.m. Free Time

Monday, October 21
7:30 a.m. Breakfast on your own
8:30 a.m. Academic Presentations #4
9:30 a.m. Academic Presentations #5
10:30 a.m. Closing Plenary Dialogue with Steve Argue & Ben Espinoza
11:30 a.m. Conference Ends

Registration

Register online (aymeducators.org) or complete and mail the form below with your payment.

Name: (include Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.) ________________________
Institution: ____________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

Additional registrants from this organization being paid for here:

Please include me as a spouse of ________________________
(If you have a separate registration cost, funds are now available. If you need assistance toward the registration cost, funds are now available. Please submit proposals by July 1, 2019. See details at www.aymeducators.org or contact Ben Espinoza (bdallasespinoza@gmail.com) or Richelle White (rwwhite@kuyper.edu).

General Conference Questions? Contact: Mark Cannister mark.cannister@gordon.edu

Make Checks Payable to AYME

Mail To: AYME, c/o Dr. Mark Cannister 255 Grapevine Road Wenham, MA 01984

CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

If you need assistance toward the registration cost, funds are now available. Applications are available at aymeducators.org.